

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

Monday August 31, 2020

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, the weight of this world feels sometimes more than we can bear, yet we trust in Your presence to deliver us and allow us to prevail. Grant peace to Your children, our God, that we might utter words of praise for all You have shared with the world. 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 September 1, 2020

Psalm 45

My heart overflows with a goodly theme;

I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

²You are the most handsome of men;
grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.

³Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,
in your glory and majesty.

⁴In your majesty ride on victoriously
for the cause of truth and to defend the right;
let your right hand teach you dread deeds.

⁵Your arrows are sharp
in the heart of the king's enemies;
the peoples fall under you.

⁶Your throne, O God' endures forever and ever.

Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;
⁷ you love righteousness and hate wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
8 your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
9 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
10 Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father's house,
11 and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him;
12 the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people 13 with all kinds of wealth.
The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes
14 in many-colored robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.
15 With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
16 In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.
17 I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, it is with thanks and praise that we come before You. For You have shared with the world abundant gifts and resources. Creation herself gives glory to Your name. Countless people share Your glorious ways. May our voices continually be lifted in praise for all You have shared in order that Your name will be celebrated in all generations! We ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Savior. 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 September 2, 2020

Psalm 26:1-8

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.
²Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.
³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
⁴I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
⁵I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked.
⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,
⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, we give You thank and praise with our whole hearts. For You and You alone share glorious gifts with the world due to Your steadfast love and faithfulness. You are our Rock in times of weakness. You are great even when the world seems diminished by sin. In the midst of sorrow and suffering You keep us safe. Your steadfast love endures forever, never abandon the works of Your hands. We 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 September 3, 2020

Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- ⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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 September 4, 2020

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Prayer: Gracious God, We pray that Your Spirit would embolden us to always allow our love to be genuine. May we display love for one another in our mutual affection. Allow us to rejoice in hope, to be patient in times of suffering and to always persevere in prayer as our lives are dedicated to contributing to the needs of saints and we extend hospitality to strangers bringing glory to Your holy name. 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 September 5, 2020

Psalm 47

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- ² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
- ³ He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
- ⁴ He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- ⁷ For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.^[a]
- ⁸ God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
- ⁹ The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

Prayer: Almighty Lord, we lift our voices to sing praise to Your holy name, for You, O Lord are glorious and awesome! You have brought us thus far by faith and our confidence in Your abiding presence is not diminished! You and You alone are the King of the earth, King of all nations. May Your name be exalted forever and ever. 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 September 6, 2020

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Prayer: O God, we thank You for Your Son, Who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by His example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow Your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.