

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



daily devotions
FOR DISTANCED DISCIPLES

Thursday, May 14 —Wednesday, May 20, 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 14



Scripture

Matthias

Acts 1: 15-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) “For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it’; and ‘Let another take his position of overseer.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.



Reflect

Today the Church remembers Matthias, one of Jesus’ apostles. The lot that “fell on Matthias” was quite a lot. To be not only a follower of Jesus, but an apostle, a “sent one,” is an enormous responsibility. It proved more than Judas Iscariot could bear. In holy baptism we too have been called to follow Jesus; we too have been allotted a share in this ministry. Where is God calling you to serve today?



Prayer

Almighty God, you chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the twelve. Grant us the courage and faith to share our faith and serve others in with the love of Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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, May 15



Scripture

1 Peter 3: 13-22

Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.



Reflect

How can you, in gentleness and reverence, be a witness to the new life that we have received in Christ's death and resurrection?



Prayer

Holy God, you have given us new and abundant life in Baptism. Help us to bear witness to your love made manifest in the suffering death of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died that we may live. Amen.



Activity

For Kids—Remember how God protected Noah and his family. Make paper boats and put them in water to see if they float! Have a race!



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.



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Saturday, May 16



Scripture

Psalm 66: 8-20

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—
those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;

I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.

If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.



Reflect

“Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.”

The bible is the story of God and God’s people— which means you! Reread today’s psalm,
making it your prayer. Take a few phrases and put it into your own words.



Prayer

Almighty God, you always hear the prayers of your people. Open our mouths today to praise
you, and give you thanks for all the blessings that you have given to us. In Jesus’ name we
pray, Amen.



Activity

“Let the sound of praise be heard!” Make an instrument at home today to use during worship
tomorrow! A quick google search will give you plenty of ideas of what you can use around your
house to make an instrument and make a joyful noise!



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 14: 15-21

Sunday, May 17

Jesus said to the disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."



Reflect

The Holy Spirit is our Advocate, and is God's steadfast presence with us.

When was a time that you felt God's presence with you?



Prayer

Holy God, you are always with us. You have not left us as orphans, but remain with us by the power of your Holy Spirit. Let that Spirit encourage and strengthen us until we live with you eternally in heaven, In Jesus' name we pray, 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 as he leads a class about the Holy Lands.



Scripture

Monday, May 18

Psalm 93

The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength.
He has established the world; it shall never be moved; your throne is established from of old;
you are everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.

More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!

Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.



Reflect

Where do you see God's majesty in the world around you? Where do you see God's strength?



Prayer

O God, you are king! Open our eyes to see the majesty of your creation in the world around us, and in us whom you have created in your image. Empower us to care for your creation.
Amen.



Activity

Get outside and marvel at God's majestic creation today!



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 19



Scripture

1 Peter 3: 8-12

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do no repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called— that you might inherit a blessing. For “Those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongues from evil and their lips from speaking deceit; let them turn away from evil and do good; let them seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”



Reflect

Reflect on a time when someone wronged you. How did you react? How can we respond we respond in the Christ like love described in 1 Peter?



Prayer

Loving God, you sent your Son to die to give us life and you forgive all our sins. Help us to show that same love to others, that we might reflect your abundant grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Activity

Show tender-hearted love— Find a way to help, forgive, or support someone you encounter today.



Wednesday, May 20



Scripture

Acts 1: 6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.



Reflect

“Lord, is this the time?”

With all the pain, hurt, and suffering in our world, we often cry out “come, Lord Jesus” and wonder when Christ will come back. We are reminded today that time is in God’s hands, and instead of looking up to heaven, to devote ourselves to pray and continue to share God’s love with our neighbors.



Prayer

Holy God, we do not know the day or hour of Christ’s return. Give us faith to boldly live as your disciples, bearing witness to the love that you have for the whole world in Christ Jesus until he comes again. Amen.



Internet Resources

Join your St. Mark’s family for Evening Prayer tonight on Facebook!

[Click here](#) to worship with us at 7:00pm