



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

May 12, 2024
7th Sunday in Easter

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Coming Services

May 15 - Pentecost Messy Church, 5 p.m. A mid-week session that includes a meal, activities and a devotional. All are welcome!

June 16 – Healing & Belonging Service. This is an affirmation worship service to mark Pride Month. The service is intended to recognize the past wounds caused by the greater church on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and to foster healing and belonging with the community. Assistant to the Bishop Adam Snook is scheduled to preach and assist at the service. A potluck follows the service.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Margaret, Sharon, Vern.

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan. Evelyn, Connie.

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeremy, Rachel

Introduction to the day

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

Inshallah # 40 God welcomes all
ELW # 569 The day you gave us, Lord
ELW # 638 Blessed Assurance
ELW # 365 Jesus Christ is risen today

Prayer of the day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said,

“Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

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

²**Their delight is in the law ¹ of the Lord,
and they meditate on God’s teaching ¹ day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither; everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so ¹ with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind ¹ blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way ¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall ¹ be destroyed.**

Second reading: 1 John 5: 9-13

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is

the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Gospel: John 17: 6-19

[Jesus prayed:] ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they

may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

Sermon

Let us pray

Friends, may grace and peace be yours in abundance

Saturday is a day I usually set aside to make my final revisions and fine-tune the next day's sermon.

I had just when sat down in front of the laptop ... coffee mug in hand ... when the phone rang.

It was the daughter of one of Trinity's long-time members.

She asked if I could visit her mother who had entered palliative care at one of the long-term care homes.

“Could you come and say a prayer for her,” the woman asked.

In such times, pastors perform what is known as the Commendation of the Spirit. It is time of prayer, scripture, and blessings ... both for the person and for the person’s family and whomever else is present at the time.

When it’s not trivialized, prayer carries immense power ... it can comfort ... it can offer hope, it can foster healing ... it can embolden ... it can open minds and hearts.

Mahatma Gandhi once called prayer “a longing of the soul.”

... “a longing of the soul.”

This morning, we hear what has become known as “the Priestly Prayer.”

Jesus prays for the disciples who have gathered around him ... and the disciples that are to come through their ministry ... in a way that they cannot.

Jesus prays for their protection as they carry their ministry out from Jerusalem ... he prays for their unity ... and he prays for their holiness.

In the past few weeks, we’ve heard Jesus describe the expectations of discipleship ... the cleansing away of the things that keep love from growing ... the call to produce good and lasting fruit for the world ...

Love is that lasting fruit ... and remaining connected to Jesus ... and through him to God ... makes the yield

of that fruit possible and brings joy and meaning to life.

Through the past few weeks, Jesus calls on followers to abide in him ... to be remain in God’s love and be comforted and protected by it. To know that God is present in their lives through whatever they face.

Jesus tells the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes upon them. They stay inside where they overhear Jesus’ prayer to the Father.

As his time in ministry nears its end ... with betrayal and cross and tomb before him ... Jesus prays for himself ... then he prays for the disciples ... and finally for the disciples who are to come in the time to come ... the time that follows his suffering ... death ... resurrection ... and ascension.

Jesus asks the Father to sanctify the disciples and those who are to come ... to make us holy through knowing the truth and living in the Word. This sanctification ... this holiness ... will infuse their lives ... it will shape their words and actions in the world ... just as it should shape our relationship with God and the world.

This holiness will set disciples apart from the world even though they are of the world.

The early disciples will be among the minority ... teaching and preaching things that run counter to what the powers of the world says are important. They are versed in the truth ... the Word Jesus has shared.

Because he knows they will be in the minority and the object of hatred and

oppression ... Jesus prays for God to protect them ... Jesus' prayer is for them to always know that God's love remains present for them even though Jesus has departed ... ascended to the Father.

The prayer offers words of encouragement ... assurance ... love ... and hope for all who are to come.

So, Jesus prays for us here this morning ... for our unity of purpose ... for our ministry and for the world By doing so, Jesus provides an example for our prayers, as well.

Each Sunday, we offer prayers of intercession ... prayers that give voice to the troubles we witness in the church ... in the world ... in those we know ... and within ourselves. They represent our hopes and the longings of our souls.

These prayers call for God to intercede in such matters ... for God's unending love to be made known in the troubles we name and those only known in our hearts ... for God's presence to be made known in the world.

How will the world know of God's unending love?

Simple, we are a glimpse of that love in the world. As we heard in this morning's reading from 1 John:

"Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts."

Prayer is a testimony of our hearts ... it is the chief language of discipleship.

Discipleship only occurs out in the community ... out in the world around the church. It is the location where prayer resonates the greatest ... where

its effects are felt most deeply ... where love is carried outward and freely offered.

So, when we pray each day ... let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news ... because ... even though our beliefs ... our holiness ... may set us apart from the world ... we still remain of the world.

AMEN

Lord's Prayer

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 of all,
who raised + Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

AMEN

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

_____ (\$ _____ .00) per month

Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.