



WORSHIP TIMES

- 8:30 A.M. Traditional Service
- 9:30 A.M. Fellowship & Refreshments
- 10:00 A.M. Contemporary Service
And Kid's Church

Fruits of the Spirit

What does this mean?

We are free for living our baptism:

- To live by the Spirit
- To claim the five Spirit-given gifts of discipleship
- To bear the fruit of the Spirit

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” (Galatians 5:22 NRSV)

NOTE: The fruit of the Spirit is singular, but contains nine virtues (habits) and is expected of each Christian. These virtues are not automatic, but we pray to live in the Spirit and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Our Daily Diet of Prayer: Fruit of the Spirit
Option 1: MORNING PRAYER

Each morning, begin your day in prayer, asking to be filled with God's Spirit so you might bear fruit.

Gracious God, set me free to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. Fill me with your Spirit, so that I might bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no limit to this fruit. May it be so in my life. Amen.

Option 2: MEALTIME PRAYERS

At each of your meals, focus on three virtues of the fruit of the Spirit. You know your day. Feel free to switch your prayers from one meal to the next.

BREAKFAST: Holy One, fill me with love, joy, peace. Amen
LUNCH: Holy One, fill me with patience, kindness, generosity. Amen
DINNER: Holy One, fill me with faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Amen

Option 3: THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Remember the fruit of the Spirit as you pray multiple times throughout the day—as you wait at a traffic light, in carpool lines, for a meeting to begin, or while you exercise. Check whether you can recall all nine virtues of the fruit of the Spirit. Pay attention to which of the nine virtues jump to your mind immediately or which ones you have a difficult time remembering. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is trying to tell you something.

Option 4: LONGER DEVOTIONS

Find a quiet place to sit. Pray for God to set you free to live in the Spirit.

Read a verse of scripture for each virtue of the fruit.

Pause.

Breathe.

Pray.

**THINGS TO DO WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE
(from the Corona Virus) by Valerie Robert**

What can you do when you're stuck in your house with no place to go? No movies, no eating out at restaurants, no get-togethers with family or friends? What's a person to do? Here are some things to try in order to keep my mind and body intact during these uncertain times:

The biggest and important things to focus on are ways to keep from feeling isolated. Isolation leads to depression, which leads to irritability, loss of productivity and purpose, and a whole host of other symptoms. Pick up the phone and call someone. Ask how they're coping. Just thinking about someone else can help take the focus off us, our frustrations and limitations. It's good to remember that "we're all in this thing together." We may not all be facing the exact same scenarios--whether we are jobless, still going to the workplace, working from home or retired, we all have the same concerns about health and finances, and how to access food and the other necessities of life, while maintaining our distance from the virus. All of these things cause us to experience varying levels of anxiety based on the ever-changing parameters of our daily lives, and the uncertainty of where all of this will lead and when life as we once knew it will return. Here are some helpful hints to consider:

- ◆ Try to stay in the present moment. Not even the experts have all the answers about our current situation.
- ◆ Limit exposure to news coverage of the pandemic. It's important to keep abreast of daily changes, but it's not necessary to try to keep track of what's happening minute-to-minute. Only watch or read one news or podcast daily, and only listen long enough to get information that is pertinent to you and your immediate area.
- ◆ During times of high anxiety, having a routine can make the difference in coping well, or not coping at all. Since many of our regular routines have been disrupted, start a new one for yourself. Consider making a schedule or at least an outline of what you plan to do each day and the approximate time you will accomplish each task.
- ◆ Get outside at least once each day if possible. Walk the dog if you need an excuse. Exercise helps with depression and the fresh air can help with alertness and sunlight provides extra Vitamin D. Just a change of scenery can help point your attitude in a more positive direction.
- ◆ Speaking of attitudes— Stay Positive!! The current situation will not last forever. Someday we will all look back and say, "Remember when . . ." That may seem impossible now, but everything passes, even the positive things in life.
- ◆ Find things to be grateful for. We are all so used to running on the treadmill of life—rushing from one activity to another. If nothing else, try to be grateful for time to just be. Relax, listen to some good music (if you're a Baby Boomer, dig out the old record albums and have been jiving to the Oldies!), finish that book you never have time to read, start writing your memoirs (your kids/grandkids will appreciate them some day), catch up on housecleaning or self-improvement projects, scrapbook, clean out closets—the list goes on. We have things we put off because we never seem to find the time—NOW IS THE TIME!
- ◆ Think of ways to be of service to others. Reach out to those who are permanently homebound. Send a card or note to relatives or friends you don't hear from frequently.
- ◆ Make maximum use of technology when there is no other way to connect with people. Can't go to lunch or dinner with friends? Call them individually or set up a telephone conference or use Zoom or Skype and have a 'get-together' that way. Social Media is great, but nothing can replace the experience of hearing and/or seeing other people—except of course face-to-face interactions!
- ◆ Get creative. Use this time of crisis to come up with something unique to put your efforts toward. Remember, the Chinese character for 'Crisis' also means 'Opportunity.' Let's all take this opportunity to make something good out of this critical time for all of us.
- ◆ Finally, maintain a sense of humor. Humor can help us maintain our equilibrium in the direst of situations. Despite seclusion from the Nazi's during WWII, Anne Frank managed to find humor in the minutia of everyday living. Having trouble finding some? Pop in a favorite old video or check out a favorite comedian via your favorite Media entertainment source—a few come to mind: Robin Williams, Jim Carrey, Lucille Ball. Whatever tickles your fancy.

Welcome Hosanna – you are Children of God filled with God’s light and love. And that changes everything! Believe it.

Well – amazing things continue to happen – unprecedented things, new things. I pray all are safe and can feel the presence of God in your life.

This week is our 5th Sunday, normally communion but with the restrictions, we are going to see what the next week brings. That will be the first Sunday which is usually communion. We’ll see. The church will be open on Sunday from 8:30 to 11am for prayers. The office will be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am to noon for sure. We will continue to wipe down things at the church.

We want to help, please contact the church office, 402-296-2662 or me 402-616-7909 with more questions/ideas or wanting to get involved. We are very important to people around us – you make a difference.

Here is our PRAYER OF THE DAY

Son of Man, you encouraged your followers to obey only your voice, and promised that they would see your glorious presence. Show us your glory and teach us to obey. Amen.

Sermon: Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 (NIV)

Once again we are reminded that the disciples world was rocking – they are where Jesus has said that he will be handed over to the religious leaders suffer and die and then rise in three days. We will see what Jesus says into that time and into our times now as the world is changing around us. Wow, see what happens when they leave the temple....

Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 (NIV)

13 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!”

Here they are looking at these massive – seemingly indestructible stones, probably hoping to get strength for themselves. Where do we get strength – is it from our physical bodies (I’m chuckling now☺), our bank accounts, our jobs, our family. I’m sure there is something you look to for strength. Jesus knows what they are thinking and doesn’t want them to have false hopes. Let’s see what Jesus says. ² *“Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; everyone will be thrown down.”* What a shock that must have been. We can’t count on the things of this world – look what’s happening all around us. Everything is changing, I think we all hope that this is temporary, but you know deep down it won’t be the same.

As they walked to the Mount of Olives the massive buildings wouldn’t look so big. They were ready to ask Jesus more questions. ³ *As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?”* Kind of like the questions we are asking now – how long will this go on? We have so many more questions too.

⁵ Jesus said to them: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains." Birth pains – remember that for later. And remember the joy of new life at the end of those pains. 😊

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." Wow, that doesn't sound reassuring – sounds like more and more trouble. Well isn't that the case now – no one knows what the future holds and many don't know if their company will survive or if their 401k's will go back up. Again, so much unknown, so many deaths yet to come.

Jesus knew their anxiety and speaks to it. Listen to his words. ²⁶ "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens". Love that, Who will be coming in glory and power – who? God with us – Immanuel – Jesus, Son of God. God is in control – Jesus is reminding the disciples and us – that God is in control. So to answer their question the first thing Jesus reminds them is God is in control – God has a plan – this isn't surprising God. Good news for us..... Now, Jesus will answer their question.

²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. Remember some of those Words of God – I love you child of God; God's grace; forgiveness; God's work in our lives. Good words – life giving words – remember!! Let's continue...

³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come". This is a God thing – not for us to know is it?? But God's word's, be on guard, be alert. We can do that. How, let's see what Jesus says next. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch." God gives authority – Remember the great commission: - Go make disciples, baptizing, teaching to the ends of the earth. Another way we say it – we are the hands, feet, the body of Christ in the world today. Soooo.... ³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'

Hear what Jesus said – what I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch". That's an action word in the Greek – not a sitting around or sleeping thing. Even though that is exactly what the disciples would do in the garden the night Jesus was arrested. Isn't God's grace great!! Thank you Lord.

So for sleepy, unprepared, miserably failing disciples – there is hope. Hope based on God’s faithfulness and not our own. Hope in what Jesus did for us. This means that our watching and waiting need not be full of fear and anxiety. Rather, it is meant to be active, hopeful, and purposeful waiting – like preparing for the birth of a child. It is about the mission that God has given us.

As one pastor said, “The present pain will give way to new life, to a new creation. Jesus promises to return and to gather his chosen ones from the ends of the earth. We watch and wait not because our salvations depends upon it – that is securely in God’s hands - but because Jesus has given us a mission and calls us to participate here and now in the new creation that he is ushering in.” God is certainly doing a new thing because new things are happening all around us. But as in childbirth – wow what joy comes through the pain. Can we trust in joy coming through these things we are experiencing now 😊 Jesus says we can!!

Remember his plan God gave us authority so Christ can work in and through us!!

Let us Pray: Lord God – gracious Father – help us as we wait – Lord, you know we don’t like to wait so ignite in us your spirit – give us wisdom how to reach out to others, to encourage, to support – to be your hands. All the while helps us to do it safely. We pray for those who are sick, and give thanks for all the work so many people are doing at this time – to you goes the glory. Help us to feel your presence – we look forward to seeing your glory at work around us and your peace in us. Praise and blessing to you – in Jesus name we pray and all God’s children said, Amen.

These are tough times but together God with us we can fear less and love more. Wait for the joy of God to fill our lives. Thank you God.

BLESSING: Sending message from St. Teresa of Avila

"Christ has no body now, but ours.

No hands, no feet on earth, but ours.

Ours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world.

Ours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.

Ours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world."

† AMEN.

Verse of the Month for March

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ~Mark 10:27 (NRSV)

Please use this page during your prayer time this week!

Prayer

***Heavenly Father*, I pray that this day, I may live in your presence and please you more and more.**

***Lord Jesus*, I pray that this day I will take up my cross and follow you.**

***Holy Spirit*, I pray that this day, you will fill me with yourself, and cause your fruit to ripen in my life; Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.**

Amen.

One more resource!!

Please access Right Now Media for lots of great videos and Bible studies for kids and adults! You can watch on your smartphone or on your tablet...even your TV if you have a streaming service! Please text or email Pastor Jim with questions! 402-616-7909

Please pray for:

- Caren Apprich
- Bill Bade
- Bertha Black
- O.C. Coleman
- Jan Conley
- Nancy Conley
- Glenn Crockett
- Barb Culbertson
- Mary & Ted Dalhberg
- Ebbin Gehrke
- Bill Grunewald
- Sandy Ham
- Harley Hein
- Jason Knott
- Virginia Manning
- Donna McClean
- Lillian Pies
- Norman Rishel
- Sheila Sach
- Russ Sederburg
- Ron Thorson
- Kathy Todd
- Grace Zimmerer
- Alan's Family
- Chris
- Mary C.

Prayer for those serving in the military and law enforcement:

- Justin Bartlett, Marines
- Meshack Casey, Army
- Cory Clines, Air Force
- Alex Houchin, Navy
- Sean Gardner, Law Enforcement
- Mason Jensen, Navy
- Calvin Johnson, Air Force
- Rachel Mildenhall, Marines
- Scott Nelson, Army
- Tyler Nielson, Navy
- Nick Richards, Law Enforcement
- Steven Richards, Army
- Travis Roeder, Air Force
- Brent Wiese, Army
- Craig Wylie, Law Enforcement
- Sandra Wylie, Law Enforcement
- Jennifer Zeitler and Marcus Hough, Air Force



Please also pray for those who are not able to leave their homes, the elderly who have not had visitors, and all medical personnel working hard to keep us well.

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Find us on Facebook!
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*We welcome all people to worship God
by offering our lives in daily witness
to the love of Jesus Christ.*

**Check out our Facebook page:
Hosanna Lutheran Church ELCA
for updates!**

**Diana is checking emails every day, if you need something or have
something someone else needs, please email:
hosannalutheran@windstream.net**

**Please check our website "hosannaplattsmouth.com" for updates
to services and service times. Our website is updated twice a
week.
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let us know!**