



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for October 23, 2022, celebrating the Twentieth 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 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	Dagmar
November 27	First Day of Advent - Communion	Father Brian	Brenda
December 4		Greg Peifer	
December 11	Communion	Pastor Jack	Dagmar
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:

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!!!!

Introduction

Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God’s forgiveness. Keep the faith. God’s people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus’ sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.

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

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted. *Alleluia.*

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

⁷Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you.

⁸O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night?

⁹Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?

Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us?

We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you.

²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne;

remember and do not break your covenant with us.

²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers?

Is it not you, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

Psalm: Psalm 84:1-7

Happy are the people whose strength is in you.

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴**Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.**

⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶**Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

⁷They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:9-14

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

The Sermon: Believe and Receive (read by Greg Peifer, written by Maz Lucado, from his book “3:16: The Numbers of Hope”)

“Tell me my part” I groaned.

"Just trust me," she assured. She was a bubbly, college-aged, baseball-capped rope holder. *Trust me* translated into a backward leap off a fifty-foot cliff, wearing a belay harness and a what-did-I-get-myself-into expression.

Some people love rappelling. They relish the stomach-in-the-throat sensation, Not me. I prefer the seat-in-the-chair one. I had traveled to Colorado to experience a week of rest to the fullest. Fresh air, great views. Good coffee, long talks. These events made my list. Half gainers off the mountain didn't.

Blame persuasive friends and stupid pride for my presence on the peak. The platform team assured me of a safe landing.

"Ever done this?" the girl asked.

"No."

She handed me a leather harness and told me to step in. "It's kind of like a diaper." She smiled, all too chipper. *I may need a diaper*, I thought.

"What about you?" I inquired. "Have you lowered anyone down the mountain?"

"Been working here all summer." She beamed.

It was barely July.

"It's simple," she continued as she clipped me in and handed me gloves. "Hold the rope and jump. Bounce off the wall with your feet."

Someone make a law: the words *jump*, *bounce*, and *wall* should never be spoken in the same breath.

"How do I keep from crashing?"

"You don't. I do that."

"You?"

"Yes, I hold your rope."

Little comfort. Not only was she half my age, she was half my size—more the ballet than the belay sort. "But don't I do *something*?" I begged,

"You trust me."

I inched up to the edge of the cliff and looked down. Frodo felt safer looking into the pit.

"Do you have any valuables?" I heard a voice ask.

"Only my life."

"You're funny," she chirped, sounding so much like my daughters that I remembered my will was out-of-date. "Come on. It's your turn!"

I gave her one more. A look akin to the one the 3:16 promise often prompts. Can I really trust that "whoever believes in him shall not perish"?

Jesus' invitation seems too simple. We gravitate to other verbs. *Work* has a better ring to it. "Whoever works for him will be saved." *Satisfy* fits nicely. "Whoever satisfies him will be saved'." But believe? *Shouldn't* I do *more*?

This seems to be the struggle of Nicodemus. It was his conversation with Christ, remember, that set the stage for John 3:16. Jesus' "you must be born again" command strikes the scholar—and some of us—the way the words of the take-a-leap girl struck me. What's my part? The baby takes a, passive role in the birthing process. The infant allows the parent to do the work. Salvation is equally simple. God works and we trust. Such a thought troubles Nicodemus. *There must be more*. Jesus comforts the visiting professor with an account from, the Torah, Nicodemus's favorite book.

And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. (John 3:14-15 NLT).

Nicodemus knew this event. A one-sentence reference was enough for him to understand the point. The verse is cryptic to us, however. Why did Jesus precede the 3:16 offer with a reference to a serpent in the wilderness? Here is the backstory.

The wandering Israelites were grumbling at Moses again. Though camped on the border of the promised land and beneficiaries of four decades of God's provisions, the Hebrews sounded off like spoiled trust-fund brats: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" (Num. 21:5 NKJV).

Same complaint, seventieth verse. Ex-slaves longing for Egypt. Dreaming of pyramids and cursing the wasteland, pining for Pharaoh and vilifying Moses. They hated the hot sand, the long days, and the manna, oh the manna. "Our soul loathes this worthless bread" (v. 5 NKJV).

They'd had all the manna burgers and manna casseroles and manna peanut butter sandwiches they could stomach. And God had had all the moaning he could take. "So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died" (v. 6 NKJV).

Horror-movie producers long to spawn such scenes. Slithering vipers creep out of holes and rocks and serpentine through the camp. People die. Corpses dot the landscape. Survivors pleaded with Moses to plead with God for mercy. "'We have sinned. . . . Pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.' So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived" (vv. 7-9 NKJV).

This passage was a solemn prophecy.

And it was also a simple promise. Snake-bit Israelites found healing by looking at the pole. Sinners will find healing by looking to Christ. "Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life" (John 3:15 NLT).

The simplicity troubles many people. We expect a more complicated cure, a more elaborate treatment. Moses and his followers might have expected more as well. Manufacture an ointment. Invent a therapeutic lotion. Treat one another. Or at least fight back. Break out the sticks and stones and attack the snakes.

We, too, expect a more proactive assignment, to have to conjure up a remedy for our sin. Some mercy seekers have donned hair shirts, climbed cathedral steps on their knees, or traversed hot rocks on bare feet.

Others of us have written our own Bible verse: "God helps those who help themselves" (Popular Opinion 1:1). We'll fix ourselves, thank you. We'll make up for our mistakes with contributions, our guilt with busyness. We'll overcome failures with hard work. We'll find salvation the old-fashioned way: we'll earn it.

Christ, in contrast, says to us what the rope-holding girl said to me: "Your part is to trust. Trust me to do what you can't."

By the way, you take similar steps of trust daily, even hourly. You believe the chair will support you, so you set your weight on it. You believe water will hydrate you, so you swallow it. You trust the work of the light switch, so you flip it. You have faith the door-knob will work, so you turn it.

You regularly trust power you cannot see to do a work you cannot accomplish. Jesus invites you to do the same with him.

Just him. Not Moses or any other leader. Not other snake bitten souls. Not even you. You can't fix you. Look to Jesus and believe.

Remember my rappelling partner? She told me to fix my gaze on her. As I took the plunge, she shouted, "Keep your eyes up here!" I didn't have to be told twice. She was the only, one of the two of us smiling.

But since she did her work, I landed safely. Next trip, however, you'll find me in a chair on the porch.

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. God of mercy, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Inspire your church to serve and love all people with the unceasing grace you extend to us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you formed a world where even the sparrow finds a home. Preserve the beauty and diversity of all creatures with whom we share the earth. Lead us to protect all living things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, you are an ever-present help in time of trouble. Rescue families and nations torn apart by violence and warfare. Unite all people toward common goals of reconciliation and peace for every person. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of hope, you stand with the suffering and give strength. Comfort your people filled with fear or anger, anxiety or shame. Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow in your ways. 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; Joan

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.**

God of eternal life, to you be the glory forever. We give you thanks for all who have fought the good fight, finished the race, kept the faith, and now live with you. 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.**