



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

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May 25, 2025  
*6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**New socks** are being collected for the Downtown Mission on an on-going basis. Bring them to a Sunday service or call the office to arrange a drop-off.

### **Coming Up**

**Wednesday Café** begins Wednesday, June 4. Come have coffee with the pastor and anyone else who happens by. Coffee, tea and juice will be available during these times of fellowship and conversation. The Café takes place from 10-11:30 a.m. in front of the main entrance (or in the Narthex if's raining). The café is planned to run for the summer, but if successful it could be offered year-round. Come, have a chat and a nosh.

### **Also Happening**

**June 8** – Pentecost Sunday

**June 14** – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m.

**June 22** – Healing & Belonging Service

### **We Remember in our Prayers**

**In Residence:** Cordelle

**Members:** Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan. Connie, Brenda

**Friends & Family:** Anna, Asdis, Dot, Jean, Ken, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeff

**Thames Area Clergy:** Rev. David Wirt, St. Ansgar Lutheran, London

### **Introduction to the day**

*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

## Hymns

ELW #875 Praise, praise, praise the  
Lord

ELW # 804 Come down, O love divine

ELW # 646 The peace of the Lord

ELW # 671 Shine Jesus shine

## Prayer of the day

Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit, we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**AMEN**

## First reading Acts 16: 9-15

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." <sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we

went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## Psalm: 67

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to <sup>l</sup> us and  
bless us;

may the light of God's face <sup>l</sup> shine  
upon us.

<sup>2</sup> **Let your way be known <sup>l</sup> upon  
earth,**

**your saving health a- <sup>l</sup> mong all  
nations.**

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise <sup>l</sup> you, O God;  
let all the <sup>l</sup> peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> **Let the nations be glad and <sup>l</sup> sing  
for joy,**

**for you judge the peoples with  
equity and guide all the na- <sup>l</sup> tions on  
earth. R**

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples <sup>l</sup> praise you, O God;  
let all the <sup>l</sup> peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> **The earth has brought <sup>l</sup> forth its  
increase;**

**God, our own <sup>l</sup> God, has blessed  
us.**

<sup>7</sup> May God <sup>l</sup> give us blessing,

and may all the ends of the earth<sup>1</sup> stand in awe.

**Second reading:** Revelation 21:10, 22 — 22: 5

<sup>10</sup> And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup> The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup> People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup> But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup> through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup> Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup> they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And

there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

**Gospel:** John 14: 23-29

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered [Judas (not Iscariot),] “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.”

**Sermon**

**Untroubled hearts**

One of the people whom I count among my friends is horror author Edo Van Belkom.

We met close to thirty years ago when I interviewed him for a magazine article and we occasionally bumped into each other at conventions when I attended such things in the Toronto area.

Some of his short stories and young adult novels have been transformed into films and into a television series ... the latest is called Wolf Pack, in case you're wondering.

Some years back, I Goggled myself to see what there was about me on the Internet.

There were the usual things that I expected ... links to articles from my newspaper and magazine days, as well as some comments and criticism about things I had written.

One thing caught my eye ... there was an entry that had a name strangely similar to mine. It was close enough that Google thought it should be included in the search results. And if you sounded it out ... the name was phonetically the same.

Well, curiosity got the better of me and I clicked on the link and was taken to a page about knights of the undead that were part of a book based on a role-playing game.

The book was written by my friend, Edo.

I asked him about it the next time we met and ... with a grin ... he confessed ... it was indeed based on my name.

He told me, "I ran out of knight names and thought your name sounded knightly enough."

So, there I am ... a knight of the undead. Although according to the Internet ... I sacrificed myself and became a dead undead.

When I interviewed Edo for a magazine piece I was writing, I asked what scared him.

I wondered what would frighten someone who wrote about phantom transports ... werewolves and the undead knights. Turns out a parent's nightmare was what terrified him.

Edo shared that what scared him the most was the thought of his then-infant son disappearing during the night .

Edo feared waking up one morning ... looking down at his son's crib ... and finding it empty without a clue to where the baby had gone.

It seems that we each have our fears.

For some, it can just be a mild sense of foreboding ... some suspicion or anxiety about things to be avoided ... for others, there are things that evoke a deep feeling of terror.

Fear ... being afraid ... has physical and psychological effects on a person.

Your heart beats faster ... your blood pressure rises ... your breathing rate changes ... cortisol and adrenaline are released into your bloodstream. Fear can cause intense anxiety ... the feeling of being overwhelmed ... having a sense of doom ... of isolation ... it can interfere with decision-making processes.

Fear comes ... in part ... because we believe we are not strong enough to overcome a threat. That we are alone.

Being afraid ... in the face of the unknown ... is our focus this morning.

In John's version of Jesus' time before the cross, Jesus is concerned that the uncertainty created by his absence will cause the disciples to be afraid. They will be afraid of being left alone.

If they are preoccupied with their fears, then ministry ... loving others as God has loved them ... becomes difficult if not impossible.

Worse, if they feel that God's love is absent, then they might believe the relationship is gone, as well.

Jesus offers words of comfort to the disciples this morning ... reaffirming that they will not be alone ... that the relationship will remain in place.

He tells them, "Peace I leave with you, peace I give to you ... do not let your hearts be troubled."

Jesus tells them not to allow their hearts to be afraid because he is returning to the father. He calls on them to rejoice that all he has told them is coming to pass.

Jesus promises them that the Holy Spirit ... the Advocate ... will be with them to remind them of all that they have been taught during his time with them ... and it will teach them new things as they experience the world in their travels.

The Spirit will fill the void the disciples will feel after Jesus' return to the father and will shape their lives and the lives of all who come to believe.

This is the Spirit that stirs hearts and keeps love alive in the face of the

uncertainty they may feel as they enter a new tomorrow.

It is a Spirit that abides with the people and binds them together.

Such a love will "unlock the secret of Jesus' presence" after the resurrection.

Rather than allow fear to shape their lives ... Jesus calls on them to allow love to shape them ... to allow love to be the cornerstone of their relationships. And from that cornerstone peace is known.

Such peace is not just as the world knows it ... simply the absence of violence ... but rather this peace is contemplative ... affirming ... it comes from and through love. It is a heart-filled sense of contentment ... of being in right relationships.

It is a peace that comes as Jesus ... through the Spirit ... abides with a person ... dwelling within their heart.

It is a peace that comes through the grace we have received through the cross and tomb ... grace, then, bears peace into the world.

I ask you to consider what you are afraid of ... both personally and congregationally. What keeps you from fully and deeply sharing love?

Are they financial? Is it the rise of hate and violence in the world? The seeming uncaring attitude toward the poor and the homeless?

Maybe it is a feeling that the church's time is nearing an end or that it faces such a massive transformation that the church, as it was in the past, will become a faint memory?

Is it a fear of losing control of circumstances ... so much so that you spend a great deal of time preparing and over-thinking every situation? Is it a fear of journeying into unfamiliar territory and meeting unfamiliar people?

What we love in life usually includes the things that make us and those close to us feel comfortable ... safe ... and secure. When we fear losing such things, we tighten our grip on them and try to pull them closer.

When we do this, the risk is high that we will act in ways that wound and alienate others. The risk is high that love ... compassion ... and empathy is forgotten.

The Spirit's guidance is ignored.

Methodist Pastor Mark Price once wrote that "The more we allow our lives to be shaped by fear, the easier it becomes to value feeling safe over being faithful."

But if we allow ourselves to be shaped by the promised Spirit ... the ongoing promise of God's love ... then our actions carry comfort and affirmation and peace for others and for ourselves.

The peace of Christ is what we have ... it is what we share with one another ... the words we share later this morning were intended to be an affirmation of Jesus' promise to the disciples and not just a greeting among members of the community.

When God makes their home in our hearts, we are filled with God's love and with perfect peace.

So, may we be comforted by the assurance of such love ... allowing this

love to shape our lives and embolden our actions in the world.

Allowing this love to bring peace into our lives and overwhelming whatever fear we carry ... so that our hearts are untroubled.

**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**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you + peace.

**AMEN**