



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for August 21, 2022, celebrating the Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost.

Pastor Jack Dressler will be going on a **WELL DESERVED VACATION** between August 22 and September 24, he will be returning for the Trinity service on Sunday September 25 (which is also a baptism).

*** **For emergency Pastor care** please contact Pastor Sylvia Swiatoschik (519-564-1892).

Pastor Jack will be leading the following services:

September 25, October 9 (Thanksgiving), October 30 (with Bishop Pryse), November 6 (All Saints), 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

Don't forget to let us know by September 2 if you are planning to attend any of the events for our 100th anniversary!!

100 Anniversary - Milestones

September 17, 1972 – Trinity's 50th Anniversary is celebrated with the burning of the mortgage.

May 7, 1978 – Trinity holds its first "Music Sunday" service, organized by Meta Voss and Grant Peifer.

September 30, 1979 – The new Church hall, parlour and offices are dedicated.

January 23, 1980 – The start-up of the Seniors Group – Carl Elligson is the president for 20 years.

Introduction

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The crowd was rejoicing at the wonderful things that Jesus was doing. *Alleluia.*

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

^{9b}If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

¹³If you refrain from trampling the sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-8

The LORD crowns you with mercy and steadfast love.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ in- to which we are invited.

¹⁸You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰(For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²²But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; ²⁹for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

¹⁰Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. ¹¹And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called

her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment."¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day."¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water?"¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?"¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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

The Sermon: The Emperor's Son-in-Law (preached by Pastor Jack at Trinity on August 21, 2022)

This Gospel hinges on responsibility, and the culmination of it is in verse 48: "Everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required."

One of the favorite stories of the great Danish philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard, concerns an emperor, touring his domain and receiving the accolades of his people. When the entourage reached the market square of one village, his carriage was surrounded by cheering villagers and peasants. To the amazement of his neighbours, one brash young farmer stepped out of the crowd and approached the emperor's carriage. "Give me a boon, Sire," he pleaded. "Grant me a special blessing."

The villagers were even more amazed at the emperor's reply: "Of course, my good man," he said. "Get into my carriage. Come with me. Live in my palace. Eat at my table. Marry my daughter. Be my son-in-law."

The young man exclaimed his delight. To be the emperor's son-in-law! Then he thought about it. No more Saturday nights at the pub with his friends. No more dirty, comfortable peasant clothes. He'd have to get dressed up. He'd have to take a bath – maybe every week. He'd have to clean his fingernails. He'd have to learn the manners of the court.

He sadly shook his head and lowered his eyes. "No, Sire," he said. "I would be too uncomfortable. It would pull me out of my comfortable customs. It would be too hard to live up to. It would take too much of me."

“If you want to do something for me, give me a plot of ground, a farm, a house of my own; but to live in your palace, eat at your table, be your son-in-law – this is too much.” So he declined it.

You see – he wanted the emperor’s blessing; but he wanted it on his own terms. He wanted to be blessed in doing what he wanted to do – not what the emperor wanted him to do. He wanted to be blessed right where he was, not moved out of his comfortable customs. He wanted the blessing, but not the responsibility that went with it.

Too often we are that peasant. The Bible says many wonderful things about us Christians. Paul says, “We are the children of God; if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.” (Romans 8:16-17) In first Peter 2:9 we are told, “You are a royal priesthood, God’s own people, that you may declare wonderful works of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

Peter goes on to remind us Christians in his second letter, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may . . . become partakers of the divine nature.” (2 Peter 1:3-4)

Blessings, indeed! And as Christians we lay claim to them. Then in, through and under them is the story of the Steward. It ends with the demanding words of Jesus, words from which we shrink in our self-centered daily life: “To whom much is given, of him will much be required.”

Peter says more about our blessings as the people of God: “For this very reason make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)

This business about being God’s children – heirs of God with Christ – sounds great. But to be expected to live up to it is sometimes more than we bargain for. To be God’s children – to be his royal priesthood – is to be those to whom much is given. But to be those from whom much is expected is something else again. Yet that’s what this business of being a Christian is all about – accepting the stewardship responsibility of being Christ’s redeemed people.

Too often we seek God’s blessing on our terms. We choose what we want to do, and ask God to bless it. But to ask what *He wants us to do* leads to all kinds of inconvenience. This is behind much false humility that most pastors hear from time to time: “I’m

afraid.” Translation: “Don’t expect much commitment out of me, brother, because you’re not going to get it.”

Or this one: “I’m a Christian in my own small way, but I like to stay in the background.” Translation: “I want to be known as a child of God, but I don’t want to do much to serve my Lord.” When such people are asked to take some responsibility in the Lord’s work they answer, “Oh, I’m sure you can find someone who is much more capable than I am.” Translation: “I want to be a child of God, but I don’t want any of the responsibility that goes with it. I’ll take the promises, but not the tasks.” I know that sometimes I can be one of those persons.

Too often we, like the peasant, want to be one to whom much is given, but not one from whom much is expected. The problem is that this is not the cheap blessing God offers – which is why some people get discouraged with God, with prayer and with religion. God calls us to eat at his table, to be one of his family, to accept the responsibility of being his daughters and sons. God gives us his blessings through (that is, by means of) our commitment.

One day I met a stranger on a public tennis court and played some tennis with him. When we finished, I complimented him on his game. “Well,” he said, “it’s not as good as it used to be. We’re visiting relatives here in your city. I’m just getting into my game again. We’ve just returned from three years in the mission field in Africa, and they didn’t have tennis courts there.” “Are you a minister?” I asked. “No.” “Are you a doctor?” “No.” “A dentist?” “No.” “Then what are you?” “I’m a carpenter.” “What did you do there?” “I built an infirmary, a small hangar for the mission plane and a couple of small houses.”

This was his story: “We’ve always gone to church and loved the Lord. I’ve always prayed ‘Lord, use me as you will – but after all, I’m only a humble carpenter.’ One night when I was at the church serving refreshments to the Men’s Brotherhood I got a phone call from our national headquarters. ‘John, we want you to take your wife and two children to the mission field in Africa for three years.’ My wife and I talked it over and prayed about it, and we decided it was either put up or shut up. So we went.”

I was fascinated. I asked, “How did it work out?” This was his reply: “They were the three happiest years our family has ever spent together.”

God gives his blessings through our commitment to his will. God is abundant with his blessings, but high in his expectations. We want to be the children of God, but are we ready for the commitment of being his children? Do we really want God’s blessing of

invitation: “Come, be in my family, eat at my table.” To whom much is given, from them shall much be required.

There’s nothing wrong with talking to God about better beans or bigger cabbages in whatever peasant gardens we happen to till. There’s nothing wrong with talking to God about a pay raise or a healthy body or a happy home life. But if that’s all we want, if that’s the only boon we seek – “Bless me in my rut, make it comfortable, and by all means make it profitable, but don’t push me out of it and ask me to do things that are inconvenient for me.” – then we had better read our Bibles again. God gives his blessings through our commitment to his will.

How did the carpenter put it? “Three of the happiest years our family has ever spent together.” We ask for little blessings not in humility, but because we are afraid of the big ones God might offer if we seek his will. God offers the big one. Accept the responsibility of being members of his family and do what is needed. The little blessings cling to that along the way, like iron filings to a magnet.

God expects our tithe, be it great or small. When we are asked to help with the Lord’s work, he expects us to say “Yes.” We are those to whom much is given. Christ has bought us and paid for us on the holy Cross. He has done for us what we could not do for ourselves nor for each other. He has loved us and redeemed us and opened the gates of God’s heart and home.

To whom much is given, of them shall much be required. Ours is the responsibility of being willing and faithful stewards in the Master’s household. We are the children of God. Ours is the commitment that comes with being members of his royal family.

The peasant said, “No, Sire,” and declined it. The carpenter said it was either put up or shut up. What do each of us say? **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.

You crown your church with steadfast love and mercy. Guide us continually in our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Use our diverse gifts in service to the whole people of God. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You satisfy the needs of all creatures. Protect the habitats of fish and birds. Repair ecosystems damaged by misuse, neglect, or natural disaster, that all creation may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make your ways known to all people. Inspire the rulers and leaders of nations with your compassion and mercy. Raise up activists and community organizers to restore places affected by violence, poverty, and inequality. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You provide justice for all who are oppressed and relief to all who are afflicted. Heal those who are bent over by addiction, depression, and anxiety. Set free all who cry out under the weight of mental, emotional, or physical distress. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Renew our bodies, minds, and spirits in this worshipping assembly. Give rest to all who lead our congregation in worship, study, and service. 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...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Generations bless your holy name. We give you thanks for the communion of saints who have gathered in prayer and praise in this place. Support us in your love until we rest forever 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.**