

**United Proclamation of the Gospel
&
St. John's Windish Lutheran Church
Scripture and Prayers during Coronavirus Pandemic**

Monday November 23, 2020

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, You seek us out. You rescue us from the places in which we have been scattered. You bring us out and gather us together. You feed us and provide us water. You, O Lord are our shepherd. Thank You Lord... You are our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Sanctifier. Amen.

Additional prayers: Calm to children who are fearful from all they hear and see around them
Patience in times of school closures
Guidance for school administrators as they make decisions
Parents as they contemplate how to safely educate children

Tuesday November 24, 2020

Psalm 75

¹We thank you, O God!
We give thanks because you are near.
People everywhere tell of your wonderful deeds.
²God says, "At the time I have planned,
I will bring justice against the wicked.
³When the earth quakes and its people live in turmoil,
I am the one who keeps its foundations firm.
⁴"I warned the proud, 'Stop your boasting!'
I told the wicked, 'Don't raise your fists!
⁵Don't raise your fists in defiance at the heavens

or speak with such arrogance.”
⁶ For no one on earth—from east or west,
 or even from the wilderness—
 should raise a defiant fist.
⁷ It is God alone who judges;
 he decides who will rise and who will fall.
⁸ For the LORD holds a cup in his hand
 that is full of foaming wine mixed with spices.
 He pours out the wine in judgment,
 and all the wicked must drink it,
 draining it to the dregs.
⁹ But as for me, I will always proclaim what God has done;
 I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.
¹⁰ For God says, “I will break the strength of the wicked,
 but I will increase the power of the godly.”

Prayer: Almighty God, You draw near to us and we thank You. You keep the foundations of the earth we inhabit strong. You sustain the forces of gravity and all the elements necessary to sustain life. You and You alone stand as judge, yet Your mercy endures forever. We thank You Lord. We thank You Lord. We thank You Lord. Amen.

Some Additional prayers during this time:

Workers who are anxious about the safety of their workplaces
 Uncertainty in how work will be accomplished in the days ahead
 Calm and guidance amid financial uncertainties

Wednesday November 25, 2020

PSALM: 95:1-7

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;
 let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
² Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
 and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
³ For you, LORD, are a great God,
 and a great ruler above all gods.
⁴ In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
 the heights of the hills are also yours.
⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
 and your hands have molded the dry land.
⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down,
 let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
^{7a} For the LORD is our God,
 and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, we lift our voices to sing Your praises for You are our salvation. We come before You with thankful hearts for You are great and above all other gods. We come before you to worship and give thanks for Your glory for we are Your people. We ask these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

Some additional prayers during this time:

Government institutions and municipal agencies:
Prayers for Times of Public Health Concern: COVID-19/Coronavirus
Guidance when making decisions for our communities

Thursday November 26, 2020

Psalm 76

¹ God is honored in Judah;
his name is great in Israel.
² Jerusalem^[a] is where he lives;
Mount Zion is his home.
³ There he has broken the fiery arrows of the enemy,
the shields and swords and weapons of war.
⁴ You are glorious and more majestic
than the everlasting mountains.
⁵ Our boldest enemies have been plundered.
They lie before us in the sleep of death.
No warrior could lift a hand against us.
⁶ At the blast of your breath, O God of Jacob,
their horses and chariots lay still.
⁷ No wonder you are greatly feared!
Who can stand before you when your anger explodes?
⁸ From heaven you sentenced your enemies;
the earth trembled and stood silent before you.
⁹ You stand up to judge those who do evil, O God,
and to rescue the oppressed of the earth.
¹⁰ Human defiance only enhances your glory,
for you use it as a weapon.
¹¹ Make vows to the LORD your God, and keep them.
Let everyone bring tribute to the Awesome One.
¹² For he breaks the pride of princes,
and the kings of the earth fear him.

Prayer: Almighty God, Your name resounds throughout the world. Your mercy is unending and unceasing and stretches forth through eternity. In our times of distress You provide us a refuge, allow our vows to come before You as a tribute to Your endless and great love. In Jesus' name we pray these things. Amen.

Some additional prayers during this time:

Hospitals, nursing homes, other health care facilities
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Friday November 27, 2020

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance

among the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Prayer: Gracious God, grant Your people the ability and blessed task of supporting, encouraging, and affirming one another in bringing Your presence into this world. Allow the words spoken from our mouth and the thoughts of our hearts to see one another with respect and dignity, always searching out for how You would have us live and move through our days. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Some additional prayers during this time:

Houses of worship and their ministries at this time
For all who travel
For all who grieve the loss of loved ones

Saturday November 28, 2020

Psalm 77:1-9

¹ I cry out to God; yes, I shout.
Oh, that God would listen to me!
² When I was in deep trouble,
I searched for the Lord.
All night long I prayed, with hands lifted toward heaven,
but my soul was not comforted.
³ I think of God, and I moan,
overwhelmed with longing for his help.
⁴ You don't let me sleep.
I am too distressed even to pray!
⁵ I think of the good old days,
long since ended,
⁶ when my nights were filled with joyful songs.
I search my soul and ponder the difference now.
⁷ Has the Lord rejected me forever?
Will he never again be kind to me?
⁸ Is his unfailing love gone forever?
Have his promises permanently failed?
⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he slammed the door on his compassion?

Prayer: Almighty Lord, we cry out to You. Almighty God, we wait for Your guidance. In Jesus' name we pray these things. Amen.

Some additional prayers

The World Health Organization
Medical researchers and scientists
All the animals that are used in medical research to benefit our lives

Sunday November 29, 2020

Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Prayer O God of power and might, Your Son shows us the way of service, and in Him we inherit the riches of Your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world You have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen