

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

Monday September 21, 2020

Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Your mercy and forgiveness flow like an endless fountain to restore humanity unto Yourself. When, in our hearts and minds, we cannot find the strength to forgive, be patient with us. Give us the wisdom that the entirety of our sins have been forgiven in Your holy name and that we, Your children on earth are called to offer the same to others. 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 22, 2020

Psalm 54

¹ Save me, O God, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

² Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For the insolent have risen against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they do not set God before them.

⁴ But surely, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

⁵ He will repay my enemies for their evil.
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

⁶ With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷ For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Prayer: Holy Lord, save us and vindicate us in our lives that attempt to bring glory to Your holy name. When others rise up against our faithful actions, vindicate us. Hear our prayers, O God for our lives are lived to bring glory to Your holy name. We give You thanks, O God, for You have delivered us in the past and our trust rests within You. 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 23, 2020

PSALM: 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

² Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶ They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;

they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, We exalt You, Our God and King and bless Your holy name forever. Every day will we bless You! We will teach our children of Your glory. We will share Your steadfast love to those whom we encounter. We will publish with glad tidings the steadfast love that You have always shone. Grant us peace in our lives as we bear witness to Your great love for the world. 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 24, 2020

Psalm 55:1-2, 16-19

¹ Give ear to my prayer, O God;
do not hide yourself from my supplication.

² Attend to me, and answer me;
I am troubled in my complaint.

I am distraught ³ by the noise of the enemy,
because of the clamor of the wicked.

For they bring trouble upon me,
and in anger they cherish enmity against me.

¹⁶ But I call upon God,
and the LORD will save me.

¹⁷ Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,
and he will hear my voice.

¹⁸ He will redeem me unharmed
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.

¹⁹ God, who is enthroned from of old,
will hear, and will humble them—
because they do not change,
and do not fear God.

Prayer: God, strength and our stronghold, draw near to us in our supplications. Attend to our prayers and answer us for we are troubled in our lives distraught by the voices of those who oppose us. Yet we call upon You. We have trust and confidence that You will hear our voices and save us. Redeem us in Your presence, O God and allow our lives to be lived to Your glory. 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 25, 2020

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Prayer: Gracious God, grant us the wisdom and strength to live our lives worthy of the great love that You share in order that we would stand firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of Your great gospel. 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 26, 2020

Psalms 56

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
² my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me.
O Most High, ³ when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
⁴ In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?
⁵ All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
⁶ They stir up strife, they lurk,
they watch my steps.
As they hoped to have my life,
⁷ so repay them for their crime;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

⁸ You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your record?
⁹ Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.
¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
¹¹ in God I trust; I am not afraid.
What can a mere mortal do to me?

¹² My vows to you I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.

¹³ For you have delivered my soul from death,
and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

Prayer: Almighty Lord, be gracious to us and allow our sure hope and confidence in Your promises be our foundation. When the world utters against Your holy name, grant us wisdom to share Your peace. When others work against issues of justice grant us Your words and Spirit to deny them. We render our thanks to You, for You and You alone are the source of our lives and desire to bring us all to Your everlasting light. 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 27, 2020

Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Prayer Almighty and eternal God, You show perpetual lovingkindness to us Your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us Your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen