



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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January 24, 2021

Setting 3

Third Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

Menuet from "Suite Gothique"

Leon Boëllmann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ: "Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

We come to this place, to this time, at the invitation of Jesus Christ.

In the name of Christ,

we accept the invitation to discipleship.

In the name of Christ,

as his disciples, we worship and praise God.

In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

we proclaim the God of Compassion.

In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up whole lives, whole peoples,

we proclaim the God of Hope.

In the midst of indifference and apathy,

we proclaim the God of Love.

Come, let us worship together and share our witness of God's living presence in the world.

~ <http://www.onearthpeace.org/>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **+** one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

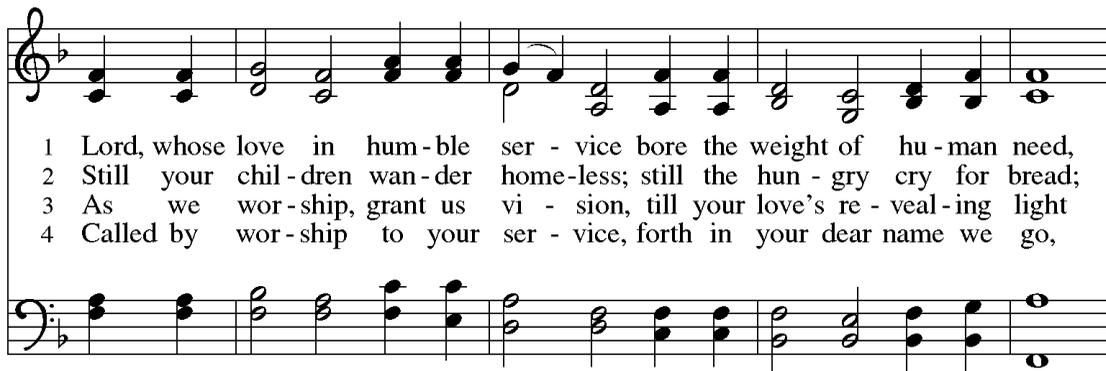
Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

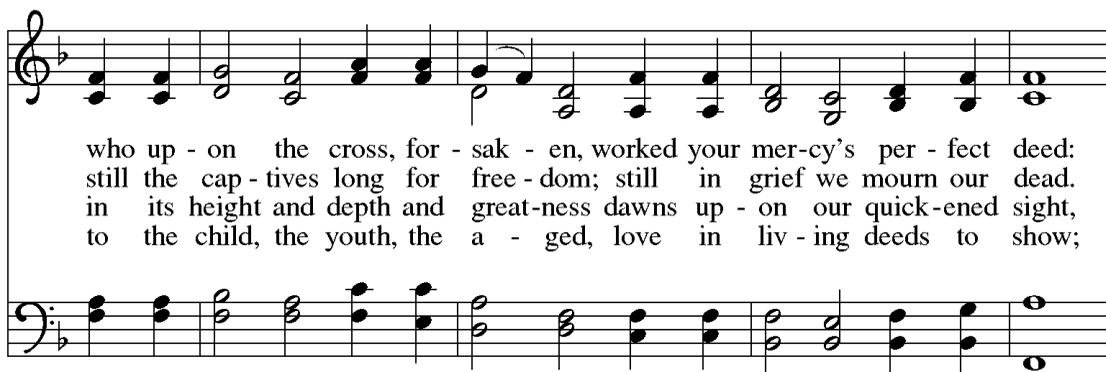
Holy God, **you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

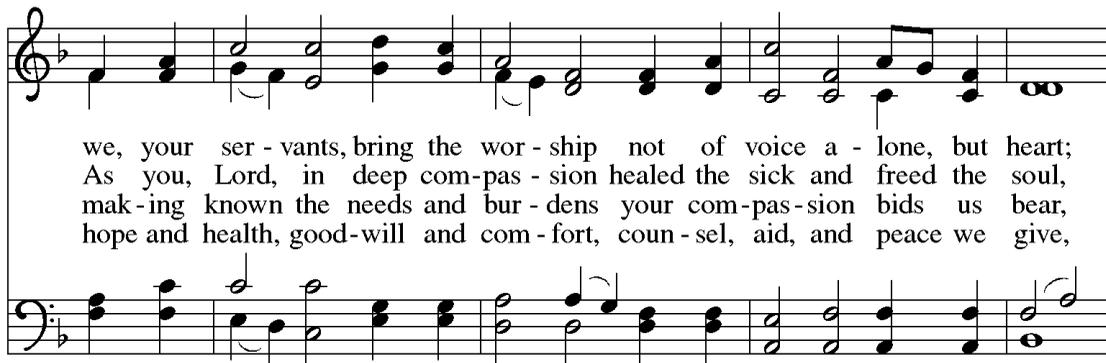
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,

con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
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 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

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GREETING

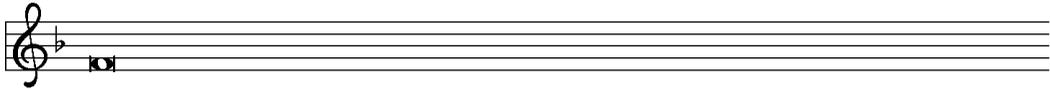
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

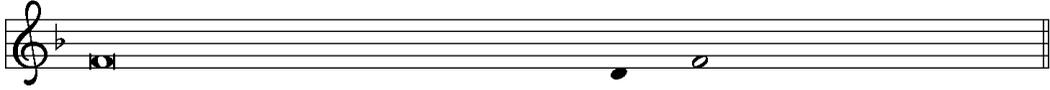
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



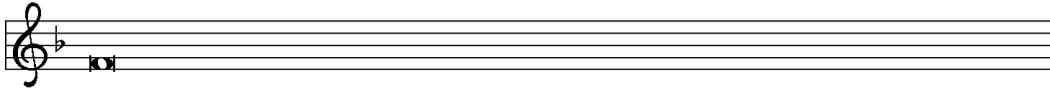
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



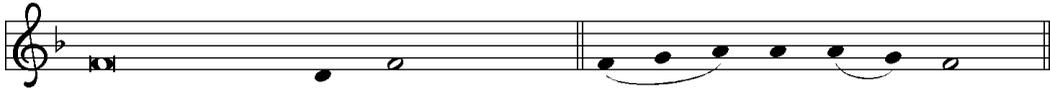
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

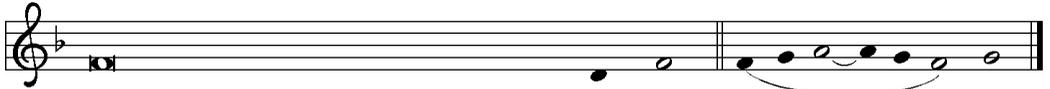


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

**¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God’s future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Holy Scripture, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

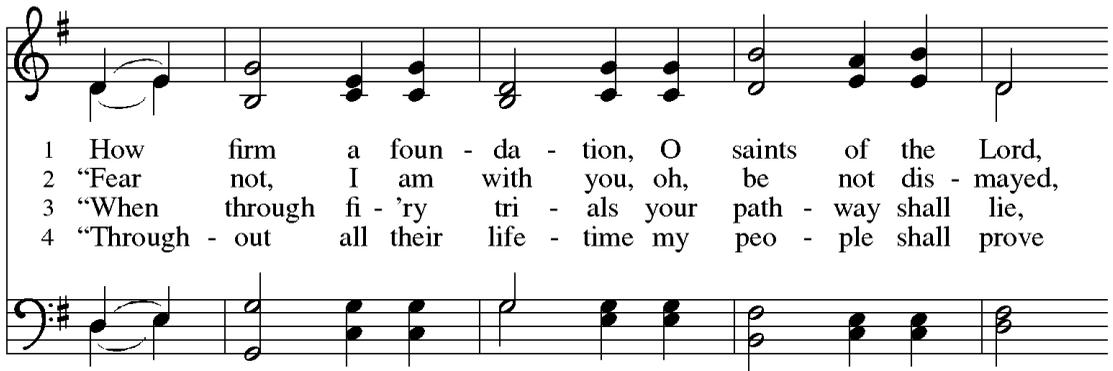
Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 “Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 “When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 “Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need especially Donna, Denise, Bill, Dawn, Dorothy, Erin, Stephani, Karla, Orin, Danielle, Krista, Betty, and Meghan.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief (*especially*), that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

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.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Dina Händer (Into Thy Hands) by H. Nyberg

Offering Prayer

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✚ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

Strengthen for Service, Lord



1 Streng - then for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly
2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name now purge of
3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev - er



things have ta - ken; and let the ears that heard your
all de - cep - tion; keep bright the eyes that saw your
lured to wan - der; but lead the faith - ful nour - ished



word to false - hood nev - er wak - en.
love and sharp - en their per - cep - tion.
here to jour - ney on in splen - dor.

Text: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. composite
Music: BUCKHURST RUN, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Tocatta in E Minor

Johann Pachelbel

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Messiah Lutheran Church
11/30/2020

	Actual Nov-20	Actual Jan - Nov 20	Budget Jan - Nov 20
Revenue	\$8,692.64	\$142,970.41	\$135,905.00
Expenses	<u>14,237.45</u>	<u>142,984.44</u>	<u>150,977.80</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>-\$5,544.81</u>	<u>-\$14.03</u>	<u>-\$15,072.80</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>\$70,284.07</u>		

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Donna Forsberg, Walli Ellis, Betty Peterson, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth

Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Orin Shogren	Har's brother
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dorothy Carmichael	Friend of Messiah	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Erin Erb	Friend of Sherry Peterson	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's daughter

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		

Serving the U.S.A. Overseas

Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson

Seminary

Kaylie Ines

Please pray for all affected by Covid-19: Healthcare workers/administration/staff, residential staff and residents, those who seem unaffected and those who are currently aware they are infected and are fighting the virus. Also, we pray for all who are being negatively affected by the virus and it's social disruption.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS: BY JEANNE AHLERS

Pope Francis has issued a new decree giving women more roles in the Catholic Church.

He has changed the law to allow them to serve as readers at liturgies, altar servers and distributors of Communion. Actually, his decree formalizes what has been happening in many countries for years, but with the change in the Code of Canon Law, conservative bishops are no longer able to block women in their diocese from those roles.

However, the Vatican stressed that these roles were "essentially different from the ordained ministry" and weren't an automatic precursor to women one day becoming ordained priests. In an accompanying letter, the pope said that he wanted to bring "stability and public recognition" to women already serving in the roles.

Pope Francis has already appointed six women, including the former treasurer for Britain's Prince Charles, to senior roles in the council that oversees Vatican finances. He has appointed women as deputy foreign ministers, director of the Vatican Museums, and deputy head of the Vatican Press Office, as well as four women as councillors to the Synod of Bishops, which prepares major meetings.

"This shift brings the institutional Church in alignment with the pastoral realities around the world," said Kate McElwee, executive director of the Women's Ordination Conference, which promotes a female priesthood.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting will be held either virtually or in person. Please contact the office if you plan to be in-person. The reports will be available hard copy at the office or via email. Watch for a Zoom link for the meeting on the 24th at 11am.

All Committees will need to meet in the next month. Please let Pastor know when so that Zoom or in-person can be set up.

Please **pray for Bethany College, the students, faculty, administrators, and staff**, that all remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and that all might live into their vocation.

Please pray for **USD 400 and all teachers, students, administrators, and staff**, that they might remain healthy and mindful of best health practices, that learning be deep and strong, and the all might benefit from the community of learning.

**JANUARY 24, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY**



There is peace in waiting for God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7:29-35	Live without anxiety
Wednesday	Philippians 4:4-7	Paul encourages his co-workers
Thursday	Isaiah 40:26-31	The Lord gives strength
Friday	Joshua 1:1-9	The Lord speaks to Joshua
Saturday	Psalms 62:5-12	God is powerful and kind
Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. **Psalm 62:5-6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, my soul waits for you in silence; let me wait for you with confidence, peace, and hope through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 62:5-6)

Mealtime Prayer:

In peace we eat this food before us; in faith we receive this food with thanksgiving. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God be yours as you place your trust in the good news of Jesus Christ. (Psalm 62:12 and Mark 1:14)

HYMN OF THE WEEK

He Comes to Us As One Unknown

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some things that distract you and lead you to worry?
- How might God want you to deal with your worries?
- Why do you think the psalmist encourages us to wait for God's presence in silence? (Psalm 62:5)

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Corinthians 7:29-35.

The lectionary text ends at verse 31, but without verses 32-35, the heart of Paul's thought can be missed. Paul originally anticipated that Christ's return would happen in his own lifetime. Attention to marital matters, grief over the death of a loved one, concern for possessions, and daily schedules and responsibilities detract from the higher attention to "devotion to the Lord" (v. 35). What is helpful for us today is to be reminded that routine tasks can dominate our thoughts and we can miss the greater joy and calm that is ours through Christ. Our lives are finally, not measured by the demands of the day but by the steadfast love and faithfulness of God that is shown to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yes, be responsible for the sake of the love of neighbor, but do not be defined by any accomplishments or failures. Be known, understood, and loved as a child of the risen Lord. Then we are able to hear the heart of Paul's message in verse 32: "I want you to be free from anxieties." Be free, be attentive, be faithful, and, of course, experience God's grace, mercy, and peace, not anxiety or fear. Indeed, isn't this part of what Simon and Andrew and James and John experienced when they walked away from the beach to follow Jesus in Mark 1:14-20? When have you been able to let go of anxiety because of the greater good that God has in store for you?

Pray: **God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, give us peace to see you in the midst of all things, and let us be devoted to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

There is much anxiety in people's lives. Seek out someone you know who is experiencing frustrations or worries. Take time to listen to them and offer them a prayer of hope and comfort.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer that does not ask for specific requests. It is simply an openness to God's presence and what God may want to say to the person praying. Cross your arms over your body and breathe in saying: **Bless me with peace, O Lord.** As you exhale say:

Thank you for your peace, O Lord. Do this several times and then sit in silence until you feel ready to conclude with: **Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org