



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

## CHURCH AT HOME

### Announcements

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for November 14, 2021, celebrating the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost.

Pastor Mike is currently on a medical leave of absence. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jack Dressler - **519-250-7210**.

Christmas Eve Service – There will be one service at 8pm. If you are interested in attending, please call the office (519-977-7787) and provide your name and the number of people that are planning to attend.

### **In Memory of Ida Rappe (Radomska) – December 30, 1923 – November 8, 2021:**

*Passed away November 8, 2021 in Windsor, Ontario. Married 55 years to her beloved Zbigniew "Stan" (2001). Loving mother of Christopher (Kimberley) and Anne (Sue). Cherished Babcia of Krystina, Tricia and Emmylia, great-grandmother of Mason, "Babcia's little Eugene". Greatly missed by family in Canada and Europe. Visitation at Victoria Greenlawn Funeral Home (1525 Hwy #3 Oldcastle ON N0R 1L0 519-969-3939), Sunday, November 14, 2021 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Visitation continues Monday, November 15, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church (1215 Parent Ave) 9 a.m. until service at 10 a.m. Interment to follow at Heavenly Rest.*

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)".

### Worship

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

1215 Parent Ave. Windsor, On N8X 4J1 519.977.7787 [trinitywlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:trinitywlutheran@gmail.com)

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

*The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.*

<sup>1</sup>“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

### Psalm: PSALM 16

<sup>1</sup>Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

<sup>2</sup>**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

<sup>3</sup>But those who run after other gods  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

<sup>4</sup>**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,  
never take their names upon my lips.**

<sup>5</sup>O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;  
it is you who uphold my lot.

<sup>6</sup>**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;  
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup>I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;  
my heart teaches me night after night.

<sup>8</sup>**I have set the LORD always before me;**

**because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup>My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

<sup>10</sup>**For you will not abandon me to the grave,  
nor let your holy one see the pit.**

<sup>11</sup>You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures  
forevermore.

**Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25**

*Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.*

<sup>11</sup>Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup>But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," <sup>13</sup>and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." <sup>14</sup>For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [<sup>15</sup>And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

<sup>16</sup>"This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,"

<sup>17</sup>he also adds,

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more."

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the con-

fession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Gospel Reading: Mark 13:1-8**

The holy gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

*In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.*

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” <sup>2</sup>Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>3</sup>When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup>“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup>Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup>When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup>For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon: “THE TRANSCENDING GOD”**

On August 23, 2011, Louisa County, Virginia was rocked by a magnitude 5.8 earthquake. We expect such seismic activity along the Pacific coast but rarely think about it happening elsewhere. Earthquakes in Virginia are rare, however, due to the geological nature of the Eastern Seaboard, the quake’s shocks were felt as far as away as Florida and even as far north as Ontario. It was particularly sad for many Christians, especially the Episcopalians, to see the damage the quake did to the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, better known as the National Cathedral. Who could have envisioned the pinnacles of the towers of that church come crashing down to the pavement below or great towers completely twisted? The earthquake only lasted 10 to 15 seconds, but in that time a tremendous amount of damage was done. Who could have imagined it?

“Then Jesus asked him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’” Jesus was referring, of course, to the greatest building project of his day and time – Herod’s temple in Jerusalem. The massive renovation began around 20 BCE and expanded the temple complex far beyond what King Solomon had envisioned. While the temple itself was completed in less than two years, the outer structures and courtyards took about 80 years to complete – only to be utterly destroyed in 70 A.D. by Roman legions under the command of Titus, the son of the Roman Emperor Vespasian. It would have been hard, if not impossible, for the disciples to imagine the complete destruction of such a massive building – the most holy place of the Jewish faith.

We, too, can scarcely imagine a time when the important places and structures we know and love will be “thrown down,” however, we have witnessed a glimpse of such destruction in our own day when we saw the walls of the World Trade Center come crashing down. Catastrophic destruction leads to collective trauma and lingering anxiety. But even if the structures are not literally “thrown down,” it is still difficult to ponder that even the place where we worship today will one day be in ruin. It is folly of humanity to seek permanence in the things of this world, and yet it seems to be our nature. Perhaps it is our deep angst in knowing our own mortality that leads us to build structures of many kinds: buildings, bridges, ships, corporate businesses, political empires, families. God has placed a deep-seated need to create something that will transcend the finitude of our earthly lives.

Jesus’ teaching today reminds us of the impermanence of all the structures of this world: “All will be thrown down.” Jesus cuts straight to our desire for immortality with these disquieting words – words that echo the great prophetic tradition of the Jewish people. No doubt this raised the anxiety of the disciples who press him for answers of “when will this be?” They press him for signs of the end. In Jesus’ day, and even to this day, there are plenty of people who look for signs, as if knowing when the end will come will somehow change its coming. Our faith and science tell us there will be a time when all things will come to an end; does knowing exactly when it will happen really give us any mastery over it?

Jesus does not give specifics as to when the end will come, not does he tell them exactly what will happen. He tells them there will be upheavals of many kinds, but he clearly says these are the beginnings of the birth pangs – not the signs of the end of all things. The things that Jesus describes – war and rumors of war, famine, earthquakes –

were all occurring in his day and are still occurring even more today. We might wonder when the birth pangs will be done.

Certainly, as Mark wrote this gospel in the shadow of the temple's destruction and amidst severe persecution of the Christian community, this disquieting apocalyptic narrative seems to fit the unrest of his time. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century in our living of these pandemic times and of what's happening to us personally here in Trinity in these uncertain times, it seems to fit as well. We do live in a highly anxious society where the messages we hear all around us center on being afraid; be afraid of terrorism; be afraid of the economy collapsing; be afraid of losing our jobs; be afraid of losing our health; be afraid of losing our economic security; be afraid for our children's future; be afraid of catching the co-vid virus; be afraid of what's going to happen to our church; be afraid of rejection. The list is endless. We are afraid that our neatly constructed lives will "all be thrown down" so we live in captivity to that fear, and when we live in captivity to fear, we never really live!

In the larger context of Mark's gospel, these words from Jesus come just before he enters Jerusalem to be crucified. These words about the destruction of the temple and upheavals to come are like the foreshadow of his own death – the very destruction of his own body. "All will be thrown down" is a promise that all things of this world will fall apart, disintegrate and die. However, within the broader context of this chapter of Mark's gospel, Jesus reminds us that our job isn't to know exactly what will happen, how it will happen, or when it will happen; rather our job is to be faithful, patient, and keep awake, because God is working out the plan of salvation and has not abandoned us, as sometimes it seems. It will be all right because God inevitably is in charge.

This isn't to say things will be easy and that hardships and suffering won't befall us. It isn't an empty optimism promising things will get better for our lives; they may or they may not. But, it is a promise that God is with us and God is in charge regardless.

Christ promises us that things will be all right because God has the last word. When death on the cross appeared to be the end, God has the last word at an empty tomb. Throughout our lives corporately and personally, we will experience death and resurrection many times over as the neatly arranged structures of our lives are thrown down. These apocalyptic words of Jesus remind us to hang on and to place our trust in something more than ourselves, our possessions, our relationships, our health, our capacities or our intellect. It is to place our ultimate trust in the One from whom all of these things come. It is to accept our finitude and mortality in a radical trust of God's unchangeable grace and goodness so that we might be freed from the captivity of anxious fear and fi-

nally live fully and freely as God's beloved children. May it be so for each of us as individuals and as the family of Trinity Lutheran Church. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change, protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters. Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

***In Residence:*** Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle;

***Needing our prayers:*** Peter; Brenda; Doug; Dorothy; Bill; Bev; Ed; Marilyn; Jordan; Audrey; John; John; Greg; Sam; Katie; Walter; Hart; Frank; Pastor Mike & Patti

***Recovering:*** Katherine; Carol; Betty; Betty; Gary; Greg; Kati; Bill; Sharon; Mary;

And all those we name in our hearts...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved. Assure us of your resurrection promise.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

#### *Lord's Prayer*

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:*

**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*

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life,

✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

#### *Dismissal*

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**