

**WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, April 16, 2024**  
**Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN**

**“The Ephemeral Nature of Things”**

**READING:** Psalm 33:8-11, 20-22 – Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations...We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

A couple of weeks ago I had been to a meeting at church, and on my way home I saw the most beautiful sunset I had seen in some time. The sun was lowering in the western sky, just over the Knobs. The sky was fairly cloudy, with great big banks of very tall, very chubby clouds. As I was coming up Klerner Lane just before Grant Line, the sun was shining on those clouds and turning all their edges to a blazing orange. Each individual cloud was fringed with a bright orange outline and the orange tint stretched across the western sky as far as I could see. I actually slowed my car almost to a stop so I could take it all in. And I thought to myself, “Lord, you are a fabulous artist!”

When I turned on to Grant Line and headed toward home, I kept taking peeks to my left to catch sight of all that glory. IUS’s woods obscured my view for a few moments, and don’t you know, by the time I got to The Pines Trailer Court the orange was gone! Just that quick! There were a couple of clouds with a dull orange tinge, but within moments, that too was gone. I was disappointed. I could have stared at that spectacular sunset for hours, but no, it lasted only mere minutes and it was gone.

As I reflected on the experience I was reminded just how ephemeral *things* are. We prepare a marvelous Thanksgiving feast, sit down with our family, and fifteen or twenty minutes later much of the food is gone and everyone is sated. We head out on a week-long vacation with great anticipation and expectations, and in no time, we’re on our way home again. We plan, prepare, and anticipate our wedding day, and a week later we have trouble remembering some of what was said and what went on. We wait 50 years to celebrate our Golden Anniversary with family and friends and all at once we’re celebrating our 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary. We say, “Where does the time go?” We take pictures and videos just to hang on to a few of the memories and impressions we have of big events in our lives.

Time marches on, and things that are new to us today are old and worn out tomorrow. People that were once young with us suddenly look lame and unhealthy. That beautiful brand-new 1999 Cadillac now looks saggy in the suspension, faded in the color, and much in need of a new set of tires. Movie stars we once idolized and bought posters of are now REALLY OLD PEOPLE (or dead!). Houses and buildings we once frequented are demolished and gone, replaced by other structures that have little in common with what once stood there. Yes, things (and people) are ephemeral. Here today, gone tomorrow.

**BUT NOT SO THE LORD!** His word, his ways, his truth, his law, his Gospel, his power, might, goodness, love, and compassion are NEW every day. He does not change with the changing times. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow – and we depend on that! We depend on his purposes and plans for us being steadfast and unmovable. We depend on his Word being trustworthy and true. We depend on his Son’s love, his intercession on our behalf, his promises that in his Resurrection we can see our own, and his promise that he is preparing a place for us so that we may be where he is. We depend on our God, Father,

**Son, and Holy Spirit to be exactly the same from now to eternity. As the Psalmist says, "We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name."**

**That sunset came, and just that quick it faded away. The second hand on your clock just keeps sweeping on. Our children were once babies; now they have babies of their own (or even grandchildren of their own!). Seasons come; seasons go. But the Word of the Lord stands forever. He was God in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. And may the Lord be praised for his steadfast love. He changes not! Amen.**

**PRAYER:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**1) Please pray for our Junior Confirmands. This Sunday they will make their good Confessions in the Sunday morning services. And then on the 28<sup>th</sup>, they will be confirmed in the faith in the 10:30 service. Pray for Amelia, Madelyn, Maggie, Breena, Heidi, Knox, Landon, Asa, Kellen, and Lukas as they prepare themselves for the events of this month.**