

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

**Monday August 17, 2020**

**Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD:  
Maintain justice, and do what is right,  
for soon my salvation will come,  
and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,  
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,  
and to be his servants,  
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,  
and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain,  
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;  
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices  
will be accepted on my altar;  
for my house shall be called a house of prayer  
for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD,  
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,  
I will gather others to them  
besides those already gathered.

**Prayer:** Gracious Lord, You call us to practice and proclaim justice in the midst of the world. You desire us to welcome foreigners and aliens into our midst and ask that we might share Your great love for the world. Allow our lives to reflect the joy of Your presence within our lives and allow every home within our community to be called a “house of prayer,” a “house of joy,” a “house that belongs to You and You alone!” 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 18, 2020**

**Psalm 39**

<sup>1</sup> I said, “I will guard my ways  
that I may not sin with my tongue;  
I will keep a muzzle on my mouth  
as long as the wicked are in my presence.”

<sup>2</sup> I was silent and still;  
I held my peace to no avail;  
my distress grew worse,

<sup>3</sup> my heart became hot within me.  
While I mused, the fire burned;  
then I spoke with my tongue:

<sup>4</sup>“LORD, let me know my end,  
and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting my life is.

<sup>5</sup>You have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.  
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.

<sup>6</sup> Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.  
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;  
they heap up, and do not know who will gather.

<sup>7</sup>“And now, O Lord, what do I wait for?  
My hope is in you.

<sup>8</sup> Deliver me from all my transgressions.  
Do not make me the scorn of the fool.

<sup>9</sup> I am silent; I do not open my mouth,  
for it is you who have done it.

<sup>10</sup> Remove your stroke from me;  
I am worn down by the blows<sup>[a]</sup> of your hand.

<sup>11</sup>“You chastise mortals  
in punishment for sin,  
consuming like a moth what is dear to them;  
surely everyone is a mere breath.

<sup>12</sup>“Hear my prayer, O LORD,  
and give ear to my cry;  
do not hold your peace at my tears.  
For I am your passing guest,  
an alien, like all my forebears.

<sup>13</sup> Turn your gaze away from me, that I may smile again,  
before I depart and am no more.”

**Prayer:** Gracious Lord, of all the gifts that You have granted us, perhaps the greatest of all is relationship with You and with one another. Allow our hearts and minds to truly value and see as precious the time we have in this world to establish and strengthen those relationships. That we might feel within each breath we take the true joy of the life that we have been granted. 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 19, 2020**

**Psalm 67**

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us;  
may the light of God's face shine upon us.  
<sup>2</sup>Let your way be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.  
<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
<sup>4</sup>Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.  
<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
<sup>6</sup>The earth has brought forth its increase;  
God, our own God, has blessed us.  
<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing,  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**Prayer:** Gracious Lord, be merciful to a world that often is not merciful and be gracious to people who seem not to live lives of grace. Allow my voice and my life to be lived as a life of praise to Your holy name, that the people of this world would come to know You and love You through the very life I lead. I 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 August 20, 2020**

**Psalm 40**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
<sup>2</sup> He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.  
<sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the LORD.  
<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who make  
the LORD their trust,  
who do not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after false gods.  
<sup>5</sup> You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
none can compare with you.  
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
they would be more than can be counted.

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
but you have given me an open ear.  
Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have not required.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "Here I am;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

<sup>8</sup> I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart."

<sup>9</sup> I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congregation;  
see, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, O LORD.

<sup>10</sup> I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congregation.

<sup>11</sup> Do not, O LORD, withhold  
your mercy from me;  
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
keep me safe forever.

<sup>12</sup> For evils have encompassed me  
without number;  
my iniquities have overtaken me,  
until I cannot see;  
they are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails me.

<sup>13</sup> Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>14</sup> Let all those be put to shame and confusion  
who seek to snatch away my life;  
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor  
who desire my hurt.

<sup>15</sup> Let those be appalled because of their shame  
who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

<sup>16</sup> But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation  
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

<sup>17</sup> As for me, I am poor and needy,  
but the Lord takes thought for me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
do not delay, O my God.

**Prayer:** God of refuge; when we stumble O Lord, we trust in 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 21, 2020**

**Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

**Prayer:** God of the cosmos. You have called us to live lives focused on justice, mercy, and love. When our lives seem chaotic and we stumble in our humanness, You offer us forgiveness and mercy. May our heart receive Your love as a blessing and in turn, may our hearts pay forward Your great love to all whom we encounter. 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 22, 2020**

**Psalm 41**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those who consider the poor;  
the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD protects them and keeps them alive;  
they are called happy in the land.

You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD sustains them on their sickbed;  
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

<sup>4</sup>As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me;  
heal me, for I have sinned against you."

<sup>5</sup>My enemies wonder in malice  
when I will die, and my name perish.

<sup>6</sup>And when they come to see me, they utter empty words,  
while their hearts gather mischief;  
when they go out, they tell it abroad.

<sup>7</sup> All who hate me whisper together about me;  
they imagine the worst for me.

<sup>8</sup> They think that a deadly thing has fastened on me,  
that I will not rise again from where I lie.

<sup>9</sup> Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted,  
who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me.

<sup>10</sup> But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,  
and raise me up, that I may repay them.

<sup>11</sup> By this I know that you are pleased with me;  
because my enemy has not triumphed over me.

<sup>12</sup> But you have upheld me because of my integrity,  
and set me in your presence forever.

<sup>13</sup> Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Amen and Amen.

**Prayer:** Almighty Lord, Open our eyes to see those who are truly poor among us. Those impoverished in worldly standards, and those who are poor in heart and in Spirit. Allow our eyes to inform our hearts and minds, that we may be instruments of Your great abundance in a world that seems to value and uplift scarcity. 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 23, 2020**

### **Matthew 15:10-28**

<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup>He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup>He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup>She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their

masters' table." <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

**Prayer:** God of all peoples, Your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon You. Teach us as disciples of Your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that Your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.