

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



daily devotions
FOR DISTANCED DISCIPLES

Thursday, May 28—Wednesday, June 3, 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 28

Scripture

Acts 2: 1-15

When the day of Pentecost had come, the apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.



Reflect

This Sunday we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Re-read the story. What sticks out to you most?

How does the Holy Spirit speak through you?



Prayer

Holy God, through your Spirit you have spoken through people of different times, places, and cultures. Breathe life into us, your people, that we might proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the sake of the world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Activity

Our reading from Acts mentions a lot of different places and peoples. [Click here](#) to see a map of the different places mentioned during the Pentecost story.



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 29



Scripture

Psalm 104: 4:24-34, 35b

How manifold are your words, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number, living things both small and great. There go the ships to and fro, and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it. All of them look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it to them; they gather it; you open your hand, and they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; O Lord, rejoice in all your works. You look at the earth and it resembles; you touch the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God while I have my being. May these words of mind please God. I will rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!



Reflect

“You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; and so you renew the face of the earth.”
Where have you seen God’s Spirit working to renew the earth? You? The Church?



Prayer

Ever-moving Spirit, you supply for the needs of all that you have created, and renew us in your grace and love. Help us to be good stewards of the earth that you have entrusted to our care, that we might love and protect your beautiful creation. 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.



Saturday, May 30



Scripture

Numbers 11: 24-30

Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!" And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.



Reflect

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. Reflect on how the same Spirit that spoke to Moses speaks to us now.



Prayer

Holy God, you have always guided, protected, and provided for your creation. Help us listen to your Spirit of truth; that as Moses heard you speak on Mount Sinai, we might hear you speak to us today. Amen.



Activity

Marvel at the mountains and remember Moses today! Whether from your window or on a hike, remember God's promises for Moses and for us today.



Internet Resources

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



Sunday, May 31

Scripture

John 20: 19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



Reflect

Happy Pentecost! Today we hear as Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

Into what places and spaces in your life can you proclaim God's redeeming love for the world?



Prayer

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Activity

For Kids: Blow bubbles today! Talk about how the Bible speaks about the Holy Spirit the breath of God— like a mighty rushing wind! See how your breath gives life to bubbles, like God has given life to you!



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 as he leads a class about the Holy Lands.

Monday, June 1

Visit of Mary to Elizabeth



Scripture

Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and send the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



Reflect

Today the Church remembers the visit of Mary to Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the first person to recognize the great thing that is happening to Mary, and Mary responds with the song called the Magnificat. This song echoes Hannah's, thanking God for bringing down the powerful and lifting up the poor. Read the Song of Hannah (1 Samuel 2: 1-10). How can the songs of Hannah and Mary be your song today?



Prayer

Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: look with favor on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son as our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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, June 2



Scripture

Psalm 113

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.

The Lord is high above the nations; God's glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!



Reflect

"From the rising of the sun to its going down, let the name of the Lord be praised."

What are some ways you praise God throughout your day? How can you remember to give thanks and praise to God in your daily life of discipleship?



Prayer

Holy God, you are filled with glory and righteousness! Help us to continually give thanks and praise to you, that our voices might proclaim all that you have done for us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Activity

Sing a hymn before dinner tonight to raise your voice in praise to God!



Wednesday, June 3



Scripture

Genesis 1: 1-13

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.



Reflect

This Sunday (June 7) is Trinity Sunday! How do you see the Trinity active in today's reading from Genesis?



Prayer

Holy God, you created the world and saw that it was good. Help us to see you still active in your creation today, and work to protect all which you have made. Amen.



Activity

For kids: Make self portraits! Read through the creation story in Genesis 1 and draw what you hear!