



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for July 10, 2022, celebrating the Fifth 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 9 (Thanksgiving), October 23, November 13, December 11 and potentially December 24

Father Brian Wearne will be leading the following services:

July 31, August 14 (communion), August 28 (communion), September 11 (communion), October 2 and October 16

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

Trinity's 100 Year Anniversary:

Saturday September 17 and Sunday September 18 we will be celebrating. Reserve those dates!!!

On Sunday September 18, the service will start at 2pm (there will not be a 10am service) followed by a dinner at a location still to be determined. The Dean of the Thames Valley, the Bishop's appointed Representative, our very own Pastor Sylvia (of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Leamington) has graciously accepted the offer to preach on this day. Bishop Michael Pryse is extremely happy we have Sylvia for this special event.

MORE TO COME!!!!

Introduction

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

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 Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself. Alleluia.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.

⁹The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,

O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Ephras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as

yourself.”²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead.³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

The Sermon: Go and Do Likewise (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on July 10, 2022)

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

It is easy to forget that Jesus told His Parable of The Good Samaritan in response to a question. A favourite of the Church, this Parable is a good story with a clear enough meaning we can all gasp with ease. But perhaps for that very reason, it is easy to forget that Jesus tells this story in word pictures in response to a momentous question by a lawyer, and after the telling gives the lawyer, and us, the answer to the question. And the momentous question we do well to recall is this: "Teacher Jesus — what shall I do to inherit eternal life"? Wouldn't you ask Jesus such a question as this? Am I right with God? Am I being saved?

It is interesting that Jesus responds to the question by asking "What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?" For in so doing, Jesus reminds us that each of us has a significant role to play in our salvation. And when the lawyer answers Jesus with The Great Commandment, Jesus agrees with him and says "Do this and you will live". Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Love your neighbour as yourself. And you will be saved. Here, Jesus informs us that the Law God gave His People through Moses remains valid in His Church, and places special emphasis on our fulfillment of The Great Commandment. Now that seems easy enough. Not many Anglicans need open our Bibles or Prayer Books to be able to recite The Great Commandment. Yet unlike the lawyer in today's Gospel, we sometimes question God's commandments, rather than obediently following them.

But the lawyer makes two mistakes. His first mistake lies in his attempt to justify himself in front of the people. Perhaps he wants to look good in front of others. Or maybe he is confusing the fact that because we do have a role to play in our salvation, we can actually save ourselves. We know it is what God has done for us in Jesus Christ that saves us. We know that even as we enter the sacred waters of Holy Baptism to be born again and frequently consume Holy Eucharist as Christ commands us to, it is more about what God is doing for us, than about what we are doing for God. It is God's grace that saves us, and that is why we need a Saviour, and nothing we can do ourselves will justify us!

The lawyer's second mistake lies in his question "Who is my neighbour?" In effect, he is asking Jesus to tell him who belongs to God's People, and therefore is an object of neighbourly love.

In The Good Samaritan, we learn that our neighbour is anyone in immediate need. And looking closer, we should be able to see ourselves in this Parable. Hopefully, none of us is the Priest or Levite who passed the dying man on the road. They likely passed him by, because they were taught that if you come into contact with a dead person you will be defiled and unable to worship or work in God's Temple, until you pass through a process of purification. And in all fairness, that is certainly a better excuse than many people offer up today for failing to demonstrate their love for their fellow humans, by helping a neighbour in need! Not only can we do better than that, Jesus commands us to do better! "Do this and you will live".

Perhaps we see ourselves in the wounded man. Parables reveal spiritual truths, and the truth is that this man that fell among thieves who stripped and robbed him and left him half dead represents humanity attacked by demons. Jesus is asked the question about being saved and tells a story about the human condition. We are the wounded, dying man in desperate need of help. Who will stop to save you on the road? Along comes the Samaritan and things get interesting. Samaritans were often inhospitable to Jews for a variety of reasons, and just prior to His telling of this story, some Samaritans

refused to offer hospitality to Jesus, because He was heading for Jerusalem, although they knew not why.

The disciples asked Jesus: "Do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" To which Jesus responded: "The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but save them" (Luke 9:51-56). A Samaritan rescues a Jew from death. The enemy rides to the rescue! and you see yourself in this Samaritan? Clearly, Jesus wants you to. Can you see someone who has been there for you, in this Samaritan? Perhaps someone you could thank God for here today, and call a little later to see how he or she is doing?

Can you see God in this Samaritan? The wounded man is humanity attacked by demons; and his soul lies at the gates of hell. The Saviour is sent to bandage our wounds. We see Him pouring on oil, as in the Holy Oil used in the Sacrament of Healing, and wine, as in the Blood of Christ we drink in Holy Eucharist. Jesus takes him to the Inn, and as He pays the innkeeper, we know He is paying the ultimate price for our sins with His very life. That is how much Jesus loves us, both inside and outside of this Parable.

Can you see yourself as the innkeeper? The spiritual truth of this Parable is that the Inn is Christ's Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are the Inn and the innkeeper — the place where dying souls are sent from our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jesus has already paid their debt, so how well will we care for the souls He sends us from time to time? Will we love these neighbours as ourselves? Or will we simply question the road they were on when they encountered Jesus, and He sent them here to us?

Jesus returns our attention to the lawyer.

"Which of these do you think was neighbour to him who fell among thieves?" Notice the lawyer cannot even bring himself to say: "Samaritan", the oftentimes enemy. Because he followed "the Great Commandment, this Samaritan shows he too is a neighbour. Definitely not a Jew, but nonetheless, a member of God's People, who will inherit eternal life!

You see, the lawyer's second question was a mistake. For in response to The Great Commandment to love God utterly and love your neighbours as yourself, he had asked: "and who is my neighbour?" Jesus reminds us not to ask about who belongs to God's Chosen People and therefore is the object of our neighbourly attention. Rather, ask what is your own proper conduct expected by God of you as a member of God's Chosen People. Do not ask: "Who is my neighbour", but rather ask as a Christians: "how can I show my love towards my neighbour?", and go and do likewise.

In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul discusses how we can love our neighbours as ourselves, by living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul contrasts the sins of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit, and by 'flesh' he does not refer to our bodies, but to evil actions such as the depraved will, or the mind set on earthly things rather than on the ways of God. Thus St. Paul remarks on grievous sins such as adultery, motivated by selfish, evil desires, as opposed to faithfulness, motivated by the love of God and spouse (Galatians 5:14-24).

In a similar vein, Fr. Dom Joseph Warrilow, the primary spiritual director of our former Archbishop of Canterbury — Fr. Rowan Williams - used to say that the greatest of sins is selfishness, In The Great Commandment, we can see how St. Paul and Fr. Joe arrived at this train of thought.

And so, to the posed to Jesus: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" we have an answer in The Great Commandment, as well as a further answer in The Parable of "The Good Samaritan". As we prepare to receive our Eucharistic Sacrament of salvation, we are left with these words from our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: **"Go And Do Likewise!"**

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

Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the heart of your church. Fill your church with compassion, that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You created the earth with seeds sprouting up to new life. We pray for the flourishing of fruit trees and orchards, vines and bushes. Prosper the work of those who plant, tend, harvest, and gather. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Come near to all in need. Orchestrate kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, comfort where there is death, and healing in illness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. 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 give thanks for the saints who revealed your love and mercy in this life. Inspired by their witness, strengthen us to live in hope. 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.**