



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for October 16, 2022, celebrating the Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost.

Pastor Jack Dressler (**519-250-7210**) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

Upcoming Services:

Date	Comment	Pastor / Lay Leader	Reader
October 23	No Communion	Greg Peifer	Olga
October 30	100 Anniversary Continues Communion	Bishop Pryse & Pastor Jack	Carol
November 6	All Saints - Communion	Pastor Jack	
November 13	Baptism - Communion	Pastor Jack	
November 20		Greg Peifer	
November 27	First Day of Advent - Communion	Father Brian	
December 4		Greg Peifer	
December 11	Communion	Pastor Jack	
December 18		Father Brian	
December 24	Christmas Eve - Communion	Pastor Jack	
December 25	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE
January 1, 2023	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration Continues:

We will be having a luncheon after the service on October 30 (in the Fellowship Hall), when Bishop Pryse will be in attendance for this service. If you would like to make baked goods for the dessert table, please let Anne Drouillard know.

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:

<i>Boxed juices</i>	<i>Canned chili</i>	<i>Canned Manwich</i>
<i>Macaroni</i>	<i>Cereal / snack bars</i>	<i>Peanut butter</i>
<i>Powdered potatoes</i>	<i>Nutella</i>	<i>Deodorant for men</i>
<i>Shampoo</i>	<i>Toothpaste</i>	<i>Spaghetti sauce</i>
	<i>Batteries AA</i>	

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

LET’S SHARE OUR BLESSINGS!!!!

Introduction

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ’s encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ’s table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

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

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. The word of God is living and active, able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. *Alleluia.*

First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birth-right and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²²The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

Psalm: Psalm 121

My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**
⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself,

‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

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

The Sermon: Don't Lose Heart (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on October 16, 2022)

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

Before Jesus began the journey from Galilee to Jerusalem and His Cross, Jesus warned His Apostles that He would be rejected, killed, and raised on the 3rd day (Luke 9:22,44). As we hear Him tell The Parable of The Tenacious Widow, Jesus has just been speaking of His 2nd Coming (Luke 17:20-37). Through much of Pentecost, we have heard many great teachings Jesus gave along the road, and clearly, the Parable Jesus tells today deals with persistence in prayer. But mere continual prayer is not what Jesus is teaching us today. Today, Jesus is teaching us that between His 1st and 2nd Comings, God won't abandon us if we remain faithful to Him and people of steadfast prayer until Jesus Returns. Consequently, Christ's Parable of The Tenacious Widow isn't intended to apply to prayer in general, as though we have to bother God for every need until He reluctantly responds to us. No, this parable is about our vindication by God when the world misunderstands us and we suffer for it. In the Old Testament Age, God's People needed to "wait" on God as He worked out justice with apparent slowness.

God's People began to wonder if His promised Saviour would ever come. As King David wrote: "O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me. Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause" (Psalm 25:2-3).

Today, many feel like God's People felt before Christ's 1st Coming. Will Jesus really Return? Along with the martyrs who died for their faith in Christ, we await our vindication by God as He works out justice with apparent slowness, and in a glimpse of heaven we hear from St. John the Evangelist: "When Christ opened the 5th seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and

true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?' Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed" (Revelation 6:9-11). As we, The Church, wait along with the martyrs for Christ's Return and judgement of the living and the dead, we struggle with the continual presence of evil in the world. How can an omnipotent, good and loving God allow injustice to occur?

These end times we live in between Christ's 1st and 2nd Comings are just as Jesus described them when He said: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. So it shall be when the Son of Man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-27,30).

Jesus is warning us to be prepared for His Return here - He is warning us to beware lest our daily concerns replace an active, personal waiting for His Return. Jesus is warning us that those whom He finds faithless, those who reject a relationship with Him and do not pray to Him will be destroyed, as so many were in the days of Noah! But Jesus is also encouraging us, isn't He? Jesus is saying that we live in a similar time "as it was in the days of Noah". God didn't abandon Noah. God won't abandon us. So we must remain faithful to God, a people of steadfast prayer, because prayer is a vital step in preparation for the 2nd Coming of Jesus. So as He begins His Parable of The Tenacious Widow, Jesus teaches us we always ought to pray and not lose heart. And as we shall see, our faith in Jesus will serve as the engine for our prayer. The Tenacious Widow is a woman who lived in a patriarchal society. With no male representation, she's the very image of powerlessness and poverty (Luke 7:11-17; 20:45-21:4).

The Unjust Judge who didn't fear God or respect people resembles a steward we recently heard about, (Luke 16:1-13), and we should probably see him as "a man of the world", who prided himself on his shrewd judicial decisions. Being easily accessible, and having the authority to make quick decisions, he would naturally be besieged by people such as this widow. But this widow was tenacious, relentless, persistent. Have you ever dealt with a woman like her? The heathen judge said within himself that "yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me". As he says this, the Greek for the words "weary me", are literally "to give a black eye to", probably referring to the common idiom in Eastern countries, where to have one's face blackened means to suffer shame. So the unjust judge is well aware that this persistent

widow who's seeking "justice from her adversary" has put his reputation at stake. And being a man of the world, his reputation is highly important to him.

Jesus makes it clear that we - The Church - are represented by the widow in His parable. As Jesus calls us 'the elect' or 'Chosen ones', He's reassuring us that at His Return, we'll be on the winning side like Noah and his family. Of His elect, Jesus also said that "He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matthew 24:31).

Who is God in this parable? On the one hand, the heathen judge is a man of the world who "does not fear God or regard people". This unjust judge doesn't pray to God. So this judge represents those people destroyed at Christ's 2nd Coming, like those "in the days of Noah". On the other hand, there's a partial basis of comparison between God and this judge, insofar as God will also guard His reputation, execute justice, and vindicate both Himself and us when Jesus Returns to judge both the living and the dead.

We can draw 2 lessons from this parable. If the persistent pleading of the helpless widow triumphs over an unjust judge, how much more will the persistent prayers of Christians achieve? And if an unjust judge yields to the entreaties of a powerless, poor widow, how much more will a loving merciful God? Although we share this world with people who don't believe in God, and though we bump up against the very presence of evil, the decisive question here isn't about God's justice and vindication of us. God will certainly vindicate us when Jesus Returns! But the decisive question is if we will remain faithful to Jesus until He *finally* Returns. God is patiently listening to our prayers, as He waits for the proper time to act on our behalf. Help is on the way, and the delay will prove shorter than it seems from our human perspective. Meanwhile, we are to persistently wait for Christ's Return with patient trust, and pray continually so that we do not lose heart.

Today we hear Jesus promise us He will avenge any injustices committed against us. In fact, Jesus promises that He will vindicate us "speedily". But we also heard Jesus pose a question to us: "When I return, will I *really* find faith on the earth?" "When I return, will I *really* find faith on the earth?" Folks, each of us must take great care to remain faithful, so that when Jesus *does* Return, the dead are resurrected, and all of us are Judged by Him, Jesus *will* find faith on the Earth! Jesus will find that faith present in us.

In the meantime, we recall why Jesus urges us that we always ought to pray to Him. As long as we talk with our Lord Jesus Christ in prayer — we will continue in our relationship with God. As long as we pray, we will continue to trust Christ's promise that He will Return for us, and gather us into His Kingdom. This is the promise Jesus reminds us

of today. So pray persistently to Jesus every day. Pray with confidence to Jesus every day.

And **Don't Lose Heart.**

Don't Ever Lose Heart.

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

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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...
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.**