

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



daily devotions
FOR DISTANCED DISCIPLES

Thursday, June 11– Wednesday, June 17

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. I invite you to find a new routine of prayer and reflection in your daily life with Christ!

Deacon Katie



Thursday, June 11—Barnabas, Apostle

Scripture

Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.



Reflect

Today the Church remembers and gives thanks to God for the apostle, Barnabas. Barnabas spoke for the newly converted Paul to the Jerusalem believers, who were understandably still afraid of Paul, and later the two of them went on missionary journeys together to the Gentiles (Acts 13–14), until they had a falling-out (Acts 15:36 ff.).

How can you live by Barnabas example of discipleship?



Prayer

We praise you, O God, for the life of your faithful servant Barnabas, who, seeking not his own renown but the well-being of your church, gave generously of his life and possessions for the relief of the poor and the spread of the gospel. Grant that we may follow his example and by our actions give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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, June 12



Scripture

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.
Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.
Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;
give thanks and bless God's holy name.
Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from age to age.



Reflect

What joyful noise do you make to the Lord?
How can you use music in your daily devotional time?



Prayer

Holy God, your steadfast love is everlasting. We praise you for the gifts that you have showered upon your people. Help us to lift our voices continually in praise and thanksgiving to you, the giver of every good gift. 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, June 13



Scripture

Exodus 19: 2-8a

The Israelites had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites."

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do."



Reflect

Even now, like in the time of Moses and the Israelites, God bears us up on eagles' wings, providing provision and protection.

How, in this time of a pandemic, have you seen the provision and protection of God?



Prayer

Everlasting God, in this and every age you have come to the help of your people. Help us to listen to your Word, follow your will, and trust in your forgiveness and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



Activity

Can you remember all 10 Commandments that God gave to Moses and to us? Take a little time today to reflect on those Commandments and how God calls us to live our lives.



Sunday, June 14

Scripture

Matthew 9:35-10:8

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.



Reflect

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

In your Baptism, God calls you to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. How can you, like the disciples, proclaim that the 'kingdom of heaven has come near' as you love and serve your neighbors?



Prayer

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 our class based on the Lectionary texts for the week!

Monday, June 15



Scripture

Psalm 105: 1-11

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord in his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth.

He is mindful of his covenant forever,

of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

The covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."



Reflect

"He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations." Reflect on how God's promises are the same for you as they were for Abraham, for Isaac, for all people. What are those promises of God?



Prayer

Almighty God, your love everlasting. Help up to be your covenant people as we live with you in the promises that you have made in every generation, and share with others the great love that you have for the world. 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, June 16



Scripture

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you from our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you, and that we may be rescued from wicked and evil people; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.



Reflect

Re-read the passage from 2 Thessalonians out loud. What stands out to you?

What is God calling you through the Word to do today?



Prayer

Holy God, you continually give us eternal comfort and hope to strengthen us on our journey. Increase our faith, guide our understanding, and grant us courage to share your love with all whom we encounter. Amen.



Wednesday, June 17– The Emanuel 9

Scripture

Joel 2: 12-13

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.



Reflect

Today the Church remembers the murder of nine of our brothers and sisters in Christ at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC on June 17, 2015. In the name of white supremacy, they were killed by a stranger that they welcomed into their midst. Today, we remember their lives and their witness, confess the sin of racism in our church and in our selves, and ask God to lead us to work for justice and healing.



Prayer

Mighty and loving God, we pray for our nation and for the plague of racism that threatens, destroys, and kills. Root out white supremacy wherever it takes hold. Release its grip on those lured by its false promises. Bring to repentance all who continue to benefit from prejudice and hatred, both hidden and revealed. Plant in our hearts and nation a willing spirit open to truth-telling and healing. We give you thanks, Holy God, for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza, the Emanuel Nine. May their faith and witness to your forgiving love in Jesus Christ inspire all people to pursue paths of justice, courage, and self-giving love. In your great mercy, receive our prayer. Amen.



Internet Resources

Join us for Evening Prayer on Facebook. [Click here](#) at 7pm as we worship together and commemorate the Emanuel 9.