



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Daily Devotion at Zion + September 2023 AD + *Te Deum Laudamus*

Te Deum Laudamus: “We Praise You, O God”

The Church has sung it as part of morning prayer for 1500 years: the great canticle called the “Te Deum Laudamus” (Latin for “We praise you, O God”). Originally composed in the 300s A.D., it was more regularly used by 530 A.D. and made part of the Church’s daily song. What blessing might it hold for you?

You may find the text to this venerable hymn in Zion’s hymnal, the *Lutheran Service Book*, on page 223. In addition to finding a home in the Church’s morning prayer, or matins, it also has been used to praise God on national holidays and days of thanksgiving. To use this hymn yourself, whether sung or spoken, unites your voice to more than 15 centuries of Christian worshippers like yourself.

It has an almost creed-like character, declaring the praise of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; calling on angels, apostles, prophets, martyrs, and living members of the Church to confess Him; and then proclaiming the wonders that Christ did for us on the cross. It carries a beautiful manner of speech and elevates our vision of God in His glory.

Consider using it! You might even consider memorizing it! When we expand our knowledge of the Church’s worship, we are like travelers through a beautiful land, finding more and more beauty than we thought we’d ever see.

About the Cover Art

This illuminated manuscript from 1460 was made in the Netherlands and employs the Dutch language for praying the *Te Deum Laudamus*. It reminds us that efforts at using the vernacular language, and not only Latin, in the worship of the Church had begun even before the time of the Lutheran Reformation in the 1500s. The Dutch were some of the first to break that usage of Latin in favor of their own mother tongue, confessing by their action that every tribe and tongue shall worship Christ as Lord.

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 13 (September 3)

S 2 Samuel 13:1-22
Romans 15:1-13
John 3:22-36

Th 2 Samuel 15:1-18
Acts 21:27-36
Mark 10:32-45

M 2 Samuel 13:23-39
Acts 20:17-38
Mark 9:42-50

F 2 Samuel 15:19-37
Acts 21:37—22:16
Mark 10:46-52

T 2 Samuel 14:1-20
Acts 21:1-14
Mark 10:1-16

Sa 2 Samuel 16: 1-23
Acts 22:17-29
Mark 11:1-11

W 2 Samuel 14:21-33
Acts 21:15-26
Mark 10:17-31

These readings correspond to pages 442—480 in Volume II of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 14 (September 10)

S 2 Samuel 17:1-23
Galatians 3:6-14
John 5:30-47

Th 2 Samuel 19:1-23
Acts 24:1-23
Mark 12:28-34

M 2 Samuel 17:24—18:8
Acts 22:30—23:11
Mark 11:12-26

F 2 Samuel 19:24-43
Acts 24:24—25:12
Mark 12:35-44

T 2 Samuel 18:9-18
Acts 23:12-24
Mark 11:27—12:12

Sa 2 Samuel 23:1-7, 13-17
Acts 25:13-27
Mark 13:1-13

W 2 Samuel 18:19-33
Acts 23:23-35
Mark 12:13-27

These readings correspond to pages 480—517 in Volume II of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 15 (September 17)

S 2 Samuel 24:1-2, 10-25 Galatians 3:23—4:7 John 8:12-20	Th 1 Kings 3:16-28 Acts 27:27-44 Mark 14:12-26
M 1 Kings 1:1-31 Acts 26:1-23 Mark 13:14-27	F 1 Kings 5:1—6:1, 7 Acts 28:1-16 Mark 14:27-42
T 1 Kings 1:32—2:4, 46b Acts 26:24—27:8 Mark 13:28-37	Sa 1 Kings 7:51—8:21 Acts 28:17-31 Mark 14:43-52
W 1 Kings 3:1-15 Acts 27:9-26 Mark 14:1-11	<i>These readings correspond to pages 773—813 in Volume II of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 16 (September 24)

S 1 Kings 8:22-40 1 Timothy 4:7b-16 John 8:47-59	Th 1 Kings 11:1-13 James 3:13—4:12 Mark 15:12-21
M 2 Chronicles 6:32—7:7 James 2:1-13 Mark 14:53-65	F 1 Kings 11:26-43 James 4:13—5:6 Mark 15:22-32
T 1 Kings 8:65—9:9 James 2:14-26 Mark 14:66-72	Sa 1 Kings 12:1-20 James 5:7-20 Mark 15:33-39
W 1 Kings 9:24—10:13 James 3:1-12 Mark 15:1-11	<i>These readings correspond to pages 813—847 in Volume II of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>