



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

November 17, 2024
26th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Brown Bag Bible Study continues on November 20. The noontime study sessions will look at the coming Sunday's readings. Bring your lunch and we'll supply the coffee, tea or water. Join us for a deep and lively discussion.

Coming Up

December 21 - Trinity's NEW tradition Christmas musical event will be the first offering in our new "Trinity Musical Arts Series." The premiere event begins at 2 p.m. and will feature a performance of the Academy Brass Quintet. This concert marks the beginning of our new ministry that builds upon Trinity's great musical tradition and aims to establish affordable music outreach to the community. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets are available in the church office and at the door.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Lorraine, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Nash, Jeff

Introduction to the day

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness.

Hymns

INSHALLAH # 40 God welcomes all
WOV #675 We walk by faith and not by
sight
ELW #483 My Lord what a morning
ELW #785 When peace like a river

Prayer of the day

Almighty God, your sovereign purpose
brings salvation to birth.
Give us faith to be steadfast amid the
tumults of this world, trusting that your
kingdom comes and your will is done
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Saviour and Lord.

AMEN

First reading: Daniel 12:1-3

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince,
the protector of your people, shall arise.
There shall be a time of anguish, such
as has never occurred since nations first
came into existence. But at that time
your people shall be delivered, everyone
who is found written in the book. ²Many
of those who sleep in the dust of the
earth shall awake, some to everlasting
life, and some to shame and everlasting
contempt. ³Those who are wise shall
shine like the brightness of the sky, and
those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever.”

Psalm 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take
ref-¹uge in you;

I have said to the Lord, “You are my
Lord, my good a-¹bove all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that
are¹ in the land,
upon those who are noble
a-¹mong the people.**

³But those who run after¹ other gods
shall have their troubles¹ multiplied.

⁴**I will not pour out drink
offerings¹ to such gods,
never take their names up-¹ on
my lips.**

⁵O Lord, you are my portion¹ and my
cup;

it is you who up-¹hold my lot.

⁶**My boundaries enclose
a¹ pleasant land;
indeed, I have a¹ rich inheritance.**

⁷I will bless the Lord who¹ gives me
counsel;
my heart teaches me night¹ after
night.

⁸**I have set the Lord al-¹ways
before me;
because God is at my right hand,
I shall¹ not be shaken.**

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my
spir-¹it rejoices;
my body also shall¹ rest in hope.

¹⁰**For you will not abandon me¹ to
the grave,
nor let your holy one¹ see the pit.**

¹¹You will show me the¹ path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of
joy, and in your right hand are pleasures
for-¹evermore.

Second reading: Hebrews 10:11-25

¹¹ Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” ¹³ and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them

after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

¹⁹ Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to

provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

¹ As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

Sermon

While we wait

About this time twenty-four years ago, people were in a panic. Some people

were convinced that the world was going to end in a few weeks' time.

People stockpiled food and water. Some armed themselves so they could protect their supplies and property.

Some were convinced planes would drop from the sky, that electrical grids would collapse and gas pipelines would explode when the clocks on computers reached the year 2000 at midnight on New Year's Eve. The zeros would lead to pandemonium as the world was plunged back into the Dark Ages.

Of course, none of that happened. The fateful moment came and went with nary a blip in people's lives.

But people heard prophesies of doom and disasters and prepared for the worst. When nothing happened, life continued on as it had before ... their preparations were for nothing.

Preparation ... how we spend our time ... is Jesus' focus in Mark this morning.

This morning, we hear how the disciples marvel at the massive and impressive temple structure ... even though Jesus had just criticized the temple system and its officials for exploiting the poor and the vulnerable ... like the widows.

Jesus tells the disciples that the temple will be thrown down ... the centre of religious life will disappear ... the heart of the corrupt, exclusionary system will fade into memory.

The disciples want Jesus to tell them when and how this will happen. They want to know what the signs there will be to warn them of the coming chaos.

Instead, Jesus warns them against false prophets who will proclaim that they speak for Jesus. He warns of those who are looking to take advantage of the situation.

Followers of Jesus need to be alert ... vigilant for these prophetic scam artists.

These prophets will call for the restoration of the temple and the line of kings that stretched back to David. That will be their goal and the impressiveness of the temple makes a strong lure for heading off in the wrong direction.

Mark's gospel was written during a Jewish revolt against the Romans ... and a Jewish civil war ... some forty years after the cross.

The atmosphere at the time was filled with fear, uncertainty and violence.

The roads in the countryside outside Jerusalem were marked by crucified rebels. The Romans were inflicting punishing taxes on the people ... more and more people were living in poverty and lost their homes due to the high taxes or confiscation by the Romans.

Around this time, the Romans destroyed the temple that had been constructed by Herod. They dug out the foundation so that the weight of the massive structure collapsed upon itself.

So, it would be natural for people to be nostalgic for the glory days ... when the temple stood majestically on the hill.

Even now, we can see that in the world around us ... some proclaim that walls need to be built to keep the stranger and the other out ... some look to capture new territories for their personal kingdoms ... some want to

oppress those of other faiths ... and still others claim that God has led them to push others from their land or even to take their lives in the name of self-protection.

Jesus tells the disciples that there will be earthquakes and wars ... famines will follow ... but these things ... must come if new life is to be realized.

These things aren't necessarily the global catastrophes that first come to mind ... they can also be events and conflicts that shake us on a personal level ... leaving us in a spiritual famine.

These are all the pangs of birth for a new creation ... both in the world and within ourselves. Jesus is concerned with how the disciples act during these pangs ... and in the times between the waves of pain. Life cannot simply go on if the earthquakes and wars don't happen.

Rather than worry about the when and the how ... Jesus wants the disciples to continue to proclaim the good news to the world through word and deed.

These proclamations will offer help the world as it is radically restructured.

The new creation that will be known after the birth pangs have passed will lie in opposition to the values of the world that has the corruption at its centre.

We ... like the disciples this morning ... live in a time of transition ... it's a fragile time.

It is a period of anticipation. Jesus tells the disciples ... and through them ... us here today ... to practise

what is called "active waiting" during this time.

It is a period when we are to wait ... and serve ... as a faith-filled community. Life cannot be spent waiting for signs ... preparing our hearts and lives is an ongoing process.

It means using this time ... to minister ... connect ... heal ... comfort ... feed ... and bring people from the margins and into community through our faithful actions.

It is a period when we are not only invited to remember God's actions in the world, but we are called to deepen our faith in God's future actions ... in God's future grace-filled actions.

Because as our faith deepens ... hope rises within us and through us.

Earlier in Mark's gospel, Jesus proclaims that the Kingdom of God has come near ... that kingdom will unseat the kingdoms of the world ... it will come through an upheaval of values and priorities.

Such a drastic change will come through love and loving actions ... through empathy for others ... and through relationships with God and one another.

Theologian Mary Hulst once wrote about Mark's passage. She wrote:

"We wait with hands dirty from our work in this world, with hearts full of compassion for those who suffer."

She speaks of the dirty hands of discipleship.

As new challenges to peace and security arise ... and are proclaimed as

necessary by their advocates ... it is easy to feel overwhelmed ... discouraged ... and frustrated as we recognize injustices.

It is easy to feel alone and disheartened as we advocate for gender equality or for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights ... for housing for the homeless ... for advocating those at-risk of becoming homeless ... for feeding the hungry ... for fighting for peace.

But we do not advocate or challenge in isolation ... as disciples we minister as a community ... we join with others raising people up. Our hands are not the only ones being made dirty through ministry.

That ... I think ... is an important lesson from Mark this morning ... knowing the signs might seem important ... but how we midwife the world through the pangs of birth ... is what is truly essential.

Paul's letter to the Hebrews reminds us that through the cross our hearts are made clean and we are free to love. Paul tells them:

"Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh),²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, ...

A new way of living ... a life marked by love in action ... by placing others at the centre. That is how we are to prepare in the time ahead, that is our call.

In this time, may we love ... and may our hands be dirty in ministry to the world while we wait.

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 Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

AMEN

EVEN MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS...

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our membership records. If you would like a visit from Pastor Chris, please call the church office and leave a message. Pastor Chris would be happy to visit and bring you communion, if you have difficulty attending church services.