



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for June 26, 2022, celebrating the Third 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:**

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**

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

### **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.

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**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**

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

### **First Reading: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21**

*In the story preceding today's reading, the prophet Elijah flees for his life to the security of God's mountain. There God reveals to Elijah that there are still other faithful people in Israel and commissions him to anoint new leaders, including his own successor, Elisha.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

<sup>19</sup>So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. <sup>20</sup>He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me

kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you.” Then Elijah said to him, “Go back again; for what have I done to you?”<sup>21</sup> He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

### **Psalm: Psalm 16**

*I have set the LORD always before me.*

<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: Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

*For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ’s Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup>If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

<sup>16</sup>Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup>But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup>envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup>And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 9:51-62**

*Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.*

<sup>51</sup>When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup>But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” <sup>59</sup>To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup>But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup>Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

**The Sermon: Fit For God's Kingdom (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on June 26, 2022)**

In the name of the true and living God: + Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

On The Last Sunday After The Epiphany, as we reflected on Christ's Transfiguration, we heard God the Father say "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!" (Luke 9:35). Today St. Luke writes of the time that Jesus "steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem", a phrase pointing to Christ's obedient resoluteness to fulfill God's will despite all opposition. Using the Greek verb *analempsis*, that we translate as "received up", St. Luke reports that the time has come for Jesus to begin His exodus back to God the Father through His Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension.

From today forward, as we focus on Christ's journey to Jerusalem, we will listen carefully to His words in faithful obedience to the command of God the Father to "Hear Him", as we hear Him teach us many lessons about the nature and demands of discipleship. Indeed, Jesus teaches us a little about both today, beginning with the nature of discipleship. In the first incident we recall that Samaritans were not always friendly to Jews (John 4:9), especially when the Jews were passing through Samaria to Jerusalem.

And when the Samaritans refused to offer hospitality to Jesus, the Apostles James and John felt that they ought to be punished for treating the Messiah this way. So they ask Jesus if they should command fire to come down from heaven and consume these Samaritans, just as Prophet Elijah had done to punish the enemies of God (2 Kings 1:10,12).

In saying that "the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them", Jesus teaches us a lesson on the nature of discipleship. St. John reports on other Samaritans who had welcomed Jesus (John 4). In The Acts of The Apostles, St. Luke writes that these Samaritans who were inhospitable to Jesus now, accepted His Gospel with open hearts after Pentecost (Acts 8:4-25). We learn from this incident that the nature of discipleship to Jesus Christ is to be patient with those who will not accept Him as their Lord, and to gently continue trying to persuade them by word and example. Like these Samaritans, they may yet receive Jesus and be saved.

We also learn that Jesus practices what He preaches regarding retaliation against one's enemies. "I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also.

And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and

evil" (Luke 6:27-29,35). This is the nature of discipleship in Jesus Christ that we learn from Him today.

As He continued travelling along the road to Jerusalem, Jesus also gave us 3 hyperbolic proverbs to teach us about the demands of discipleship, in response to 3 individuals who want to become His followers. We should be aware from the outset that a normal proverb functions to help people make sense out of life. But here, Jesus uses hyperbole or exaggeration to jolt us out of our staid way of ordering our world-view, and to view our existence from an entirely new angle - that of discipleship in response to the Kingdom of God preached by Jesus.

In the first hyperbolic proverb, Jesus responds to the man offering to follow Him by saying "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head". Here, Jesus highlights His own lowliness and rejection. Having already taught that "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23), Jesus now warns the person who offers to follow Him "wherever He goes" that he will face rejection and suffering in this life.

Clearly, this teaching of Jesus stands in sharp contrast to those who preach the so-called gospel of prosperity, where God blesses the faithful with prosperity, so that those who are financially poor must be sinning in some way. Just as the disciple is not above the Master, Jesus makes no promise of financial security to those who would follow Him.

The second hyperbolic proverb is initiated by Jesus Himself, as He issues the command to "Follow Me", but the man responds "Lord, let me first go and bury my father". Jesus responds "Let the dead bury their own dead,, but you go and preach the Kingdom of God". Here, Jesus is not negating God's command to honour our parents. But we must be clear that Jesus has commanded this man to Follow Him - meaning now - not at some future time. For us, the proverb means that nothing ought to command our loyalty more than God and His Kingdom. There is no higher priority than Almighty God, without whom we would have no parents, nor life itself. And since those who deny God this loyalty as the highest priority in their lives are spiritually dead, Jesus instructs this man to give God and His Kingdom the priority. To preach the Kingdom of God. And to leave those who are spiritually dead to bury the dead.

Similarly, a third man tells Jesus he will follow Him, but asks to go home first to say his goodbyes.

Jesus responds with His third hyperbolic proverb, 'No one, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God'. Now the Palestinian plough was

very light. The farmer would guide this light plough with one hand, while the other hand drove the unruly oxen. "This primitive kind of plough needs dexterity and concentrated attention. If the ploughman looks around, the new furrow becomes crooked" (J. Jeremias).

Likewise, discipleship does not look back to reconsider, or operate by delayed response. Discipleship means taking hold of the commission given by Jesus Christ and moving forward. It means hearing Christ's words and doing them, so that Jesus teaches us that those who hear His words but fail to do them are "not fit to enter the Kingdom of God"! This is not to say that we can earn our salvation through our works, for as we know, salvation is a gift freely offered to us by God. But as we are being saved, God empowers us for good works for Him and His Kingdom that will bring glory to God, and He expects us to do those good works that He empowers us for, if we are to be judged fit to enter His Kingdom. Similarly, as we know that God the Holy Spirit enters our bodies to indwell us at our Baptism and Confirmation, St. Paul reminds us that we must "live and walk in the Holy Spirit." Those who live and walk in the flesh - those who daily surrender to passions and desires "will not inherit the Kingdom of God"!

But those who are Christ's "have crucified the flesh with it's passions and desires", "live and walk in the Holy Spirit", and make Almighty God the ultimate priority in their lives.

This is the nature and cost of discipleship in Jesus Christ. To be patient with those who do not follow Him. To accept that Jesus does not promise us financial security if we do follow Him, but to follow Him simply for the sake of being with Him. And to loyally make Him and His Kingdom our ultimate, primary commitment in life. Moreover, Jesus gave us a striking example of making God our first priority, when "He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem", in obedient resoluteness to fulfill God's will despite all opposition.

We, who have already begun to be saved are given a promise by Jesus today. If we hear Christ's words and do them without delayed response, we will be on "the Way" that leads to life with God. And we will be judged: **Fit For God's Kingdom!**

And now to + God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be all might, majesty, dominion and honour, this day and forevermore. **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.*

God of faithfulness, set the face of your church firmly on you. Rooted in your self-giving love, may the church find freedom in loving our neighbours. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of gentleness, strengthen the earth's ability to heal. Where there are dangerous storms, bring calm. Where there are destructive fires, bring rain. Protect homes, habitats, and livelihoods threatened by climate disasters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, guide all who govern, that they place the good of their citizens above self-promotion. Anoint leaders of nations with your Spirit of neighbourly love. Protect refugees and all who live under tyranny or conflict. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of kindness, reveal your healing presence to all who are sick or dying. Uphold those who grieve. Support the needs of any who are unemployed, hungry, or have nowhere to lay their heads. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, attend to those struggling with addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Provide support systems and loving companions as they work toward health, that they may rest in hope and know the fullness of joy in your presence. 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; Art

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

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

And all those we name in our hearts...

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of joy, we give thanks for all who have died and now celebrate the inheritance of life in you. Keep their examples of faithfulness always before us, that we trust your promises in life and in death. 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.**