

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

Monday August 10, 2020 1 Kings 19:9-18

At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Prayer: Gracious Lord, there are many competing voices in the world in which we live. Is Your voice in the political realm? Can Your voice be heard in the public square? Can Your voice be heard in the private moments of our heart? Open our ears Lord that at all times and in all places we are inclined to hear Your words, whether in the tumultuous seas we face or whether in sheer silence, that our lives would be dedicated to You. 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
Parents as they contemplate how to safely educate children

Tuesday August 11, 2020

Psalm 37:1- 19

¹ Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
² for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD,
 and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
 trust in him, and he will act.
⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light,
 and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
 do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
 over those who carry out evil devices.
⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
 Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off,
 but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
¹⁰ Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
 though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land,
 and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
¹² The wicked plot against the righteous,
 and gnash their teeth at them;
¹³ but the LORD laughs at the wicked,
 for he sees that their day is coming.
¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
 to bring down the poor and needy,
 to kill those who walk uprightly;
¹⁵ their sword shall enter their own heart,
 and their bows shall be broken.
¹⁶ Better is a little that the righteous person has
 than the abundance of many wicked.
¹⁷ For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
 but the LORD upholds the righteous.
¹⁸ The LORD knows the days of the blameless,
 and their heritage will abide forever;
¹⁹ they are not put to shame in evil times,
 in the days of famine they have abundance

Prayer: Gracious Lord, You call us to trust You yet often we listen to the voices of this world that call us to trust in the ways of the world. You call us to “delight” in You, yet we often look for worldly distractions to delight in. You ask us to “commit” ourselves to You, yet too often we commit ourselves to worldly things. Send now Your Spirit among us, that together we might “listen”, “delight”, and “commit” our lives to You. 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 August 12, 2020

Psalm 85: 8-13

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, indeed You are gracious and full of compassion, may our lives reflect these same qualities. You speak peace to all who turn their hearts to You and Your salvation is near. Allow our steadfast love and faithfulness for You meet in ways that proclaim Your peace and salvation to all whom we encounter. 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 August 13, 2020

Psalm 37:23-40

²³Our steps are made firm by the LORD,
when he delights in our way;

²⁴though we stumble, we^l shall not fall headlong,
for the LORD holds us by the hand.

²⁵I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.

²⁶They are ever giving liberally and lending,
and their children become a blessing.

²⁷Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide forever.

²⁸For the LORD loves justice;
he will not forsake his faithful ones.

The righteous shall be kept safe forever,
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.

²⁹The righteous shall inherit the land,
and live in it forever.

³⁰ The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak justice.

³¹ The law of their God is in their hearts;
their steps do not slip.

³² The wicked watch for the righteous,
and seek to kill them.

³³ The LORD will not abandon them to their power,
or let them be condemned when they are brought to trial.

³⁴ Wait for the LORD, and keep to his way,
and he will exalt you to inherit the land;
you will look on the destruction of the wicked.

³⁵ I have seen the wicked oppressing,
and towering like a cedar of Lebanon.^[1]

³⁶ Again I^[2] passed by, and they were no more;
though I sought them, they could not be found.

³⁷ Mark the blameless, and behold the upright,
for there is posterity for the peaceable.

³⁸ But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed;
the posterity of the wicked shall be cut off.

³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Prayer: God of refuge; when we stumble O Lord, we turn to You. When we find ourselves in the midst of pride and arrogance, Let us humble ourselves before You. We ask Lord, that You be a sure and certain “Rock” within my life. Anchor us as only You can with complete trust and faith that You would always be by our 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 August 14, 2020

Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is

Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Prayer: God of truth, You draw near to us in our moments of weakness and protect us in times of vulnerability. Give us strength and confidence in our faith that indeed You raised our Lord from the dead and allow our hearts to fully and completely believe in the promises You have made to us all. That You would walk near us, that You would comfort us and that You would uplift us in 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 August 15, 2020

Psalm 38

¹ O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.

² For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.

³ There is no soundness in my flesh
because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.

⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head;
they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

⁵ My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness;

⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all day long I go around mourning.

⁷ For my loins are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.

⁸ I am utterly spent and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

⁹ O Lord, all my longing is known to you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰ My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction,
and my neighbors stand far off.

¹² Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin,
and meditate treachery all day long.

¹³ But I am like the deaf, I do not hear;
like the mute, who cannot speak.

¹⁴ Truly, I am like one who does not hear,
and in whose mouth is no retort.

¹⁵ But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait;
it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.

¹⁶ For I pray, "Only do not let them rejoice over me,
those who boast against me when my foot slips."

¹⁷ For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.

¹⁸ I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.

¹⁹ Those who are my foes without cause are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

²⁰ Those who render me evil for good
are my adversaries because I follow after good.

²¹ Do not forsake me, O LORD;
O my God, do not be far from me;

²² make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

Prayer: Almighty Lord, as You look upon this world of ours, You see and know the transgressions of all the lives of the people below, yet in Your steadfast love, You offer forgiveness and continue to guide us in our days. How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! May You and You alone be for all people a refuge in times of great distress. 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 16, 2020

Matthew 14:22-33

²²[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But

immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."
²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.
³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"
³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"
³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.
³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Prayer: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver Your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.