



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

CHURCH AT HOME

Announcements:

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for January 15, 2023, celebrating the Second Sunday after Epiphany.

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
January 22		Greg	
January 29		Father Brian	
February 5		Greg	
February 12	Communion	Pastor Jack	
February 19			
February 26	Communion	Father Brian	
March 5		Greg	
March 12			
March 19			
March 22	Ash Wednesday – 10am	Pastor Jack	
March 26	Communion	Pastor Jack	

We need your help to assist in the above services – readers and lay leaders.

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "www.trinitylutheran.ca".

Introduction

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever

prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

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 makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. Holy One, source of our renewal, **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.**

We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,

that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior. **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 strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. *Alleluia.*

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born,

while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God.”

⁵And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says,

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,

“Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Psalm: 40:1-11

I love to do your will, O my God.

¹I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

²**The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴**Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can
be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are
more than I can count.

⁶**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;**

you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

⁷And so I said, “Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸**‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.’ ”**

⁹I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel: John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

²⁹[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who

baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

The Sermon: Come and See (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Trinity on January 15, 2023)

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

Epiphany may be defined as “revelation” and we observe this Season in The Church as we recall the beginning of Christ’s Ministry and focus on the way Jesus revealed Himself to the world. It’s appropriate that we learn from St. John the Baptist again today, since God the Father sent him to reveal Jesus to the world as God the Son. The first way The Baptist does this, is by referring to Jesus in saying: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”, and through these words The Church discovers two very powerful images that reveal who Jesus is for us. The first image is that of a Suffering Servant. Isaiah prophesied that this Suffering Servant would come and be lead to slaughter like a lamb and bear our sins (Isaiah 53:5-7). As St. John the Baptist reveals Jesus as The Lamb of God, we see that Jesus is The Suffering Servant foretold by the Prophet Isaiah. The second image we see is the death of Jesus as that of The Passover Lamb. God the Father freed the Jesus from slavery in Egypt, they slaughtered a lamb and placed its blood on the lintel and doorposts of their houses.

Seeing the blood of the lamb, the Lord would pass over their houses and not allow The Destroyer to strike them as he struck the firstborn of the Egyptians (Exodus 11-12). God granted the Jews freedom from slavery to the Egyptians through the blood of a

Passover lamb, and God would provide a Passover Lamb whose blood would free His People from slavery to sin and death. Today, in many parishes of The Church, a Priest will hold a consecrated Host above a Chalice – The Body and Blood of Christ – and will repeat the words of S. John the Baptist by which Jesus is recalled as The Suffering Servant and The Passover Lamb: “Behold the Lamb of God! Behold Him who takes away the sin of the world!” For this is the powerful way the Baptist revealed Jesus to be the Son of God. The congregation often responds with The Centurion’s Prayer: “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof; but say the word, and Your servant will be healed” (Luke 7:6-7).

Today we also heard an Epiphany of God – a way in which God revealed Himself to the world. For as St. John baptized Jesus he “bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him”. The verb John uses for “remained” is *menein*, and here The Holy Spirit is said to “remain with” Jesus, who will be shown to be the One who baptizes with water and The Holy Spirit.

That The Holy Spirit remained upon Jesus in this sense describes the permanent relations between God the Father and God the Son. Thus as The Holy Spirit descends and remains upon Jesus in this way, we have an Epiphany – a revelation that Jesus is The Son of God! Fortunately for us, today’s Gospel doesn’t end at this Epiphany. We must pay close attention to the scene from the next day, as St. John the Baptist stands with two of his disciples and leads them to Jesus Christ. “Behold the Lamb of God!” Now we’re told that one of these disciples is Andrew. The other disciple is probably the author of this Gospel, St. John the Evangelist. And as they leave their old master behind, Jesus turns towards them and speaks for the first time in St. John’s Gospel.

“What do you seek?” Perhaps Jesus was probing them to challenge their motives – to discover whether they were motivated by idle curiosity or by a real desire to know Him. Likewise, their response of “Rabbi, where are You staying?” wasn’t merely an inquiry for His address, but a courteous request for an interview to become His disciples. What seems to be a simple conversation is deeply spiritual. “Jesus said to them “Come and see”. They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Jesus that day”. As Jesus says *opsesthe*, “Come and see”, Andrew and John understand Jesus is using “coming” and “seeing” as words that indicate Faith.

As St. John writes that “they came and saw”, we’re meant to realize that they came to have Faith in Jesus. Moreover, as St. John writes that “they remained with Jesus that day”, he uses the verb *menein* again, for “remained”. But unlike his earlier usage of the verb for The Holy Spirit “remained” on Jesus at His Baptism, St. John isn’t here describ-

ing the permanent relationship between God the Father and God the Son. Rather, St. John uses the verb for “remained” here to describe the relationship between the Son of God and believers in Him, and applying it to the “indwelling” of divine attributes. Perhaps St. John is suggesting that Jesus baptized him and St. Andrew with water and The Holy Spirit on that day.

In any event, Andrew’s response was to go directly to his brother Simon Peter, and bring him to Jesus, saying: “we have found the Christ” – The Anointed One – who will fulfill all the promises made by God to His Chosen People. St. John tells us that when Andrew brought Simon to Jesus, “Jesus looked at him and said “You are Simon of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas.” This simple statement made by Jesus was really an identification of Peter’s personality. Simon, or Simeon, was the name of Jacob’s second oldest son, who, with his brother Levi, (Genesis 29:33-34), had ruthlessly avenged the violation of their sister by one of the Canaanite princes (Genesis 34:25-31).

This hotheaded and impulsive character of Simeon was mirrored in Simon Peter, as he cut off the ear of the High Priest’s servant with a sword at Christ’s arrest (John 18:10). Jesus accepted Simon just as he was, but promised that he should become **Cephas**, an Aramaic name, which like the Greek name **Petros** means “stone” or “Rock”. Following His Resurrection at Easter, Jesus will ask Peter “do you love Me?” three times, and each time Peter declares his love, Jesus commands him to be the Rock of His Church, a role he will fulfill by shepherding Christ’s sheep (John 21:15-17). Shepherding is one of the two main images for Ministry in The New Testament, and we’ll recall that Jesus is The Good Shepherd later this year. St. John’s Gospel emphasizes Christ’s own concern for His flock, which had been entrusted to Him by The Father. Here, Peter is entrusted with those concerns. Jesus is giving Peter a Ministry of Apostle in His Church, and this shepherding of the flock will also be transmitted to Bishops and Priests whom Jesus calls into Ordained Ministry to shepherd His flock (1 Peter 5:2-4; Acts 20:28).

Today we recall that if not for the evangelism of St. John the Baptist, St. John the Apostle wouldn’t have followed Jesus, and we wouldn’t have heard an Epiphany from his Gospel today. That is St. Andrew didn’t evangelize his brother Peter, we wouldn’t have had one of our first shepherds.

Do you remember someone leading you to Jesus Christ, so that you could accept Him as your Lord and Saviour? Have you ever led someone else to Jesus Christ, so that they too could place their trust in Him? Today we have heard the examples set for us by St. John the Baptist and St. Andrew the Apostle. The example to lead someone we know to Jesus, and invite them to join us in His Holy Church, so that they too may be baptized

with water and The Holy Spirit by the shepherds of The Church and “remain” with Jesus Christ as one who “came and saw”.

In this way we may fulfill the command Jesus gives us in The Great Commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). We can even quote from among the first words Jesus spoke in St. John’s Gospel as we do so:

“**Come And See**”.

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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Put a new song in the mouth of your church. Inspire the baptized to tell of your faithfulness, sharing the good news of your salvation throughout the earth. Bless the witness of missionaries. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world’s waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways and in responding to devastating floods. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. 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; Donna; Sharon B; Jeffrey; Art; Joan; Olga; Jack Stark

Friends and Family of our Members Needing our prayers: Audrey; Greg; Hilda; Mary; Anna; Jean; Randy

...and all members who may have needs unknown to us

And all those we name in our hearts...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **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

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**