



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for August 28, 2022, celebrating the Twelfth 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 13, December 11 and potentially December 24

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

September 11 (communion) , October 2 and October 16

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

### **100 Anniversary - Milestones**

September 19, 1982 – Trinity's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is celebrated. The Church Band performs for the first time in our new Courtyard.

January 1990 – The Breakfast Club is organized and commences. Dorothy Kamp and Elizabeth Lawson are the first coordinators.

September 21, 1997 – Trinity's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary is celebrated with a terrific luncheon and party at the Teutonia Club.

### **Introduction**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

### **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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart. Alleluia.

### **First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7**

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel’s leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today’s reading is about humility.*

<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great;  
<sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

### **Psalm: Psalm 112**

*The righteous are merciful and full of compassion.*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD  
and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup>**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup>**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup>**For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire up- on their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup>**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;  
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup>Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?”

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup>Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God’s gracious hospitality to those in need.*

<sup>1</sup>On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

**The Sermon: Invited, Exalted and Blessed! (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on August 28, 2022)**

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

As we hear the great teachings Jesus gave while He travelled from Galilee to His Cross in Jerusalem, it seems interesting — perhaps even a little amusing that we hear Him give 2 lessons on conduct at the supper table. Some might ask if God really cares all that much about how we conduct ourselves at the supper table. Of course, faithful Christians will thank the God who created their food before they eat it, in the example Jesus Himself set for us at meals.

But laying aside the knowledge that God cares how we conduct ourselves in every situation, much as a loving parent cares how their children conduct themselves in every situation, deep down we know that the meals we often take for granted hold a great significance. For God created food in order to sustain the life He lovingly blesses us with. Thus when we gather together for celebrations, we gather around meals. In fact, many of our greatest memories are forged around a supper table, following a Baptism, Confirmation, or Wedding.

We gather around food as we celebrate the life of a loved one who has died. Many of us intentionally set aside The Lords Day each week to share a meal with their family. And Christ Himself has given us a sacred meal to gather around, whenever we come together to worship Him in His House. So perhaps it is not so surprising after all, that God really does care about our conduct at the supper table. After worshipping the Father on a Sabbath, Jesus is invited to the house of a Pharisee for supper, where He notices other guests choosing the best places to sit. Now remember, these folks at the table have likely just finished worshipping God together. It is the Sabbath after all, and this Pharisee has likely invited a few guests over to his house to share a meal with him. They have all just heard how God expects us to treat each other, and they are committing the vice of self-exaltation, as they choose the best places to sit!

At that time, guests at a formal supper often reclined on couches, with several people on each couch leaning on their left elbows. The seating was according to status. The head of the table was the couch at one end with other couches extending from it and facing each other like the arms of the letter "U". The important places were those nearest the head couch position. If an important guest arrived late, someone might have to make room for him or her.

It would seem that as Jesus directs His first instruction on proper conduct at supper, He is encouraging their self-seeking ways of appearing to be important in front of others. "Sit down in the lowest place, so that when he who invited you comes he may say to you 'Friend, go up higher'. Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you" But Jesus is not encouraging the self-seeking ways of His fellow

guests. The clue to Christ's deeper meaning lies in the fact that when He gives His instructions on table conduct for guests, He teaches it by parable. Parables are pictures in words that teach us about life in God's Kingdom. As Jesus begins this particular parable, He says: "When you are invited by anyone to a wedding feast..." Along with the minds of those who have just worshipped together on the Sabbath, our minds should immediately go to The Wedding Feast in heaven that will take place when Jesus Returns, to take the faithful Church which is His Bride to heaven to share the great feast that we have a foretaste of here in The Holy Eucharist.

Moreover; as Jesus says "when you are invited", He says *keklemenoi*, a Greek verb which can have the double meaning of "invited" and "those who consider themselves elected" or those God chooses to save in preference to others. And who does God choose to save in preference to others? We are, generally speaking.

The Baptized, Eucharistic Family of God. God's People who choose to return His love through regular worship and daily conversation with Him through our prayers. But in this particular case, Jesus is saying that those whom God chooses to save in preference to others are the humble. As St. James writes "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). So to those who have just worshipped God on the Sabbath and are now sharing a meal together in a Pharisee's house, Jesus is saying "when I invite you to the Wedding Feast in heaven, I expect you to behave humbly towards each other at The Holy Eucharist, as well as at every meal you share together within your own houses. Humility is the first instruction in table conduct that Jesus gives to us, along with the promises that He will humble whoever exalts themselves, but He will also exalt whoever humbles themselves.

To the host as well as to us, Jesus gives a second instruction for conduct at supper. When you give a dinner or supper, do not invite your family, friends and rich neighbours, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. Do not follow the Greco-Roman reciprocity ethic whereby you do a good work because that person becomes obligated to reciprocate. Do not practice the mentality that was called *do ut des*, whereby friends, who have all things in common, come to one another's aid in the hope that when they suffer misfortune those friends will come to their aid.

"But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you." When you give a feast, do not exclude those in My Church the non-believer's exclude. But invite them to your feast. Invite them to meals in your house just as I have invited them to meals in My House! In obedience to Christ's teaching, The Early Church practiced this instruction on conduct at sup-

per as we discover in The Acts of the Apostle's, where it is written: "Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common" (Acts 4:32). They practiced the willingness to do what is necessary for the good of God's Family, The Church. And just as in the Church at worship, they invited the lowly, the powerless and the victims of injustice to supper at their houses. Hospitality towards the disadvantaged members of The Church is the second instruction Jesus gives us on conduct at supper.

Just as we cannot choose whom God will or will not save, we cannot choose whom God draws into His House to be a Baptized Member. All we can do is see in that persons face a brother or sister in Christ. We may be grateful that God has given us sisters and brothers, even when we disagree with each other as a family so often does.

We may be humble towards them as we share the sacred meal with them in our Father's House. We may not invite them to supper at our house, based on what they have to offer us in return, but because they are our sisters and brothers in Christ. And let sisterly and brotherly love continue throughout the week — and not just on Sunday — in anticipation and gratitude for The Wedding Feast we will share with them and God in heaven someday, for that is how Jesus promises to repay us at the resurrection of the just.

When Jesus finished giving His two instructions on conduct at supper, a fellow guest enthusiastically said: "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the Kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15)! We may share his enthusiasm, and thank God that He has **Invited** us to this feast, that we will be **Exalted** by Him for our acts of humility, and that we will be **Blessed** by Him for feeding disadvantaged Members of His Family in our houses, in imitation of the love that moves God to feed them in His.

**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.*

For the church and its leaders, we pray. Uphold all deacons, pastors, and bishops who serve and teach your people. Awaken in your church a spirit of invitation that reaches ever outward. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of creation and its inhabitants, we pray. Stir in us reverent awe for the beauty of the natural world, for oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, forests and deserts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and peoples of the world, we pray. Sustain the efforts of those who pursue justice and equity for all. Defend and accompany all immigrants and refugees and all who are persecuted for their ethnic origin or religious beliefs. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, we pray. Be present with those who live in isolation or fear, especially those who are incarcerated or detained. Comfort all who are sick or grieving. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, we pray. Prepare children, teachers, and youth ministry directors for a new year of learning. Embolden our witness to invite others to the table. 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.**

For all the saints who confessed God's name, we give thanks. May we cling to the promise of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. 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.**