

..... Daily Devotions

**Devotions – May 23-29, 2021**

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**Community Lutheran Church, Suomi/Palmer Parish**

**Sunday, May 23, 2021**

Text: Psalm 23:5b-6

**My cup runneth over with goodness and mercy all the days of my life.**

When I open my kitchen cabinet doors, I see an array of mugs, more than any one person needs. Some are just plain mugs, others have meaning. They have been given to me as gifts. I'll give you a glimpse of what I can read when the door is open:

*Joy to the World*

*In the cookies of life, friends are the chocolate chips.*

*Woman of God*

*First my mother, now my friend*

*Sit, talk and laugh*

*Our great grandma is close in heart*

*Happiness is when we have our act together*

*Good morning, this is God, I will be handling all your problems today. I won't need your help.*

My cup runneth over with goodness and mercy. It began when Christ came into the world as an infant in the manger. He has been my friend through thick and thin, good times and bad. At the communion table I see another cup, the chalice, where the cup of wine is poured out for me. I am reminded that this cup is Christ's blood shed for me for the forgiveness of sin.

On my newest mug are the words, "He is risen!" To that I say Alleluia!

Let us pray: *Thank you for the cup offered to me at your table of grace. Amen.*



**Monday, May 24, 2021**

Text: John 15:15b-16a

**I have called you friends...You did not choose me but I chose you.**

Facebook is the most popular social get-together place on the internet. I am not on Facebook, but I know that people invite each other to be friends. These invitations can be confirmed or ignored. In the midst of this reality, Jesus invites us to be his friend, without any formal request from us. Jesus says, "You will no longer be my servant...but I have chosen you to be my friend."

Unlike Facebook, the friendship of God is an intimate friendship. To be a friend of Jesus means that we are privileged to sit in the living room and to talk to him. Imagine yourself with your prayer shawl wrapped around your shoulders, not thinking of Jesus as God the Creator, but your best friend, who fully understands when you are hurt or discouraged, or can celebrate your achievements or help you get through the blunders you have made.

He does all of this through love, and we are commanded to do likewise. To be a friend is to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Let us pray: *May we strive to love others as you have first loved us. Amen.*



**Tuesday, May 25, 2021**

Text: Acts 1:1-2

**...wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning...giving instructions through the Holy Spirit.**

In this month of Pentecost, we celebrate the birthday of the church. But what are we celebrating? The church is difficult to describe. Is the church a denomination or a congregation? Is the church a building? Is it a worship service? Yes, it is all of these and more.

Most of us come to know and love the church through the people in the congregation. We sing our favorite hymns and commune together at the Lord's table. We pray for the world and for all in need. We might even hang around for a cup of coffee after worship. Congregations, worship, and buildings can all be church.

But the church is bigger than any of these. The church is the work of the Holy Spirit that does amazing things. The work of the Holy Spirit leads people, it calls us to be the hands and feet of Christ, and to carry on his work. It gives us the ability to live together in love and to reach out to those with physical and spiritual needs. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes this possible...the gift given to us at Pentecost.

Let us pray: *Come, Holy Spirit.*



**Wednesday, May 26, 2021**

Text: Psalm 86:1

**Bend down, O Lord, and hear my prayer; answer me, for I need your help.**

Teachers of young children spend a lot of time down at the level of their students. Tying shoes, sitting on little chairs at low tables, bending down to hear a soft voice. These are for practical reasons, but sometimes it is just to show them that they are important, so you want to be at their level.

In this Psalm, the writer is asking God to bend down to hear his prayer for help. God heard that request, just as he hears our requests. Our Lord is a God who gets down on the level of his children. God will bend down to hear our need, but he won't stay there. He'll pick us up in his arms until we can weather the storm that we are going through.

Let us pray: *Heavenly Father, please bend down so that I can see you and feel your presence. Amen.*



**Thursday, May 27, 2021**

Text: Lamentations 3:22-23

**Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

This verse is the basis for my favorite hymn, *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. Have you ever felt like you were being consumed by hurt, loneliness, or grief? And you wonder how am I going to be able to handle this? The good news is that you don't have to. God's compassion never fails. It is new every morning.

The Israelites didn't believe that they would ever get to the promised land, but God was faithful. He fed them manna, enough for that day. Like the manna that came every day, new mercies come our way every day. We just have to ask for them because our God is faithful.

Let us pray: *O Lord our God, we are thankful that your mercies never run out. Amen.*



**Friday, May 28, 2021**

Text: Romans 3:23-24

**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified by his grace through Jesus Christ.**

*Ring around the rose, pocket full of posies,  
Ashes, ashes, we all fall down!*

The children's rhyme describes the human race. All have sinned and fall short of what God desires of us. There is no difference between those who have sinned a lot or those who have sinned a little. Murderers, liars, gossipers, and speeders – all are in the same group. If you have ever known what the right thing was to do and chose the wrong thing, you have sinned. But the story doesn't stop there. Everyone who has fallen is made worthy by the gift of God's grace.

Let us pray: *God, thank you for my gift of grace. Amen.*



**Saturday, May 29, 2021**

Text: I John 3:1

**See what love the Father has given, that we should be called children of God.**

My great-granddaughter Lucy is five years old. She was walking on a wooded path with her grandma, and she said, "Grandma Connie, God made everything." Yes, he did was the reply. Lucy said, "God made me too, Grandma." Yes, he did was the reply. "But my parents made me, too, so I'm part God and part parent."

Wonderfully made in the image of God, so "that we should be called, children of God."

Let us pray: *Thank you, God, for little children. Amen.*

