



Word of God Word of Life

A Commitment to Living with the Scriptures Together
September 2018 – May 2019

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer of the Day from the *Book of Common Prayer* for the Sunday closest to November 16)

Our focus Scripture passages for 2018-19 are as follows:

- Ephesians 1:15-2:10 September (From Death to Life)
- **1 Peter 2:1-10** **October** **(Stewardship)**
- Isaiah 43:1-7 November (Protection)
- Luke 1:26-56 December (Incarnation)
- Romans 8:14-39 January (Children of God)
- Luke 9:28-36 February (Transfiguration)
- Philippians 2:1-11 March (Lent)
- Luke 24:1-51 April (Easter)
- Psalm 104 May (Care of Creation)

In this initiative we are confident that our still-speaking God will bless our efforts to hear, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest God's Word of Life.

Word of God – Word of Life

To Be a Holy Priest

Reflections on 1 Peter 2:1-10

References to the Hebrew Scriptures are packed into this passage. The writer certainly listened well and faithfully to God's Word, thus deepening and enriching his experience of Jesus, the living stone. Consider:

- Psalm 34:8 "Taste and see that the Lord is good."
- Isaiah 61:6 "...but you shall be called priests of the Lord."
- Exodus 19:6 "...but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation."
- Isaiah 28:16 "See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone..."
- Psalm 118:22 "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone."
- Hosea 2:1 Hosea who had earlier named one child "Not My People" and another "No Mercy". Hosea now changes their names to reflect God's reconciling love.

Our October passage supports both Martin Luther's teaching on the "priesthood of all believers" and our stewardship emphasis. Each one of us is called and equipped to the priestly tasks of offering spiritual sacrifices through our daily occupations as well as in our life together - sacrifices such as prayer, praise, thanksgiving, repentance, justice, kindness, and love.

What connections to our life in Christ will we be led to see and to practice through our attentive, receptive hearing of God's Word of Life?

