

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

Monday August 3, 2020

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Prayer: God of steadfast love, You have made us witnesses to the people of this world. Allow our very lives to bear witness to how it is You call people to care for one another with a sense of compassion and peace. Allow the very lives we lead to bring only glory to Your holy name. 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 4, 2020

Psalm 35: 1-10

¹ Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me!
² Take hold of shield and buckler,
and rise up to help me!
³ Draw the spear and javelin
against my pursuers;

say to my soul,
"I am your salvation."

⁴ Let them be put to shame and dishonor
who seek after my life.

Let them be turned back and confounded
who devise evil against me.

⁵ Let them be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the LORD driving them on.

⁶ Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

⁷ For without cause they hid their net for me;
without cause they dug a pit for my life.

⁸ Let ruin come on them unawares.

And let the net that they hid ensnare them;
let them fall in it—to their ruin.

⁹ Then my soul shall rejoice in the LORD,
exulting in his deliverance.

¹⁰ All my bones shall say,
"O LORD, who is like you?"

You deliver the weak
from those too strong for them,
the weak and needy from those who despoil them."

Prayer: Gracious Lord, You promise to dwell among us forever and protect us through our days. Allow us to sense Your presence when the world around us speaks of hatred and violence. Be with us when there are people surrounding us who speak of evil and vile desires to gain power and influence in the world. Allow our hearts to rejoice in the deliverance which You have already share with all as Your adopted children and heirs of Your heavenly kingdom. 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 5, 2020

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶You open wide your hand

and satisfy the desire of every living thing.
¹⁷You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.
¹⁸You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.
¹⁹You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.
²⁰You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.
²¹My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, indeed You are gracious and full of compassion, may our lives reflect these same qualities. You are slow to anger and full of compassion, when we lose our patience and are filled with anger, may we be reminded of Your divine compassion. Uphold us when we fall and allow us to trust in You and all Your ways as we move through our mortal days. 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 6, 2020

Psalm 35:11-28

¹¹ Malicious witnesses rise up;
they ask me about things I do not know.
¹² They repay me evil for good;
my soul is forlorn.
¹³ But as for me, when they were sick,
I wore sackcloth;
I afflicted myself with fasting.
I prayed with head bowed^[a] on my bosom,
¹⁴ as though I grieved for a friend or a brother;
I went about as one who laments for a mother,
bowed down and in mourning.
¹⁵ But at my stumbling they gathered in glee,
they gathered together against me;
ruffians whom I did not know
tore at me without ceasing;
¹⁶ they impiously mocked more and more,^[a]
gnashing at me with their teeth.
¹⁷ How long, O LORD, will you look on?
Rescue me from their ravages,
my life from the lions!

¹⁸ Then I will thank you in the great congregation;
in the mighty throng I will praise you.

¹⁹ Do not let my treacherous enemies rejoice over me,
or those who hate me without cause wink the eye.

²⁰ For they do not speak peace,
but they conceive deceitful words
against those who are quiet in the land.

²¹ They open wide their mouths against me;
they say, "Aha, Aha,
our eyes have seen it."

²² You have seen, O LORD; do not be silent!
O Lord, do not be far from me!

²³ Wake up! Bestir yourself for my defense,
for my cause, my God and my Lord!

²⁴ Vindicate me, O LORD, my God,
according to your righteousness,
and do not let them rejoice over me.

²⁵ Do not let them say to themselves,
"Aha, we have our heart's desire."
Do not let them say, "We have swallowed you^[e] up."

²⁶ Let all those who rejoice at my calamity
be put to shame and confusion;
let those who exalt themselves against me
be clothed with shame and dishonor.

²⁷ Let those who desire my vindication
shout for joy and be glad,
and say evermore,
"Great is the LORD,
who delights in the welfare of his servant."

²⁸ Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness
and of your praise all day long.

Prayer: God of refuge; 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 August 7, 2020

Romans 9:1-5

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—
²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were
accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the
flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving
of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them,
according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Prayer: God of truth, You alone know the purity of authentic heart that beats within my body.
This heart longs for Your kingdom to always be present in the world in which we live. Empower
me in all my days to do my part to bring this desire to fulfillment. Help me to always remember
that above all things I am called “Your child”, “Your beloved”, and allow my life to always reflect
these bountiful gifts to those around me. 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 8, 2020

Psalm 36

¹ Transgression speaks to the wicked
deep in their hearts;
there is no fear of God
before their eyes.
² For they flatter themselves in their own eyes
that their iniquity cannot be found out and hated.
³ The words of their mouths are mischief and deceit;
they have ceased to act wisely and do good.
⁴ They plot mischief while on their beds;
they are set on a way that is not good;
they do not reject evil.
⁵ Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
⁶ Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.
⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
¹⁰ O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!
¹¹ Do not let the foot of the arrogant tread on me,
or the hand of the wicked drive me away.

¹²There the evildoers lie prostrate;
they are thrust down, unable to rise.

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 allow 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 9, 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: Glorious God, Your generosity waters the world with goodness, and You cover creation with abundance. Share Your compassion with each of us to awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.