



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for May 15, 2022, celebrating the Fifth Sunday of Easter.

Pastor Jack Dressler (519-250-7210) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

### **Pastor Jack will be leading the following services:**

May 22, June 12, July 24, August 21, September 25, October 23, November 13, December 11 and potentially December 24

### **Father Brian Wearne will be leading the following services:**

June 26 (communion), July 10 (communion) and July 31

**\*\* Please Contact Dena Peifer if you wish to be a reader or lead a Sunday service \*\***

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)".

### **Introduction**

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

### **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever.

You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.

Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **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!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. Alleluia.

### **First Reading: Acts 11:1-18**

*In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup>So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup>saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” <sup>4</sup>Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup>“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup>As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup>I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup>But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup>But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ <sup>10</sup>This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup>At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup>The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup>He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup>he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup>And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup>And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup>If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” <sup>18</sup>When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

### **Psalm: Psalm 148**

*The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup>**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup>**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup>**who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup>**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**  
<sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens, old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

**Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-6**

*John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

<sup>1</sup> I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

**Gospel Reading: John 13:31-35**

*After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.*

<sup>31</sup> When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as

I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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

**The Sermon: Love one another as I have loved you (Lead by Dagmar Raulin – Sermon credit to Pastor Charles Henrickson, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Bonne Terre, Missouri, USA)**

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” So said Jesus to his disciples on the night when he was betrayed. “Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

“Love one another, as I have loved you.” Now if that is Christ’s command to us—and it is—then I suppose the place to start is with how Jesus has loved us. Yes, that is always the place to start, with what our Lord has done for us. Otherwise, we would not be able to carry out this command and to love in the new way that Jesus models, commands, and empowers. But starting with Jesus’ love for us, and abiding in that love, we will bear the good fruit of love in our lives.

So we ask: How has Jesus loved us?

Well, we see it in our text. In John Chapter 13, Jesus’ love is in full view. The chapter even starts with the words, “having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” What was the occasion? It was the Passover meal, that evening every year when Jews gathered to remember how the Lord had led Israel out of bondage in Egypt—how their lives were spared and saved through the blood of the Passover lamb.

The Passover was commemorated every year with a special meal, and that is what Jesus is sharing with his disciples. They had traveled with Jesus for several years now, following him, learning from him, witnessing his works and hearing his wisdom – heavenly works and heavenly wisdom. Now they were in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, and they had secured an upper room at which to have the Passover meal.

“Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” How so? Well, first, in a very simple yet profound way. In a very humble, servant kind of way. You see, when Jews were invited to someone’s house for dinner, after walking in sandals over the dusty streets and roads, it was customary that the host would provide a servant to wash the feet of his guests as they came in, before they reclined at the table. But on this occasion, there was no servant to do that menial task. So who would do it?

Certainly, one of the lesser-ranking disciples, perhaps the youngest, John. But no. Who should it be but none other than the master himself, Jesus! This was stunning. This was remarkable. Surely the master does not wash the feet of his disciples! This is beneath him! This is a servant's task! Yet Jesus lays aside his outer garments and wraps a towel around his waist. He takes a wash basin and gets down on his knees and begins to wash his disciples' feet.

Peter objects: "Lord, you shall never wash my feet!" Jesus replies: "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Peter, ever the one to go from one extreme to the other, says, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Peter realizes that as a sinner he needs a full washing, a mighty cleansing, done by the Lord himself, to have a share in the life that Jesus bestows.

So it is for us. We are sinners, we are sinful men like Peter. We need a cleansing, we need a washing, to stand before God in righteousness, to sit at table with our Lord in peace and fellowship. We cannot cleanse ourselves. The help must come from the Lord himself. And the amazing thing is that the Lord does this. He stoops to serve. He humbles himself to help. The Lord of glory lowers himself to wash and cleanse us of the dirt and the grime of sin. In the waters of Holy Baptism, you were washed, you were cleansed, in the blood of your Savior Jesus.

That was your full-body bath. Then in Holy Absolution, your feet are washed clean as you accumulate the dust of sin in your day-to-day life. And in Holy Communion—the Blessed Sacrament that Christ instituted on this night—our Lord gives you his very body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins. Herein is the love of Jesus, that through his humble serving, we are washed and made clean and brought to sit at table with our Lord in peace and fellowship.

Yes, here is the love of Jesus. He, the master, washes the feet of his disciples. But should this be so surprising? Had not Jesus told them, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"? So now he is serving. And in a short while, in a matter of hours, he will give his life as a ransom, as the redemption, of the whole world.

"Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." And Jesus will tell them, later that same night, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." That is what Jesus is doing on this night. That is where all this is going. It is going to the cross. Jesus himself will be the Passover Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. The sacrifice, the only sacrifice that works, that avails for all sin and for all sinners. Jesus' blood on the doorpost of the cross is the sign, the mark, by

which our lives are spared and saved. Death passes over. Satan's domain is ruined. We are led out of bondage and set out on our way to the Promised Land of heaven. All this is accomplished by the blood of Christ. Greater love has no man than this, that Jesus, the very Son of God, lays down his life by being lifted up on the cross, for you.

So this is love, this is the new love, the greatest love, that only the followers of Jesus know. And we know it. We have received it. And so now, Jesus commands us to live that life of love and servanthood toward others. It's only natural. It flows out of, it flows from, having received this wondrous love ourselves.

This is why Jesus can command it, and he means it. He really wants and expects his disciples, his followers, to live this way: to love by serving. It may not take the form of a wash basin and a towel, but it could. Or something like that. A humble kind of serving, doing for others at the point of their need. It is an outward kind of looking and serving, being attentive to our brother or sister and asking ourselves—and maybe asking them—how we can help. Friends, this is what you have been washed to do. The way of the master is the way of his disciples. And you are his disciples. Jesus said: “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”

But come first and let Jesus serve you. This is how it always proceeds. First you are loved by Jesus. Then you go and love others. You can't have one without the other.

“Love one another, as I have loved you.” Yes, behold and receive the wondrous love of Jesus. That is always the place to start. And that is always the place to end. **AMEN**

### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.*

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us . Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth or power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. 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; Dorothy

***Needing our prayers:*** Ed; Pastor Mike & Patti, Donna; Sharon B

***Friends of our Members Needing our prayers:*** Audrey; Greg; Paul; Hilda; Mary

**...and all members who may have needs unknown to us**

And all those we name in our hearts...

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

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; 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 Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**