

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

Monday July 20, 2020

Isaiah 44:6-8

⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
⁷Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
⁸Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Prayer: Almighty and gracious God, the world around us thunders like a vicious sea, the voices of many declare wisdom yet their mouths reveal the desire for power and wealth. Who can we turn to in times of great turmoil and confusion? Who will reveal wisdom from on high? We humbly come before You, O Lord. We seek Your wisdom for You declare truth until the end of all time. Let us have no fear, but rather trust. Let us not be afraid, but rest comfortably in your arms. You are our rock and we seek You out in our times of trouble. In Jesus' name we pray these things. 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

Tuesday July 21, 2020

Psalm 30

¹ I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up,
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.
³ O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.
⁵ For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity,
“I shall never be moved.”
⁷ By your favor, O LORD,
you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face;
I was dismayed.
⁸ To you, O LORD, I cried,
and to the LORD I made supplication:
⁹ “What profit is there in my death,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?
¹⁰ Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me!
O LORD, be my helper!”
¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have taken off my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Our ears have heard the sound of Your majesty and our hearts have received Your Word with joy and celebration. Allow now, our lives to reflect the glory of all You have proposed for Your children. That together we would feel safe and secure among our sisters and brothers in Christ and rest well in Your eternal presence. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Savior.. 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 July 22, 2020

Psalm 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
¹² I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.
¹³ For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
¹⁴ The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.
¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.
¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to
shame; because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Prayer: God of Wisdom, You continue to teach Your children on earth with lessons of life, love, purpose and meaning. Your love for us is great and You have delivered us from a sure and certain death. Allow Your grace and mercy to wash over us give us strength and perseverance for the road before us. We ask these things in the name of 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 July 23, 2020

Psalm 31

¹ In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
² Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
³ You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
⁴ take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
⁶ You hate ^[a] those who pay regard to worthless idols,
but I trust in the LORD.
⁷ I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction;
you have taken heed of my adversities,
⁸ and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;
you have set my feet in a broad place.
⁹ Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.
¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery, ^[b]
and my bones waste away.
¹¹ I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror ^[c] to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.
¹² I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.
¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—
terror all around!—

as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.
¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."

Prayer: God of strength; in the midst of my trouble, O Lord, I turn to You. In the midst of human pride and arrogance, I humble myself before You. I ask Lord, that You be a sure and certain "Rock" within my life. Anchor me as only You can with complete trust and faith that You would always be by my side. 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 July 24, 2020

Romans 8:12-25

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—
¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Prayer: Steadfast Lord, we confess that we are sinful beings and constantly in debt for the grace, mercy, and love that You show upon us, yet You are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Share these same qualities to us O Lord. When we are too quick to judge impart wisdom to be gracious. When we are too quick to seek retribution, remind us of Your great compassion. When the world creates in us anger or hostility, instill in us a sense of Your purpose that we be slow to anger. When it feels as though we need to "strike back" against our enemies, inspire us to a place of steadfast love. 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 July 25, 2020

Psalm 31: 14-24

¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, "You are my God."
¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.
¹⁷ Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD,
for I call on you;
let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.
¹⁸ Let the lying lips be stilled
that speak insolently against the righteous
with pride and contempt.
¹⁹ O how abundant is your goodness
that you have laid up for those who fear you,
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of everyone!
²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from human plots;
you hold them safe under your shelter
from contentious tongues.
²¹ Blessed be the LORD,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was beset as a city under siege.
²² I had said in my alarm,
"I am driven far from your sight."
But you heard my supplications
when I cried out to you for help.
²³ Love the LORD, all you his saints.
The LORD preserves the faithful,
but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily.
²⁴ Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD.

Prayer: God of harvest, Indeed Your abundant goodness showers the world with Your blessings and we are able to find shelter from the stormy seas in Your presence. You have heard our supplications when we have cried out to You for help and our very lives reflect the strength, courage, and blessings that You freely offer. Allow our hearts to take courage and be strong as we sense Your presence dwelling among us. 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 July 26, 2020

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;²⁵but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. ²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

³⁶Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

Prayer: Faithful God, most merciful judge, You care for Your children with firmness and compassion. By Your Spirit nurture us who live in Your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.