

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

Monday July 27, 2020

1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Prayer: Almighty God, we are living in times of great unrest, the world around us offers many voices and many causes. Grant us understanding minds to know Your will in the midst of these trying times. Allow us to discern the difference between good and evil and grant us wisdom to help proclaim Your word in the midst of many other words spoken among the people. We ask these things in Jesus' name. 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 28, 2020

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up^[a] as by the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Your steadfast love surrounds us always. We rejoice that with the morning light our sins from the past have found forgiveness. We celebrate being renewed and restored by Your gracious will. You have walked with us through trying days and have been a hiding place for our fears as You have always allowed me to rest within Your presence. Lift our hearts and our voices that even during these difficult times that we would rejoice forever in the knowledge that indeed, You walk beside us bringing us a measure of comfort and peace. We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and 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 July 29, 2020

Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
¹³⁰When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.
¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.
¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
¹³⁴Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.
¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching

Prayer: God of compassion, Your Words are like honey and the life of Your Son modelled the ways in which we are called to live. Guide our footsteps Lord and allow our very lives to be lived in honor of the great gifts that You so wonderfully share. Rescue us from those who would seek to oppress us and allow great compassion to remain upon us all. 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 30, 2020

Psalm 33

¹ Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.
² Praise the LORD with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
³ Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
⁴ For the word of the LORD is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
⁵ He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
⁶ By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
⁷ He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.
⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.
¹⁰ The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
¹¹ The counsel of the LORD stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
¹² Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
¹³ The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.
¹⁴ From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—
¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.
¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷ The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.
¹⁸ Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
¹⁹ to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.
²⁰ Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and shield.
²¹ Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
²² Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Prayer: God of power; 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 31, 2020

Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer: “Abba”, “Father”, we call out to You! When our sighs are too deep for words. When our life feels as if it is spinning out of control. At all times and in all places. We call out to You! Allow Your servants to feel that we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us. Allow this feeling to so pervade our lives that we would rest in the sure and certain knowledge that nothing in all the cosmos could ever separate us from the love You so wonderfully share. In Jesus’ name we ask these things. 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 August 1, 2020

Psalm 34

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
² My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
³ O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
⁴ I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
⁵ Look to him, and be radiant;
so your^[a] faces shall never be ashamed.
⁶ This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.
⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
⁹ O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.
¹¹ Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
¹² Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
¹³ Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.
¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
¹⁸ The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.
²⁰ He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.
²¹ Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
²² The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Prayer: God of healing, draw near to those among us who feel the afflictions of this world and rescue them. Be close to those who are ill or near death and allow them to feel and sense Your loving presence within the midst of those who are caring for them. Redeem the lives of all Your children on earth and allow none to be lost to the world around us as we all take refuge in You. 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 August 2, 2020

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Prayer: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of Your Son You bring us into Your kingdom of justice and mercy. By Your Spirit, give us Your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.