

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

Monday September 28, 2020

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Our lives belong to You, O Lord. Your ways are higher than our ways. Grant us the strength and courage to repent from our transgressions. Cast away our sins and allow a new heart and a new spirit to dwell within. 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 29, 2020

Psalm 57

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy!
I look to you for protection.
I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings

until the danger passes by.
² I cry out to God Most High,
to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.
³ He will send help from heaven to rescue me,
disgracing those who hound me.
My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.

⁴ I am surrounded by fierce lions
who greedily devour human prey—
whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows,
and whose tongues cut like swords.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!
May your glory shine over all the earth.

⁶ My enemies have set a trap for me.
I am weary from distress.
They have dug a deep pit in my path,
but they themselves have fallen into it.

⁷ My heart is confident in you, O God;
my heart is confident.
No wonder I can sing your praises!
⁸ Wake up, my heart!
Wake up, O lyre and harp!
I will wake the dawn with my song.

⁹ I will thank you, Lord, among all the people.
I will sing your praises among the nations.

¹⁰ For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens.
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.
May your glory shine over all the earth.

Prayer: Holy Lord, You come among us and protect and save us. Our enemies have gathered near and we hear the voices of those crying “danger” all around us. In our moments of suffering Your love draws near and allow our hearts to be confident in You. Wake my heart O Lord and allow our lives to be lived in thankfulness to you and our mouths to sing Your praises. 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 30, 2020

PSALM: 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
⁴Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.
⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, Remember not our sins and blot out our transgressions remembering us according to Your steadfast love. For You, O Lord are gracious and upright teaching us all in Your holy ways. 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 October 1, 2020

Psalm 58

¹ Justice—do you rulers know the meaning of the word?
Do you judge the people fairly?
² No! You plot injustice in your hearts.
You spread violence throughout the land.
³ These wicked people are born sinners;
even from birth they have lied and gone their own way.
⁴ They spit venom like deadly snakes;
they are like cobras that refuse to listen,
⁵ ignoring the tunes of the snake charmers,
no matter how skillfully they play.
⁶ Break off their fangs, O God!
Smash the jaws of these lions, O LORD!
⁷ May they disappear like water into thirsty ground.
Make their weapons useless in their hands. ^[a]
⁸ May they be like snails that dissolve into slime,
like a stillborn child who will never see the sun.
⁹ God will sweep them away, both young and old,
faster than a pot heats over burning thorns.

¹⁰The godly will rejoice when they see injustice avenged.
They will wash their feet in the blood of the wicked.
¹¹Then at last everyone will say,
“There truly is a reward for those who live for God;
surely there is a God who judges justly here on earth.”

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 October 2, 2020

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Prayer: Gracious God, You have given us the gift of one another to support and encourage when we alone are weak. Allow the lives that we share with the world to be lives that sing glory to Your holy name. That all whom we encounter would confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. 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 October 3, 2020

Psalm 59:1-5, 14-17

¹ Rescue me from my enemies, O God.
Protect me from those who have come to destroy me.

² Rescue me from these criminals;
save me from these murderers.

³ They have set an ambush for me.
Fierce enemies are out there waiting, LORD,
though I have not sinned or offended them.

⁴ I have done nothing wrong,
yet they prepare to attack me.

Wake up! See what is happening and help me!
⁵ O LORD God of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel,
wake up and punish those hostile nations.
Show no mercy to wicked traitors.

¹⁴ My enemies come out at night,
snarling like vicious dogs
as they prowl the streets.

¹⁵ They scavenge for food
but go to sleep unsatisfied.^[c]

¹⁶ But as for me, I will sing about your power.
Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love.

For you have been my refuge,
a place of safety when I am in distress.

¹⁷ O my Strength, to you I sing praises,
for you, O God, are my refuge,
the God who shows me unfailing love

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 October 4, 2020

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Prayer God of love, Giver of life, You know our frailties and failings. Give us Your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen