

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, June 4

Scripture

Psalm 8

O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You whose glory is chanted about the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them. You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet: all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



Reflect

Father, Almighty, Lord, Christ, Almighty....We use many names to talk about and address God.

What are some of the names that you use for God?

What do these names say about who God is?



Prayer

Holy God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have created us to proclaim your goodness and love to all creation. Help us as we care for your creation, and give us courage to call upon you for guidance as we act to love and serve all you have created. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Activity

What's in a name? What does your name mean? Do some research today about your name, as well as the different names we use for God.



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 5



Scripture

2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

Paul writes: Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.



Reflect

“Greet one another with a holy kiss.” This practice isn’t something common in our society, especially now during a pandemic. What’s your version of greeting others in peace? How can you share the peace of Christ with all you meet?



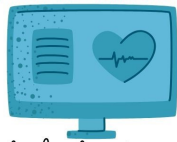
Prayer

God of peace, you calm our hearts and still our minds. Be with us in our encounters with others. Let your peace flow through us as we witness to your love. even through a simple and everyday interaction. 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.



Saturday, June 6



Scripture

Genesis 1: 26-31

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



Reflect

Notice how in the first verse of our reading from Genesis today how God said "Let US make humankind in our image." As we prepare to celebrate Trinity Sunday tomorrow, what does it mean that you were created in the image of the three persons of the Trinity?



Prayer

Holy God, Three in one, we give you thanks that you have created us in your image. Help us to be creating and loving like the Father, love our neighbors with the love of Christ, and speak peace and reconciliation through the breath of the Spirit. Amen.



Activity

Draw a self portrait today. Marvel at the beautiful creation God has made in God's image in you.



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, June 7

Scripture

Matthew 26: 16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Reflect

Happy Trinity Sunday!

In our Gospel today we hear Jesus call us to make disciples and to remember God's everlasting presence with us. How are you fulfilling God's call to you to make disciples? Where do you see and feel God's presence with you?



Prayer

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, 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 Deacon Katie as we talk about Commemorations and Feasts in the Church year.

Monday, June 8



Scripture

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!



Reflect

Where do you see God's power active in the world today? What is God breaking down?

What is God building up?



Prayer

Mighty God, your voice is powerful and full of majesty. Help us to listen for your voice, and to follow you to proclaim and act for justice, peace, and reconciliation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 9



Scripture

1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

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.



Reflect

What spiritual gifts has God given you as part of the Body of Christ? Re-read the passage from 1 Corinthians and reflect on how God has equipped you through the Holy Spirit.



Prayer

Holy God, you have equipped each of us with unique gifts to love and serve our neighbor in your name. Help us to recognize the gifts that you have given to us, and to use them for your glory. Amen.



Wednesday, June 10



Scripture

Romans 5: 1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.



Reflect

Re-read the passage from Romans today. What sticks out to you most?

What does it mean that we have been justified through faith?



Prayer

Almighty God, you love us even while we are still sinners. We thank you for the gift of salvation through Jesus, and the gift of faith through your Holy Spirit. In our suffering on earth, help us to live your hope that does not disappoint, but gives eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Internet Resources

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