



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for July 3, 2022, celebrating the Fourth 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 ****

Recent Obituaries:

Michael Pisciotta (May 27, 1951 – June 7, 2022)

Steve Lutsch (September 22, 1955 – June 1, 2022)

Pastor J von Schmeling (July 22, 1933 – May 22, 2022)

Edward Gajdos (Dec 21, 1933 – June 11, 2022) – Brother-in-Law to Maria Bormann

Introduction

God is the source of our nourishment. Jesus' invitation to "take and eat . . . take and drink" is a repeated one. In holy communion, in the word read and proclaimed, in the assembly of the people of God, the dominion of God has come near. Rejoice! Your name is written in heaven.

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

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.

First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14

Those who returned from the exile found that the hopes for the glorious restoration of Judah were not completely fulfilled. For these disappointed people, the prophet envisions salvation in the image of a nursing woman. Mother Jerusalem and a mothering God remind the community how they are sustained and supported.

¹⁰Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her—

¹¹that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast;

that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious bosom.

¹²For thus says the LORD: I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm, and dandled on her knees.

¹³As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

¹⁴You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bodies shall flourish like the grass;
and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies.

Psalm: Psalm 66:1-9

All the earth bows down before you and sings out your name.

¹Be joyful in God, all you lands; be joyful, all the earth.

²**Sing the glory of God's name; sing the glory of God's praise.**

³Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

⁴**All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name."**

⁵Come now and see the works of God,
how awesome are God's deeds toward all people.

⁶**God turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot,
and there we rejoiced in God.**

⁷Ruling forever in might, God keeps watch over the nations;
let no rebels exalt themselves.

⁸**Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.**

⁹Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.

Second Reading: Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

In the close of his letter to the Galatians, Paul encourages them to live as people made right with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Here Paul offers practical advice about how believers exercise common concern for one other in "the family of faith."

[¹My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive them-

selves. ⁴All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. ⁵For all must carry their own loads.

⁶Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.]

⁷Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

¹¹See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! ¹²It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. ¹⁴May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. ¹⁵For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Jesus commissions harvesters and laborers to go where he would go and do what he would do. Risking hardship and danger in exchange for the experience of great joy, they offer peace and healing as signs that the reign of God is near.

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹'Even

the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’”

¹⁶“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

¹⁷The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!” ¹⁸He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. ¹⁹See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

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

The Sermon: (provided by Rev. Adam Snook, Assistant to the Bishop, as part of the ELCIC Summer Sermon Series, 2022)

Grace to you, and peace!

My name is Pastor Adam Snook and I serve as an Assistant to the Bishop in the Eastern Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, responsible for communication, mission and congregational support.

It continues to be my privilege, and a real joy, to participate yet again in our ELCIC Summer Sermon Series. Thank you for your continued support of this project, and for your willingness to make use of these resources – resources that unite us as a whole church...from British Columbia – to Nova Scotia...and all of those wonderful places in-between. It is good – so good – for us to be together in this way.

One of the most common tidbits of advice that was offered to my wife and I as we anticipated and prepared for the birth of our son: was the advice that we were in for a steep learning curve!

Of course, those who offered such advice...were correct!

- We needed to learn how to soothe the cries of a newborn child.
- We needed to learn how to encourage his growth and development.
- And we needed to learn the ‘whats’, and the ‘whys’, and the ‘hows’ of this new life stage as parents.

They were right - it really was a steep learning curve!

But while some of these lessons were certainly anticipated – I mean, the art of changing a wiggly newborn really can't be learned from a book – other lessons caught us quite by surprise.

- We never would have anticipated just how much our capacity for love would grow.
- We never would have anticipated the worry we would experience as he bumped his way toward learning to walk.
- But perhaps most of all, we never could have prepared ourselves – for the lessons that he would teach us – for the life lessons which awaited us in the years ahead.

Lessons about slowing down...and showing up.

Lessons about finding joy...and being open to it!

Lessons about the value of laughter...and taking time to play.

And most recently...the lesson that ANYTHING is possible.

You see, what I've come to celebrate about my son Nate now that he's 7 years old – is his unwavering belief that anything...absolutely ANYTHING...is possible.

Want to go to space – *sure...we can do that!*

What to build the world's biggest treehouse – *absolutely...I'm sure that will work!*

Want to dive deeper than any deep sea diver has ever ventured – *no problem...let's do it!*

In his mind – anything is possible.

His imagination is unlimited.

His willingness to give it a try is unwavering!

A good lesson for us all!

When today's passage from Luke's gospel – often know as 'The Mission of the Seventy' – rolls around in the lectionary cycle, there are a number of expected details that typically catch our attention: the disciples being sent out in pairs...the absence of any sort of physical supply list...talk of lambs among wolves, and the shaking of dust from one's own rejected feet. Needless to say, that any one of these (and a whole host of others) would certainly provide more than enough homiletical fodder upon which we might choose to chew.

And yet what stands out to me the most – beyond dust-covered feet or paired-off disciples: is the promise of unlimited possibilities that flows from start to finish throughout this narrative.

Just think about it!

Jesus sent 70.

Not 700. Not 7,000.

Jesus sent 70 disciples into the world.

70 disciples to share the good news to the ends of the earth.

70 disciples to reap the abundance of a plentiful harvest.

70 disciples to proclaim hope amidst despair, joy amidst sorrow, and life where only death was found.

70 disciples!

And that's where, I think, we encounter something quite beautiful in this morning's timely passage from Luke: the promise that even when the labourers really do feel sparse...the harvest, the harvest is still plentiful! It's the assurance, that life still abounds over death. Joy still triumphs over sorrow. Hope still breathes reprieve to despair. And the promise that the good news has...does...and will always change lives.

In this Season after Pentecost, we are weekly reminded through scripture (just as I am daily reminded by my son) we are reminded of the unlimited possibilities of God: of nets filled, of bread multiplied, of seeds planted, of people healed, of sins forgiven. The promise of the seemingly impossible...made possible...by a God who loves us.

It's the kind of promise that sustains us, as we too, are sent into the world to share that same life-changing good news.

The kind of promise that inspires us to dream new dreams for God's church, unencumbered by brick and mortar limitations.

The kind of promise that reminds us that even when the days are long...or when there are no sandals left on our feet...or even when we're covered in dust from a long a winding road – this work, discipleship work, gospel work...GOD'S WORK...is still worth it.

Notice, Jesus never says to his seventy new recruits - *go into a town, and if the town is too small, or if the people are too tired, then save yourselves the hassle, and move on elsewhere*. **NO**. Instead, Jesus tells his laborers to give it a try - to do everything that they can to proclaim the gospel, to speak the truth, and to share the good news. According to Jesus, no place is so outlying, no house is so damaged, and no person is so tired - that they are unworthy of the hope that comes from the love of our Saviour.

And if things don't go according to plan, Jesus says, after having given it your best - after you've planted the seeds and tilled the soil - then shake the dust from your feet, move on, and try again. Knowing all the while, that the seeds you have planted...and the soil which you have tilled...is still being tended by God.

God's not done yet! And this work, this gospel-bearing, discipleship-living, good news-sharing work that we have been called, commissioned, equipped, and sent to do – **IS STILL POSSIBLE! Even...and especially...today!**

- For the sake of all those who need to hear a word of love and forgiveness in their daily lives.
- For the sake of all those who need to be consoled and comforted.
- For the sake of all those who are imprisoned or enslaved.
- For the sake of all those who feel excluded, judged, or rejected.
- For the sake of all those who yearn to find a place to belong.
- For your sake...and for mine.

May we go forth in this assurance.

May we discover joy in our labours as we travel together.

And may we come to know the boundless hope of a God who is in the business of making all things possible.

For this, and for your partnership in these labours, **I say thanks be to God.**

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.

Lord of the harvest, you send your church into the world to proclaim Christ's new creation to all. Renew the church as it carries out your mission of peace and healing. We pray for missionaries who accompany your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation abounds with flowing waters and diverse creatures. Guide the work of climate scientists as they develop and advocate ways to restore earth's natural balance. Motivate humankind to adopt lifestyles that protect and sustain the earth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You guard the nations; let no leaders exalt themselves, but lift up the most vulnerable and work for the good of all. Send your Spirit to eradicate classism and inequity, violence and war, poverty and hunger. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire abundant life for all. As we celebrate Independence Day, instill in us gratitude, generosity, and persistence in working toward freedom for all people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Mothering God, you care for all people in need. Nourish those who are hungry. Restore employment to those who have lost work. Heal those who are sick, and comfort all who are dying or grieving. 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.**

We remember the saints who proclaimed your reign on earth and now rest in you (especially Thomas the Apostle, whom we remember today). Make us faithful in our witness to Christ's new creation. 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.**