

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

Monday September 14, 2020

Genesis 50:15-21

⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Your mercy and forgiveness restores us in the hope of a brighter tomorrow. In Your mercy we stand, empower us to offer the same kind of mercy and forgiveness to all those whom we encounter today that You so freely share with us. 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 15, 2020

Psalm 51

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God^[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Prayer: Holy Lord, You alone see the true spirit that lies within our hearts. You see the envy that we carry, the prejudice, the evil that dwells within. But You also see the love that we feel and extend to those in the world around us. Cleanse our hearts Lord and allow us to walk forever in Your light. 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 16, 2020

PSALM: 103:8-13

⁸LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, You promise to abide among us as we walk through this life. You promise to be our anchor in times of stormy seas. You promise to continue to inspire hope among us all. Allow our hearts to long for Your commandments and ordinances which enliven our hearts and our very lives. 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 17, 2020

Psalm 52

¹Why do you boast, O mighty one,
of mischief done against the godly?
All day long ²you are plotting destruction.
Your tongue is like a sharp razor,
you worker of treachery.
³You love evil more than good,
and lying more than speaking the truth.
⁴You love all words that devour,
O deceitful tongue.
⁵But God will break you down forever;
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the living.
⁶The righteous will see, and fear,
and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,
⁷“See the one who would not take
refuge in God,
but trusted in abundant riches,
and sought refuge in wealth!”
⁸But I am like a green olive tree
in the house of God.
I trust in the steadfast love of God

forever and ever.
⁹ I will thank you forever,
because of what you have done.
In the presence of the faithful
I will proclaim your name, for it is good.

Prayer: God of refuge; there is no other like You. Allow our lives to be like green olive trees, steadfast and sure in Your presence among us, that we might have a true and certain confidence in the love that You so freely share with us. Allow our days to be lived in thankfulness to Your holy name, that we might proclaim Your name in the manner in which we live. 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 18, 2020

Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Prayer: Gracious God, salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers. The night of our transgressions is gone and the day awakens us with renewal. Be with us on this day that we might live honorably. Grant us wisdom in each moment of our day that we might reflect the glory of Jesus. 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 19, 2020

Psalm 53

¹ Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."
They are corrupt, they commit abominable acts;
there is no one who does good.

² God looks down from heaven on humankind
to see if there are any who are wise,
who seek after God.

³ They have all fallen away, they are all alike perverse;
there is no one who does good,
no, not one.

⁴ Have they no knowledge, those evildoers,
who eat up my people as they eat bread,
and do not call upon God?

⁵ There they shall be in great terror,
in terror such as has not been.
For God will scatter the bones of the ungodly;
they will be put to shame, for God has rejected them.

⁶ O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

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 20, 2020

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And

out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Prayer O Lord God, merciful judge, You are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore You, that we may delight in doing Your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen