

CHRIST'S UNITED ✠ ST. JAMES ✠ FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Ashland/Pitman/Hegins

Wednesday of Easter 4 ✠ Service of Prayer ✠ May 6, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings to you in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

This service is intended for us to pray together, to stop and meditate and know again that our Lord is with us as he promised, and to hear and share the names for those we care about. If you have someone you'd like us to pray for, let us know. Send us an e-mail or call. Be aware we will only use first names out of concerns for privacy.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, do not hesitate to call Pastor Mark or Pastor Laura at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. And please visit our websites for more information.
- And we are sure that you are aware that the Church, like so many other organizations, is struggling during this time. Your offering makes a huge difference as we try to keep doing the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you as we journey together in confident hope.



HYMN ELW#755 "JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME"

1 Jesus, Savior, pilot me
over life's tempestuous sea;
unknown waves before me roll,
hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
chart and compass come from thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

2 As a mother stills her child,
thou canst hush the ocean wild;
boist'rous waves obey thy will
when thou say'st to them: "Be still."
Wondrous sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3 When at last I near the shore,
and the fearful breakers roar
twixt me and the peaceful rest,
then, while leaning on thy breast,
may I hear thee say to me:
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888

GREETING

The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Almighty and merciful God, you are the only source of health and healing; you alone can bring calmness and peace to our troubled world. Grant to us an awareness of your presence and a strong confidence in you. In our pain, weariness, loneliness, and anxiety, surround us with your care, protect us with your loving might, and grant to us, our nation, and our world the gifts of health, unity, reconciliation and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM 13

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

²How long shall I have perplexity in my mind, and grief in my heart, day after day?

How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

³Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God;

give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

⁴lest my enemy say, "I have defeated you,"

and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

⁵But I trust in your unfailing love;

my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

⁶I will sing to the LORD,

who has dealt with me richly.

PSALM PRAYER

Loving and merciful God, hear the prayers of those who cry to you, and shine with the light of your presence on those who live in the shadow of death. May we rejoice in your saving help and sing you songs of praise in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

JOB 1:1; 2:1-10

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. ²The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ³The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." ⁴Then Satan answered the Lord, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." ⁶The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

⁷So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes. ⁹Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." ¹⁰But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

MEDITATION *Job the Long-Suffering*

Pr. Mark Swanson

HYMN **ELW#698** *"HOW LONG, O GOD"*

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| <p>1 "How long, O God?" the psalmist cries,
a cry we make our own,
for we are lost, alone, afraid,
and far away from home.</p> <p>2 The evil lurks within, without,
it threatens to destroy
the fragile cords that make us one,
that bind our hearts in joy.</p> <p>3 Your grace, O God, seems far away;
will healing ever come?
Our broken lives lie broken still;
will night give way to dawn?</p> | <p>4 How can we hope? How can we sing?
O God, set free our voice
to name the sorrows, name the pain,
that we might yet rejoice.</p> <p>5 "How long, O God?" the psalmist cries,
a cry we make our own.
Though we are lost, alone, afraid,
our God will lead us home.</p> <p>Text: Ralph F. Smith, 1950-1994
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.</p> |
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LITANY OF SOLIDARITY AND HOPE DURING A PANDEMIC

RESPONSE



Lord, we turn our hearts to you; make our joy complete.

For those who are sick, especially Nellie, Paul, Gail, Nancy, Deb, Curt and his spouse, Donna, Richard, Deb, Dawn, Terry, Carolyn, Logan, Mary, Joyce, Debbie, Alexis, Renee, Ralph, Dave, Kathryn, Vicki, Garth, and Jim and his family.

For those with chronic illnesses and underlying health concerns.
For all those who are suffering.

For those who are lonely.
For those who have no one to check on them.
For families that are separated. *Response*

For those who are unemployed.
For those suffering financial hardships.
For those who face an uncertain future.

For those who are suffering from physical or emotional abuse.
For those who are disproportionately suffering because of societal structures and unjust policies.
For those who are struggling with physical or mental disabilities.
For those who are overwhelmed by anxiety and stress. *Response*

For those who are dying.
For those who have died while saving the lives of others.
For all who have lost their lives.

For those who have survived.
For those who have lost their spouses.
For children who have been orphaned.
For all those who mourn and those who comfort them,
especially the families of Doris, John and Ted. *Response*

For firefighters, police, and emergency medical workers.
For doctors, nurses, and all health care professionals.
For those who serve in the armed forces.

For the Church and its leaders.
For public officials.
For business leaders.
For educators.
For innovators and inventors who provide new solutions. *Response*

For peace in our city and in our world.
For renewed friendships among neighbors.
For solidarity and unity among all peoples.
For a greater appreciation and love of all humanity.

For patience and perseverance.
For calm in the midst of fear.
For the grace to overcome adversity. *Response*

For generosity of spirit.
For hope in times of despair.
For light in the darkness and all signs of new life,
 including the birth of Parker and all your children.

Gracious and Loving God,
You are our comforter and our hope.
Hear our prayers as we come before you.
Strengthen us in this time of need.
Inspire us to acts of solidarity and generosity
and give us hope of a brighter future. *Response*

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

BENEDICTION

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he promised.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

HYMN ELW#697 "JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE"

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*

2 Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

Text: North American traditional



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