

**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

¹Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
⁶And 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—
⁷these 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.
⁸Thus 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

¹ 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.”
² I was silent and still;
I held my peace to no avail;
my distress grew worse,

³ my heart became hot within me.
 While I mused, the fire burned;
 then I spoke with my tongue:
⁴“LORD, let me know my end,
 and what is the measure of my days;
 let me know how fleeting my life is.
⁵You have made my days a few handbreadths,
 and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.
 Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.
⁶ Surely everyone goes about like a shadow.
 Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
 they heap up, and do not know who will gather.
⁷“And now, O Lord, what do I wait for?
 My hope is in you.
⁸ Deliver me from all my transgressions.
 Do not make me the scorn of the fool.
⁹ I am silent; I do not open my mouth,
 for it is you who have done it.
¹⁰ Remove your stroke from me;
 I am worn down by the blows^[a] of your hand.
¹¹“You chastise mortals
 in punishment for sin,
 consuming like a moth what is dear to them;
 surely everyone is a mere breath.
¹²“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.
¹³ 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

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

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ 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.
⁴ Happy are those who make
the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.
⁵ 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.

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

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

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

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

¹⁰ 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.

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

¹² 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.

¹³ Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

¹⁴ 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.

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

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

¹⁷ 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:] ¹I 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. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

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

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

²The 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.

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

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

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

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

⁷ All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.

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

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

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

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

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

¹³ 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

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

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just 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." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their

masters' table." ²⁸Then 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.