



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for May 22, 2022, celebrating the Sixth 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:

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 ****

The Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) continues to have an appeal for funds to support those affected by the war in Ukraine. Many members of our congregation have approached members of council to make a donation on behalf of our Church. At our council meeting on May 17, 2022, council has decided to donation \$1,000 to this appeal. May God BLESS the people of Ukraine and we pray for an end.

The CALL process to call a new Pastor to our congregation continues. We will again be looking for input from you, our members. As part of the "Congregation Mission" profile that needs to be completed, there are questions that we want YOUR input to. We will be sending this request to you in the near future.

Introduction

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

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

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through 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. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 16:9-15

A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi.

⁹During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

¹¹We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Psalm: Psalm 67

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy.

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

²**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

³Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁴**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,**

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

⁶**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10, 22--22:5

John's vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God's past actions. Yet in this new city, God's presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.

¹⁰And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1}Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Gospel Reading: John 14:23-29

As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

²³Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If

you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

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

The Sermon: The Peace That Invades (Pastor Jack Dressler on Sunday May 22, 2022)

It was not like they had anticipated. It was supposed to be a celebration – a celebration of deliverance as they remembered the Passover in that upper room. But Jesus had upset them – with his actions and with his words.

Before the meal even began, he knelt before each one of them with towel and water insisting on washing the grime from their feet – it was the action of a common servant, and yet, most intimate.

Then, after the meal, he made predictions that shocked them: “I’m telling you the truth, one of you is going to betray me.” “My friends, I shall not be with you very much longer.” And to Peter, the rock, he said: “Before the rooster crows you will say three times that you do not know me.”

Those disciples sat in stunned silence. What Jesus had just said to them shook them to the timbers of their faith. And so, they probably never heard his words of promise; they were probably too confused to comprehend the gift he gave them when he said: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

And I will dare to say that we can identify with those disciples. How many of us, upon receiving shocking news, hear well-meaning neighbours and friends mouth the platitudes: “Everything’ll be all right.” “She’s better off.” “Everything will work out for the best.” And how many of us, in the midst of a life tragedy, really believe any of that? Do you know the experience?

Circumstances cause our worlds to fall apart – death, accident, an announcement that the disease is terminal, divorce. And life falls apart at the seams, and somebody standing on the sidelines, wanting to be helpful, mouths the pious pronouncement: “It’ll all work out; God will give you comfort and peace.”

Like the disciples, we aren’t ready to accept, to hear, to comprehend what those words mean. And yet, there isn’t one among us who doesn’t **need** what Jesus offered his first disciples.

When life is in a state of confusion: personal relationships are at the straining point, job pressures seem more than we can bear, family and friends offer little support to the lonely, hurting person inside. And “peace” is what we need – some respite from the frustrations, some solace from the pressures, some relief from the inner turmoils.

But where does peace come from? Certainly not from the world. The prescription written in the world for peace is synthetic: alcohol, pills, increased leisure – all human-made, all contrived, all illusory to real peace as we need it. As someone has profoundly quipped: “There is no problem so bad that drinking and drugs can’t make worse.” We can read the testimonies about people who fought their way out of chemical jungles, or who battled the bottle and defeated it, or who accumulated “things” as a way to gain inner peace and their confessions stand crystal clear: “We can’t make, drink, buy or swallow peace.”

True peace, of heart, of mind, of spirit, is a gift. It is a gift that bursts through the walls we erected, a gift that shoves open the stuffy windows of our dark nights, a gift that invades our lives. Saint Augustine said it long ago: “You have made us for yourself. Our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee, O Lord.”

True peace comes only as Jesus Christ invades our lives as the Prince of Peace, and we cannot manufacture or buy it – it is a gift. Jesus said it to his confused, scared, shocked disciples: “My peace I give to you.” And Jesus says it to us today – confused by the events of cruelty we see inflicted upon the helpless of the world; scared by the economic times and the uncertainties it has brought; shocked by personal tragedies happening in lives all around us daily. Jesus says to you and me: “My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”

There would be little hope for us today if there wasn’t a grave distinction between the peace the world gives, and that which comes from the “Prince of Peace.”

How often the ears of the world have heard the vain promises: “This is the war to end all wars.”

How could we have dreamed the dreams of peace by building world organizations such as the “United Nations” and calling together “Peace Keeping Forces.”

How often we have listened to the rhetoric of world leaders claiming that peace can be insured through greater arms, more powerful bombs, larger defense budgets.

We have listened, we have acquiesced, we have nodded hopefully – but peace still eludes us.

Jesus has said that his peace is quite different. It is a gift; it comes not with promises of a better life but in the midst of present life to make it better.

There is a story of a young family living in Europe during World War II. Those were frightening days to live, to be sure. Bombs rained daily on homes and lives. This family of four, I had read about, had made very detailed plans of what they would do in case of an alert. The father would take the small son; the mother would take care of the infant daughter, and they would head for the nearest bomb shelter.

One night, during the great confusion of such an alert, the family became separated. When the all clear was given, the father and the son searched frantically for the mother and daughter. They returned to their home to see the roof gutted by a bomb and there, under the rubble, were the dead bodies of the mother and daughter. For some strange reason, they never got to the shelter.

The husband collapsed in grief. But as he wept, he suddenly discovered his son was missing. Desperately he looked for his boy and found him out in the garden looking quietly up at the sky. Silently, the father stood beside his son and took his hand into his own. Looking up at his father, the little boy said, "It's going to be all right, Father. God is hanging out the stars again."

The father claimed that faith was born in him at that moment and his spirit was flooded with peace. He recalled the words of Jesus, "When things are at their worst, look up, for your salvation is at hand."

That kind of peace the world can neither give nor promise. It is a peace that can come only from the One who gave his life so that we can have life. It is peace that allows us to live and love in a world of international tension and conflict; that enables us to look at the needs of our neighbours even when it's painful to see distended bellies on small children, or the loneliness in the widow's eyes.

It is a peace that invades the closed circles of our private worlds and says, "Do not be afraid." It is, my friends in Christ, the peace of God, given in Jesus the Christ, that passes all our attempts at understanding.

It is a gift – for troubled hearts,
For confused minds,
For anxious spirits.

Hear and receive these gentle words of Jesus: "Peace I give to you."

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.

God of new life, open your church to the unexpected ways your Spirit is at work. Guide bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders in their visioning, partnership, and planning. Surround us with your peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a vision of increase and abundant harvest for farmers, laborers, and gardeners who are beginning their growing season. Join their efforts with the goodness of creation to feed all living things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine your light of wisdom and peace among nations. When those in power seek to assert dominance over others, confound their ways and make them yield to your humble authority. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give safe haven to those who seek healing, liberation, or peace. Create places filled with hospitality where hurting people find your loving presence and wholeness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold the work of ministries and organizations in our communities who assist people experiencing homelessness, citizens returning from prison, and all marginalized people. Accomplish your will through their efforts. 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.**

Assemble your people at rivers, streams, and fonts, where we remember our baptism and welcome others into the communion of saints. Gather us with those who have died when we meet together at your river of life. 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.**