

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



*daily devotions*  
FOR DISTANCED DISCIPLES

**Thursday, June 18– Wednesday, June 24**

Dear Distanced Disciples of St. Mark's,

In this document you will find a weeks worth of scripture lessons, reflection questions, 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 18

### Scripture

Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak and more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."

But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of the evildoers.



### Reflect

How have you seen God's presence with you in the face of hardship?

How can you make known God's redemptive work in your life?



### Prayer

Holy God, you have come to our help and delivered us from all eternal danger in the death of your Son. Help us to proclaim your goodness and redeeming work in Christ, so that your justice might be known to all. In Jesus name we pray, 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 19



### Scripture

Psalms 69: 7-10, 16-18

Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.  
I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.  
Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.  
I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.  
Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.  
Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.  
Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.



### Reflect

Prayer is a conversation with God, trusting that God hears us when we call upon him. How have you seen God's response to prayer? In the care for loved ones? In the direction of how to serve God and God's people?

How is prayer a catalyst for action?



### Prayer

Almighty God, you hear the cries of your people, and want to have a relationship with us through prayer. Help us be faithful in our conversations with you, that you might direct our ways. 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 20



### Scripture

Romans 6: 1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.



### Reflect

Reread today's scripture out loud, listening for God's promises for you

What does it mean to be dead to sin and alive in Christ?



### Prayer

Loving God, you sent your Son that we might have eternal life. Help us remember that your mercies are new to us each day; that in the death of your Son, we have life. Amen.



## Sunday, June 21

Matthew 10: 24-39

Jesus said to the twelve: "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."



### Reflect

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God says to us this day, "Do not be afraid."



### Prayer

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



### 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 22



### Scripture

#### Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, or discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror. My soul also is struck with terror, while you, O Lord— how long?

Turn, O Lord, save my life; deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who can give you praise?

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with weeping. My eyes waste away because of grief, they grow weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror; they shall turn back, and in a member be put to shame.



### Reflect

“The Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.”

What pain and sorrow have you brought to God in prayer this past week? How, either recently or in the past, has God dried your eyes and eased your sorrow?



### Prayer

Almighty God, you know every tear that falls from our eyes. Send comfort in the midst of our pain, that we might remember your steadfast love for your whole creation. 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, June 23



### Scripture

Revelation 2: 8-11

“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life: “I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.



### Reflect

How has your faith been tested?

What forces in this world have tried to pull you away from loving God?



### Prayer

Holy God, you are with us through all adversity. Increase our faith when it is tested; give us strength to endure every trial, and help us to always proclaim your love and mercy in the face of any evil. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## Wednesday, June 24– John the Baptist

### Scripture

Luke 1: 57-66

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, “No; he is to be called John.” They said to her, “None of your relatives has this name.” Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.



### Reflect

John the Baptist is a unique figure in Christian memory, a hinge between the Old Testament prophets and the first Christians. In the gospel stories he recognizes Jesus as one greater than himself, one for whose coming he prepares the way. But still from his prison he asks if Jesus is truly the Expected One. He is a figure of perpetual Advent and in that way stands for all of us who may be Christian believers but still wait and wonder, discern and doubt.



### Prayer

Almighty God, by your gracious providence your servant John the Baptist was born to Elizabeth and Zechariah. Grant to your people the wisdom to see your purpose and the openness to hear your will, that the light of Christ may increase in us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### Internet Resources

Join us for Evening Prayer on Facebook. [Click here](#) at 7pm as we worship together!