

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



*daily devotions*  
FOR DISTANCED DISCIPLES

**Thursday, May 21—Wednesday, May 27, 2020**

Dear Distanced Disciples of St. Mark's,

In this document you will find a weeks worth of scripture lessons, reflection questions, activities, and internet resources based on the lectionary texts from the upcoming Sunday. The internet resources contain clickable links to easily access worship services, fellowship opportunities, and other material. **Families with kids—see page 4 for information about an At Home Sunday School video!** I invite you to find a new routine of prayer and reflection in your daily life with Christ!

In Easter joy,

Deacon Katie



## Thursday, May 21

### Scripture

Psalm 68 1-10, 32-35

Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered; let those who hate God flee.

As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away; as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; let them also be merry and joyful.

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rises the clouds;

I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

In your holy habitation, O God, you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;

but the rebels shall live in desert places.

O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

You send a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished.

Your people found their home in it; in your goodness O God, you have made provision for the poor.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens; you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,

giving strength and power to your people. Blessed be God!



### Reflect

"You send a bountiful rain, O God; you restored your inheritance when it languished."

Where have you seen God's restorative and life giving power lately?



### Prayer

O God, you provide for your people, and restore all that is broken. Bring you healing and restorative power in this place; to us, to our community, to our world. Help us to always sing for joy at your wonderful deeds. Amen.



### Internet Resources

Faith and Fellowship—tonight on Zoom at 6pm. Join us for a time of conversation and prayer.

[Click here](#) at 6pm to join the Zoom meeting.

## Friday, May 22



### Scripture

1 Peter 4: 12-14; 5: 6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.



### Reflect

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he care for you."

What worries are can you cast on God today?



### Prayer

God of grace, you restore, support, strengthen, and establish us as your people. Ease all anxiety that burdens our minds this day. Remind us of your steadfast love for the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



### Internet Resources

Every Friday at 10:00am, St. Mark's kids gather on Zoom to sing, talk, and pray! [Click here](#) to join the Zoom meeting.

COVID Campfire—Join Cantor David and Deacon Katie for a special Facebook Live at 8pm full of fun music and singing. [Click here](#) to find the live stream



## Saturday, May 23



### Scripture

John 17: 1-5

After Jesus had spoken these words to his disciples, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.



### Reflect

This is the first part of the Gospel reading for Sunday. Jesus is preparing his disciples for when he leaves earth to return to the Father.

Where do you see God’s glory in the world? What is the work that Jesus came to finish?



### Prayer

Holy God, you glorified your Son so that all might have life. As we await for His coming again, help us to point to your activity in the world, so that all might know of the great love you have for us. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.



### Activity

Invite someone you know to worship with us on Facebook tomorrow! Tell them how to find us at 10am and encourage them to pray and sing with us.



### Internet Resources

For kids: Family Sunday School from Sparkhouse! [Click here](#) for an awesome video Sunday School based on this week’s lectionary readings.



## Scripture

John 17: 6-11

# Sunday, May 24

Jesus said "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."



## Reflect

Today we hear Jesus addressing God the Father, and hear about our relationship with God.

"I am no longer in the world but they are in the world." How are you Jesus presence in the world today?



## Prayer

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## Internet Resources

Worship with St. Mark's on Facebook today at 10:00am. [Click here](#) to access the streamed worship service, beginning with prelude music around 9:50.

Adult Faith Formation takes place at 9:00am on Zoom. [Click here](#) to join Pastor Matt has he leads a class about the Holy Lands.



## Scripture

# Monday, May 25

Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim, let the earth quake!

The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they halt his decrees, and the statues that he have them.

O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.



## Reflect

Psalm 99 reminds us that God loves justice and righteousness.

How can you reflect God's justice and righteousness in your life?



## Prayer

O God, you answer us when we call to you. Help us to embody your love, so that we might act with justice, equity, and respect to all the world you have created. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



## Internet Resources

Faith and Fellowship—this morning at 10:00am on Zoom. Join us for a time of conversation and prayer. [Click here](#) to join the meeting.



## Tuesday, May 26

### Scripture

1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.



### Reflect

You are an important part of the body of Christ. What gifts has God given you as part of the body?



### Prayer

Holy God, you have knit together a beautiful body in your people, full of different gifts and purposes. Help us to work together as your Church to love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



### Activity

For kids: Make self portraits! Talk about the gifts that God has given each member of your family, and how you all work together. Put your family self portraits up on the fridge together!