



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for September 4, 2022, celebrating the Thirteenth 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:**

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 15, 2002 – Trinity's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is celebrated.

September 30, 2007 – Trinity's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is celebrated.

September 23, 2012 – Trinity's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is celebrated.

September 17, 2017 – Trinity's 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is celebrated.

### **Introduction**

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's

grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

### **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, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does. God of mercy and forgiveness, **we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God’s abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **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**

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Let your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. *Alleluia.*

### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. <sup>16</sup>If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and

ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, <sup>20</sup>loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

**Psalm: Psalm 1**

*They are like trees planted by streams of water.*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

**Second Reading: Philemon 1-21**

*While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slaveowner and a Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, <sup>2</sup>to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God <sup>5</sup>because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for

Christ. <sup>7</sup>I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

<sup>8</sup>For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, <sup>9</sup>yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; <sup>14</sup>but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup>Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup>If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup>Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

**Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

<sup>25</sup>Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, <sup>26</sup>“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup>For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? <sup>29</sup>Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ <sup>31</sup>Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he cannot, then, while the other is

still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

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

**The Sermon: (Read by Greg Peifer, provided by Rev. Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, Eastern Synod, as part of the ELCIC Summer Sermon Series, 2022)**

Now to the matter at hand. Today's sermon. So, I have a question for you. How would you describe the perfect pastor? Take a moment. Okay, no one is perfect so describe the good pastor. Describe the good pastor in your head. Here's one take.

The good pastor, he/she/they, is 28 years old and has been preaching for 30 years. He/she/they is tall and short, lean and hefty, has one brown eye and one blue eye, hair parted in the middle with one side blond and straight, the other dark and wavy. The good pastor works from 8 AM to 10 PM, from preaching to teaching to visiting fifteen seniors every day and spending all his/her/ their time with the youth. The good pastor preaches powerful and challenging sermons but he/she/they never steps on anyone's toes, and, of course, never goes on for more than fifteen minutes.

The good pastor reads all the church growth experts and they know how important it is to create a safe, caring environment, where people believe their concerns will be heard and their needs will be met. The good pastor finds out what people are looking for and gives it to them, so that they don't leave and join the megachurch across town.

The good pastor works hard to make sure worship is satisfying, educational events are appealing, that plenty of opportunities for fellowship and service exist.

Okay, next question. Would Jesus have made a good parish pastor in the light of my description or whatever description you came up with in your head? Not on your life!!!

According to Jesus in today's Gospel reading we cannot be disciples unless we hate our family, carry our crosses, and give up all our possessions. Not on your life, Jesus!!! If Jesus were the pastor of any average congregation, I figure there would be four people left there on Sunday mornings and chances are those four would be fooling themselves.

Jesus is the complete opposite of the good parish pastor, far from trying to make it easier for people to follow him, he points out how hard it is.

Why does he say all these disturbing things about hating your parents and children? Yes, maybe to get peoples' attention, he was being provocative, and, of course, we know he didn't hate his mother Mary so why should we hate our loved ones. So, yes, Je-

Jesus uses provocative language to get our attention and he gets it. But Jesus doesn't stop there.

He goes on to say that whoever does not carry his cross cannot be his disciple and then he goes even farther telling us that none of us can become his disciples unless we give up all our possessions. Not some, mind you, but all!

No, Jesus would not have made a very good parish pastor, but I do think he made a very good saviour and I don't think he is through saving us yet. Frankly in these days of a global pandemic and accompanying economic crisis, political division and discord all over the world, protests for justice and a better world for all people, the war in Ukraine, and every week a new catastrophe, we need Jesus, our Saviour, now more than ever.

We need a Jesus through whom God participated in human life. We need a Jesus who often found himself in trouble because he took his place beside the poor, the outcast, the vulnerable. We need a Jesus who asked the right questions and lived the right answers. We need a Jesus who suffered as we may suffer; died as we must die, and was raised to life as we shall all be raised. We need a Jesus whose humanity means ultimate hope for all of humanity.

My friends, I really do not think that Jesus would have been a very good parish pastor. But Jesus made a very good saviour and Jesus is exactly what our world needs.

Jesus' message of peace, sacrificial servanthood, neighbourly love, and unconditional justice is exactly what our ailing world needs. Our responsibility as Christians, as followers of Jesus, and there is a cost to this discipleship as today's Gospel reading clearly points out, our responsibility is to name and claim that message right where we are, in our home, our places of work, our places of worship {online and in person}, our places of learning, our places of play, our world, and to do it in words and actions, in the most clear, caring, loving, and just ways we can.

May it be so.

In the name of the God who loves us all. **Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### **The Prayers of Intercession**

*As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.*

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. 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 now rest from their labours. Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.**

**Blessing**

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace. And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**