



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for August 14, 2022, celebrating the Tenth 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 30 (with Bishop Pryse), November 13, December 11 and potentially December 24

### **Father Brian Wearne will be leading the following services:**

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

### **In-Door Yard Sale → Saturday August 20 in the Fellowship Hall**

We need volunteers – contact Anne if you can help!!!!

### **100 Anniversary - Milestones**

April 10, 1930 – the FrauenVerein is organized with 11 charter members

1925 – the Senior Choir is organized with 11 members. Albert Runge is the first director and organist.

November 1, 1936 – the Trinity congregation merges with St. Paul's

January 23, 1949 – the corner stone of the current Church building is laid. The Church is completed later that year (October 30) at a cost of \$50,000

December 21, 1964 – Trinity holds its first annual Christmas Carol Service. The first Church Band has seven members, directed by Grant Peifer.

### **Introduction**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

### **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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia.

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God’s judgment, he suffers rejection. Today’s reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks*

*God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

### **Psalm: Psalm 82**

*Arise, O God, and rule the earth.*

<sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup>**"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?**

<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup>**rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup>**Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"

<sup>8</sup>**Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29--12:2**

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-56**

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,  
mother against daughter and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind

blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

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

***The Sermon: Discern This Time (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on August 14, 2022)***

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

Today we heard Jesus use terms we must expand upon to understand their significance, both in the wider context of Scripture and how they fit together in our passage. Terms like fire, baptism, peace and division, and discerning this time. We begin with the fire Jesus says He came to send on earth and wishes were already kindled. We may understand this fire in 2 related senses. St. John the Baptist referred to this fire when he was preparing the way for Jesus: "One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal straps I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His bam; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire" (Luke 3:16-17). Although Christ's Apostles practiced baptism (John 4:1-2), the fire described here refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out as tongues of fire upon the Apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:14) for the spread of the Faith worldwide. In its second sense, the fire Jesus describes refers to the fire of judgement.

It's also the anticipated divisions resulting from uncompromising loyalty to Jesus. As Apostle John puts it: "This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). Thus we hear Jesus say He wishes this fire were already kindled — the spread of the faith in Him and the judgement of those who reject Him. But prior to this happening, Jesus indicates that He must receive a baptism, and He will be distressed until it is accomplished. We have heard for some weeks now that Jesus is travelling from Galilee to Jerusalem with His Apostles and other followers. Jesus is travelling to His Cross, Resurrection and Ascension.

Christ's Passion is the baptism He is referring to here. But as Jesus notes how distressed He is until it is accomplished, we recall that St. Luke used similar words to describe Christ's transfiguration. That Moses and Elijah "appeared in glory and spoke of Christ's decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem" (Luke 9:31). The Greek

word St. Luke uses for "decease" here is *exodos*, and this term makes it clear that through His death, Jesus will perform an exodus from Jerusalem back to God the Father, in which He will deliver humanity from the slavery of the evil one. Taken together then, Jesus says He is eagerly anticipating His death, Resurrection and Ascension so faith in Him can be spread worldwide.

Spread by the Holy Spirit and His Church, and that He may judge those who choose to reject Him. The result Jesus says will come from this is hard for us to hear. In every century Christians have struggled with it. "Do you suppose that I came to bring peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division." Even division within families. As with all difficult passages, we look to the wider context of Scripture for understanding. At Christmas we heard the angels sing promises of peace. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14). Of St. John the Baptist, Angel Gabriel said "He will go before Jesus in the spirit & power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children" (Luke 1:17).

But we also have to recall that God gave us all free will to choose to return His love or reject Him. To choose good or evil. So we recall the prophecy Fr. Simeon made to Mother Mary when she presented Jesus to be Blessed at the Temple: "This Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against...that the thought of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35). That Jesus was sent for the fall and rising of many is made clearer in terms of how families will be split. Simply put, Jesus came to bring peace and goodwill between us, God and each other. But uncompromising witness to His inevitably causes controversies and divisions, even within households. We see it all the time.

Parents are divided against each other or their children. Siblings are divided against each other. Some members of a family will choose worship the Lord Jesus Christ, and to live in His Sacraments and teachings, while other members of the same family will choose to reject Him. And while this is the case, Jesus assures us this will cause divisions within the family. Thus the peace Jesus came to bring and offer us won't be obtained at any cost; especially at the cost of compromising God's Holy Word! This is why St. Paul urges Christians: "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers" - Do not be married to unbelievers - "For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14). Following this Biblical teaching, The Church has always taught that Christians ought to marry other Christians and attempt to raise their children as such to avoid the kind of divisiveness Jesus warns us about. But what are we to do when such divisions arise?

In recent weeks we heard Jesus tell His followers to practise forgiveness and reconciliation, when many rejected Him (Luke 9:51-56). We also heard Jesus teach us in His Sermon On The Plain to "love our enemies, and we will be children of the Most High. For His is kind to the unthankful and evil" (Luke 6:35). Likewise, when divisions within our families exist because we won't betray our uncompromising loyalty to Jesus.

We may respond to our family members with forgiveness, reconciliation and love, as we pray for their salvation. This is the proper Christian response. We all know there are cults that use these words of Jesus about divided families in order to control their members. This control destroys families. We should also know a true Christian Church does not use Christ's words in order to control people, but rather to point people towards His offer of forgiveness, reconciliation, and love, and to point people towards His gracious offer of salvation.

This offer of salvation brings us to the final term Jesus uses in our passage today. Discern This Time! Jesus calls many in the crowd to whom He preaches hypocrites, because they have the God-given intelligence to discern what the weather will be. So "how is it you do not discern this time?" How is it you refuse to see this time of salvation made present in Jesus Christ, and choose to follow His teachings and example in this moment? Many there are who willingly believe they can be a more faithful follower of Christ at some future time, and put it off until a tomorrow that never comes. To them, Jesus mentions "those 18 on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them. 'Do you think they were worse sinners than all other people who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish'" (Luke 13:45).

We do not know the hour of our death and judgement. But unlike the people in the crowd Jesus was preaching to, we have the benefit of knowing His death, Resurrection and Ascension. We know of the worldwide spread of the Faith in Him through the Holy Spirit and His Holy Church. Will we discern this time? When people we know and love challenge our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, even those we love in our very own family, will we compromise our faith in Him to obtain peace at any cost — even the cost of our souls? Or will we provide them with example of an uncompromising loyalty to Jesus Christ, so that they may be inspired to repent and follow Him faithfully as their Lord and Saviour? Will we follow the example of determination and perseverance Jesus gave us as He died on The Cross for us, by casting off the weight of our sins through repentance, so that we may run the race of faith whose finish line is in Heaven?

Jesus calls upon **us** today to Discern This Time — to choose to follow Him faithfully while we still have this time to do so.

Jesus calls upon **you** to Discern This Time — before your time is up!  
**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**

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

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. In our joy and in our tears, be near us. 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

***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.**

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. 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.**