



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for June 12, 2022, celebrating the First Sunday after Pentecost.

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:

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 ****

Obituary of Wolfgang Grohs (June 21, 1931 - May 29, 2022)

It is with sad hearts we announce the passing of a great husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Cherished husband of Eleonore. Beloved father of Jeffrey (Diana), Robert (Carol) and Glenn (Nancy). Proud Opa to Michael (Amanda), Christopher (Nicole), Scott, Gregory (Maria) and Chelsea and Great-Opa to Mason and Isabella. Wolfgang had an established career in the automotive industry. He was a long time member of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Cremation and a private family Funeral Service will take place. If desired, donations may be made in memory to the Canadian Cancer Society. Online condolences and cherished memories may be made at www.windsorchapel.com

Introduction

“O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God’s love and hope to our neighbors.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Merciful God,

we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbours. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves. **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

God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, 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. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; God’s glory fills the whole earth. Alleluia.

First Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine.

Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.

¹Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

²On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand;

³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

⁴"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago.

²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—

²⁶when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.

²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

²⁸when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep,

²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

³⁰then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,

³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

Psalm: Psalm 8

Your glory is chanted above the heavens.

¹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them?**

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:**

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**

and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Gospel Reading: John 16:12-15

Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.

[Jesus said,] ¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

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

The Sermon: Continuing Education (by Pastor Jack Dressler on Sunday June 12, 2022)

Quite a few years ago this Sunday, Trinity Sunday, I labored mightily on a sermon on the Trinity. I had been dabbling in St. Augustine on the Trinity and was eager to show the congregation all the neat things I had learned about one of the most difficult doctrines of the church – I mean to say difficult to understand doctrines of the church.

I told the congregation, "You think because it's a beautiful Sunday in June that I should cut you some slack, allow you off the hook, and let you out of here with a taste-

fully short sermon. Well, this is Trinity Sunday so you can forget that. I've got a lot to say about a large idea of the church so you can settle back and relax because this is going to take a while."

After my Trinity sermon, at the door of the church, someone said, "I've been a Christian for 30 years and never have I ever heard about the Trinity. Do you clergy sort of keep this heavy stuff hidden away, waiting to spring it on us until later, after we've already signed up and you have our initiation fee in hand?"

The answer is "Of course not." Yet in a way that's just what Jesus says that he is doing as he continues his farewell to his disciples. For many long passages Jesus has been explaining his mission to his followers. He has used a rich array of images, delved into a number of heavy ideas. He is leaving them, he yells them, he tells them, and before he goes he dumps on them some of the most impressive teaching that is recorded in the Gospel of John.

Then, in the middle of this long dissertation, Jesus says that he has lots he could tell them, but he won't (16:12). There are aspects of who he is and what he is about that they cannot yet bear to hear, so he is saving that for later. Later, the Spirit, whom we spoke of last Sunday, will share that with them.

It is an odd comment for Jesus to make considering all those places in this gospel where Jesus tells his disciples that he "has made known everything" that is to be known from the Father (15:15). John has depicted Jesus as the full, complete revelation of God. We look at Jesus and see as much of God as there is to see.

Or do we? Have we got, in the New Testament, in all these words about Jesus, all there is to know about Jesus or are we supposed to expect further revelation? Jesus says that there are things about him that the disciples "cannot bear" at the moment (16:12). What could he mean by that?

Some say that what he meant was that they could not bear to know what he must go through with the cross and his suffering and death. Eventually, when all that has been accomplished, they will know the depth of his love. And there is surely something to that interpretation.

Yet others say that Jesus must be asserting that revelation is a continuous process, an ongoing process that will continue even after the New Testament is closed. That "Spirit of Truth," the Holy Spirit that Jesus promises them, will be their guide into all truth, their continuing guide. Earlier (14:6), Jesus had called himself "Truth." So this "Spirit of Truth" will continue to unfold the significance of Jesus, "The Truth." This suggests that this "Spirit of truth" will not tell us something secret that was not known until later, but

will rather continue to unpack, unfold, disclose, and disburse more of the significance of Mr. Truth, Jesus.

The great Christian theologian, Karl Barth, once wrote that all of us Christians must continually cultivate among ourselves the “spirit of the amateur.” There can be no “professional Christians,” said Barth. I think he was speaking particularly to us clergy, but all of us need to hear this warning as well. All of us must steadfastly guard against that conceit, that deceit that acts as if we have arrived in our faith, as if there is no more growing and converting for us to do, as if the work of the Spirit of truth in us has been accomplished. None of us can get a Master’s Degree in discipleship, implying that we have somehow mastered the art of following Jesus. We’re all still beginners, no matter our age or our years of belonging to the church.

The oldest name for Christians, in the Acts of the Apostles, is “The Way.” To be a Christian means to be part of “The Way,” that is, on the way with Jesus.

Yet today’s gospel also implies that the Spirit of truth is busy, in your life and mine, in our congregation, in our worship, in our life together, unfolding more and more of the great mystery of God in the flesh, the Christ. There are beliefs that are dear to this faith that we could not lay on you during your first days as a Christian. You couldn’t bear them, in the words of today’s gospel. That’s why we have you worship every week, 52 Sundays a year, so we can gradually, week-in-week-out, let the Spirit of Truth work on us to show us wonderful new insights, mysteries, and revelation.

So somebody emerges from Sunday worship and says to me, “Where on earth did you get this? I’ve been a church member all my life and never heard of this before!” I ought to say, “Congratulations. You are living proof of the truth of 16:13. The Spirit of truth is working on you. See? God is not done with you yet.”

Thank God that we don’t have to figure out everything about Christianity from the very first. I’ve got a friend who is a civil engineer and they made him take a long, involved exam, demonstrating that he knew absolutely everything he needed to know about engineering before they would let him near a construction project.

Well, discipleship is not like that, when Jesus first taught them, he fed them baby food – soft, easy to chew, appealing vitals before he dared give them more substantial and demanding nourishment. There is nothing quite as exasperating as the new believer, the person who, having just discovered the Christian faith, thinks that he or she invented the Christian faith, knows everything there is to know about it, and is eager to tell everyone else all that he or she has just learned. New believers must learn that the first steps of faith are not the end of faith, that the Spirit of Truth continues to reveal

truth to us, continues to prod us, pull us toward a greater, deeper, richer appreciation of the glories of Christ,

The Spirit of truth is like that. So don't be surprised when you grow in your faith. (In 1998 – Lent – Jesus the Rebel story) So don't feel bad when you encounter things that you have not known before. The Spirit of Truth knows enough about Jesus to reveal to you just what you need to know, and when you need to know it. The Spirit of Truth knows enough about you to not tell you more than you can bear at the moment.

One of my friends was telling me not too long ago that he had "discovered the psalms." This was a rather odd thing to say in that he was a fairly adept student of the Bible. Yet what he meant was that it took him about 40 years to discover how vital the psalms can be for a deep life of faith. He began reading the psalms and heard them as if for the first time. They seemed to be calling his name, seemed to lay hold of him, embrace him, show him things about God that he had never seen before. It wasn't the psalms that were new; it was his appreciation for and application of the psalms that was new.

See? Jesus was telling the truth when in John 16:13 he told us that he wouldn't lay more truth on us than we could bear. He would wait, until just the right time for the Spirit of truth to tell us the truth.

To be a Christian is always to be willing to grow, more importantly to change, to be proved wrong, to be shocked and surprised by the work of the Spirit of truth among us. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

One God, giver of life, you established peace through your Son and gave your church the hope of sharing in your glory. Enliven us by your Spirit to speak and act in love for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, you rejoice in creation and have given humankind responsibility for the works of your hands. Instill in everyone your Spirit of care for the earth, especially in areas threatened by ecological devastation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Redeemer, you delight in the human race. Move the hearts of world leaders to

seek wisdom, speak truth, and care for all endangered by poverty, prejudice, or violence. Further the work of international collaboration and peacemaking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding Comforter, you call out to all who live. Restore severed relationships and protect children who lack trustworthy caregivers. Grant hope to those who are experiencing fear, pain, or grief. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Three, you are community and you create community. Build up ministries that support those who are isolated or lonely. Give endurance as we nurture vital relationships in our congregation and beyond. God of grace, **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; Jeffrey

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 of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death. Console grieving families. Stir up in us the resolve to end the sin of white supremacy and pursue the courageous path of justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **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

The God of peace, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**