



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for October 2, 2022, celebrating the Seventeenth 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:

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:

October 16

Our Thanksgiving Outreach

This year, our Thanksgiving outreach will be to help support WINDSOR RESIDENCE FOR YOUNG MEN.

It states on their website: "Windsor Residence for Young Men supports young men 16 to 24 years of age as they leave homelessness behind to build new lives. WRYM provides supportive functional family atmosphere, delivers individual counselling and teaches life skills." With these skills, the young men will integrate into the community – seeking education, employment and independent living.

Here is a list of a few suggested items needed:

Boxed juices

Canned chili

Canned Manwich

Macaroni

Cereal / snack bars

Peanut butter

Powdered potatoes

Nutella

Deodorant for men

Shampoo

Toothpaste

Spaghetti sauce

Batteries AA

If you are able, please bring items to church. We will deliver after October 30.

LET'S SHARE OUR BLESSINGS!!!!

**** Dance Anyone? ****

Starting Sunday October 9 in our Fellowship Hall – between 2pm – 3pm – for 8 weeks

Beginner/Basic Modern contemporary dance class - 12yrs and up

- Under 16 with consent from guardian

Performance opportunities if interested

Inclusive; aimed at servicing those with challenges and all are welcome! Come out for fun, exercise, expression, music, and fellowship!

Suggested donation of \$10 per class but no one turned away, or 8 weeks for \$75

Contact Donna Jenner at 226-260-4778 if more information is required

Introduction

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

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

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The word of the Lord endures forever. That word is the good news that was announced to you. Alleluia.

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

²O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save?

³Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

⁴So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1}I will stand at my watchpost, and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,

and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

²Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them,

but the righteous live by their faith.

Psalm: Psalm 37:1-9

Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD.

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

³Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

⁶**The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leavering alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? ⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

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

The Sermon: Faith and Duty (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on October 2, 2022)

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

Today we hear Jesus give 2 warnings on behaviour to His Apostles - the first Clergy He called into leadership roles in His Church. And although Christ's Bishops, Priests and Deacons do well to continue to heed these warnings Christ gives on behaviour, it's easily seen that every disciple of Jesus does well to heed them also. The 1st warning Jesus gives on behaviour relates to the power of faith. The Apostles asked Jesus: "Increase our faith", to which He responds with His warning through a parable, "If you have faith as a mustard seed...", and we know that a mustard seed is tiny, but the plant grows to a height of about 10 feet in Palestine. Jesus had already used the mustard seed as a description of God's Kingdom: "it is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches" (Luke 13:19). Contrarily, the mulberry tree is relatively large, and it provides a good contrast to the tiny mustard seed. Jesus may be referring to the black mulberry tree which grew to a height of some 30 feet.

This would be difficult to uproot, due to its extensive root system. It would also be difficult to grow in deep water. Yet Jesus says, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea', and

it would obey you". Even a little faith - if it is genuine - can bring about quite unexpected things. So when the Apostles ask Jesus "Increase our faith", His answer seems to be that we should use the little faith we have as we make our prayers to God, rather than waiting for God to increase our faith.

Hence the teaching of Jesus to "Have faith in God. Whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea', and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you will receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:22-24), We know that neither Jesus nor His disciples moved any actual mountains or trees, but they did turn society upside down with the message of God's Kingdom. We all need such a faith in our life in Christ. According to St. John Chrysostom, "we can all have assurances of such a faith through answered prayer when we ask things that are worthy of God and strive for holiness", in the knowledge that human requests neither limit or control God's omniscient freedom.

Even a little faith that is genuine is as powerful as the faith Jesus speaks of with an anonymous man, saying: "If you can believe, all things are possible", to which the man responds: "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:23-24). All things are possible because of God's power released through faith, and the presence of doubt does not imply the absence of faith. Jesus honours whatever faith we have and will increase our faith when we sincerely desire Him to. Thus in His 1st warning on behaviour, as Jesus teaches us about the power of faith in Him, we learn that even a faith as tiny as a mustard seed is effective against obstacles as large as a mulberry tree, if it is a genuine faith in Jesus Christ. This doesn't mean that we should not desire God to increase our faith, for even the tiny mustard seed Jesus refers to can grow to a height of about 10 feet. Likewise, Jesus expects our faith in Him to grow. Put differently, Jesus expects our relationship with Him to deepen and enrich over time like the roots of a tree. We should ask God for this growth praying: "Increase my faith", in the knowledge and trust that whatever faith we already have in Jesus is sufficiently powerful against any obstacles. Such is the power of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ!

The 2nd warning on behaviour we heard Jesus give His Apostles dealt with a distinction between great achievement and duty. As Jesus refers to the servant in His parable, He uses the Greek word ***doulos***.

This means "one who gives service to the Church", namely a person Jesus has called to be an Apostle, Bishop, Priest or Deacon. Jesus stresses responsible Ministry on the part of His Clergy in our positions of leadership within His Church, as we till the field and

shepherd its flock. Yet even as we know this, the warning on behaviour Jesus gives is applicable to all of His disciples, as it may be applied to a Lay Person's baptismal ministry for God.

As we seek to comprehend this parable, it's helpful to recall part of a passage we heard some time ago, concerning The Heavenly Feast that will be shared by Jesus with those whom He saves when He Returns. "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like people who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them" (Luke 12:35-37). A girded waist (as in a suit of military armour), renders one ready for action, while burning lamps suggest alertness in doing God's will. But the shocking surprise arrives in a reversal of roles as Jesus Returns and girds Himself to serve and wait on us — His servants — at The Heavenly Feast, much as He once washed His Apostles feet at The Last Supper (John 13:1-8)! Such is God's love for us!

In today's parable, Jesus says that when the servant ploughing the field or tending the sheep enters the house, he has to prepare his master's dinner and serve it to his master before he can sit down to eat and drink, and even then he will not be thanked for all these things he was commanded to do. They are simply the duty of a servant.

Now why would Jesus give us teachings that clearly seem to contradict one another? With this parable on servant-hood, Jesus is reminding us that the world's idea of success is to lord it over others. But that is not the behaviour Jesus expects of us in His Church. Furthermore, as Jesus calls His servants unworthy, His point is not that we aren't worthy of anything in ourselves, or in our work of ministry for Him. But the fact that we have done our duty in following everything He has commanded us to do doesn't empower us to lay a claim upon God that we are worthy of His graciousness, For God's graciousness towards us is a gift. In fact, God is so gracious towards us that He will reverse the roles of our society, and wait upon us at the Feast in His Kingdom! So with Christ's 2nd warning on behaviour, we see a distinction between great achievement and duty. Those of us who follow Christ's teachings and example faithfully might get the idea that we have done something great, but we are to tell ourselves that we are unprofitable servants who have only done our duty.

We serve God not for worldly profit, but simply because we are able to recognize that He is God. Perhaps it is here that we are able to piece together the 2 warnings on behaviour Jesus gives us today on the power of faith and the distinction between our

great achievements and duty. For the purest **faith** is that which recognizes that we are like servants who owe everything we are and have to God our Master. Thus, after fulfilling His commandments, we should humbly recognize that we have only done our **du-ty**, and have not earned the gifts God so freely bestows upon us.

Similarly, as St. Paul teaches us, even our salvation and calling are based on God's grace and love, not on anything we have done to merit God's favour. It is precisely this grace and love through which God enables us to be everything we are, and blesses us with everything we have, and offers us everlasting life with Him and our loved ones — this grace of God itself inspires and enables us to live lives fulfilled by our **Faith And Du-ty** towards Him.

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

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 your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ. Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster: relieve those affected by floods, wild-fires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable. For all who are sick. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. 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.**

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died. Bring us all to eternal life with you. 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.**