



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for July 24, 2022, celebrating the Seventh 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:**

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 \*\***

### **Clothing Give Away → Change in Dates:**

Set up for the clothing giveaway begins July 25.

The actual give away is on Friday July 29 and Saturday July 30

See Anne if you wish to help.

### **Introduction**

Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

### **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**

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. Alleluia.

### **First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32**

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

### **Psalm: Psalm 138**

*Your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.*

<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your purpose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

**Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. [

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup>These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

**Gospel Reading: Luke 11:1-13**

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God’s coming reign, God’s mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup>He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

***The Sermon: We Don't Lose Heart (preached by Pastor Jack at Trinity on July 24, 2022)***

Several parts of the body tried to determine who would be boss: The brain said, “Since I already coordinate every function of the body I am the logical choice to be boss.” The heart objected, saying, “Without my pumping blood throughout the body, none would be able to function, so I should be boss.” The eyes said, “Without us the body would not know where it was going. I should be boss.” The mouth said, “I speak for the body. I should be boss.” One by one, each member of the body gave his reason as to why he should be boss. Finally the neck spoke up and said that he should be boss. “You!” said the brain. “Why you? You don’t do anything to begin with.” “Yeah,” said the heart. “We wouldn’t even miss you if you weren’t here.” This made the neck very mad, and he became tense. His muscles knotted up, and he began to exert excruciating pain. So intense was the pain that the brain couldn’t think. The eyes became blurry, and the heart had to work so hard that it became tired and began to skip a beat every

now and then. After a week of this, all the parts of the body agreed that the neck could be boss.

The moral of the story? You don't have to be a brain, or have a heart to boss; all you have to do is be a pain in the neck.

Speaking of bosses, when I was in the seminary I asked the dean, Delton Glebe, what he thought to be the most important virtue that pastors needed to cultivate. He responded, "Dogged persistence."

I think he was on to something. As a pastor my complaint is not that people don't care or that people are not motivated to do God's work through the church. The toughest problem is that God's work can be so difficult and it is tough to keep at difficult work, particularly when we don't get immediate results. We start out committed, excited about the opportunity to witness, to have a part in God's kingdom, to work with Jesus in changing the world. Then we just give out and give up.

So Jesus tells a parable about prayer today and Jesus says that the most important quality in prayer is persistence, the grace just to keep at it. (Journaling while I was sick)

I confess as a pastor that I sometimes hesitate to give advice to you to do Christian good work. Although some of you may think I'm asking you to do that every Sunday. I really do have misgivings about urging you to get out and do something good for the world. My misgivings are not based on any doubt I might have about the demands of the Christian faith. Rather, my misgivings are based upon my regard for you.

For those of you who feel absolutely no obligation to reach out in works of compassion, O.K. But for those of you who do feel an obligation, those of you who sincerely want to do right, I worry. You are the ones who, conscientiously trying to do right, are those prone to becoming discouraged. The needs of the world are so vast, our resources so limited, you are the ones who are most likely to lose heart. And you are the ones that I want to speak to this morning.

John Trotti, longtime librarian at Union Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, says that as a Boy Scout, he was told that Boy Scouts believed that they ought to do what they can to leave the world a better place. Therefore, when his Boy Scout troop went camping, they not only left their campsite clean, but they always went around the campground picking up other people's trash before they left.

Trotti carried this into adult life. When he married Joan, the two of them would wander about town, picking up aluminum cans and bottles. When their children were young, they pushed the baby stroller about town, filling up a bag attached to the back with the refuse they collected.

Even after Trotti was a distinguished member of a theological faculty, they would still bike about town, filling up bags with refuse. They found out that the city would pay .08 cents a pound for the aluminum cans. So they began collecting and selling the aluminum cans, giving the money they earned to the Center for the adult mentally disabled.

One day, picking up cans, Trotti met a man wandering the streets. "What are you doing that for?" the man asked. Trotti responded that he got .08 cents per pound for the Adult Mentally Disabled by collecting the cans. "Do they make you prove it?" the man asked, "Prove what?" Trotti asked. "Do they make you prove that you are mentally disabled before they give you .08 cents a pound?"

I tell you, that I think one of the most negative results of our Christian emphasis on social action, on addressing the larger, systemic, legislative causes of injustice, is our losing sight of the fact that Christians are not necessarily called to change the world. That really is God's business. Our business is to practice charity, to do works of compassion, not to worry too much about the ultimate good that we do, the ultimate outcome, the results. That is God's business – the ultimate outcome. Our business is to do what we can, where we can, when we can, to witness that God's Reign is coming, albeit bit by bit, step by step, even in us.

One of our greatest hindrances toward doing good and being faithful is the maxim which is not found in scripture that we ought to do the "greatest good for the greatest number." Our job is to do what we can, when we can, where we are, and to keep at it.

"In as much as you have done it unto the least of these, in the least of ways," says Jesus, "you have done it unto me."

Elsewhere he said, "The poor you will have with you always, but you won't have me with you always." That is, you always have the poor with you, to love as you have loved me. Love the poor as you have loved me. Do for them, as you have done for me, always. Keep at it. In other words, we are to be persistent in God's work, even when we don't see results, even when it is not easy, because God has been persistent in loving you and me.

Pastor and theologian, Tom Long, told a story about the time that his church in Princeton, New Jersey became concerned about the problem of hunger in Trenton, New Jersey. A number of members from the church had worked in an intercity ministry there and made the rest of the church aware of the huge problem of hunger in Trenton. The church decided to reach out. Every Sunday, during the service, as the hymn was sung, people were invited to come up and place an offering of money into the plate, all to be

used to work for the alleviation of hunger in Trenton. As the Sundays wore on, and as they learned more about the problem, the congregation became overwhelmed by the problem of hunger in Trenton. The problem was growing, and the offering could not keep up with the need. Gradually, it dawned on the congregation that they didn't have the resources to solve the problem of hunger in Trenton.

Then there came that Sunday when, as they were receiving the offering for hunger in Trenton, that an older woman, one of the town's "bag ladies," who had shown up that morning, with everything that she owned in a shopping bag, dressed in an old hand-me-down coat, came forward when the offering was received for those in need. The congregation watched her shuffle down to the front, many of them probably thinking that she was going to take something out of the offering plate rather than put it in, knowing that she had nothing to offer. When she got down to the front, the congregation watched. She put nothing in the plate; rather, she folded her hands, knelt before the plate, and prayed.

Long says that for him, that woman became an eloquent parable of Christian compassion.

We, despite our good efforts, are not going to solve the problem of hunger. But we do not lose heart. We give, and we do what we can. And then we pray. We ask God to take our meager efforts and use them. We ask God to do for us that which we cannot fully do for ourselves. Our labour is seen as a prayer that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Thy Kingdom come. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.*

Rooted and built up in Christ, we pray for the church. Embolden church leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, we pray for the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources and strengthen those who defend them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, we pray for the peoples of the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Persistent in prayer, we pray for our neighbors in need. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Abounding in thanksgiving, we pray for this congregation. Bless the prayer and fellowship ministries in this place. Call us together in times of praise and blessing, trouble and sorrow, in your holy name. Merciful God, **receive 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

***In Hospital:*** Ted Scherer

***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.**

Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **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.**