

Sunday, June 21, 2020 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for the Third Sunday after Pentecost from Centennial Hall on Sunday, June 21 at 9:15 a.m. If you are unable to join us at that time, be welcome to access the service at your convenience via Trinity's YouTube channel. Instructions for that access are below.

Trinity is live streaming worship – how do I find it?

We are streaming our 9:15 a.m. "Virtual Worship" service on YouTube. To find it, do the following:

- Follow the home page link to "Virtual Worship" on Trinity's website, select "video" and you will be connected to the stream.

OR

- Go to YouTube, either by opening the app on your phone or by visiting the webpage on your computer.
- Search for 'Trinity Lutheran Church Grand Rapids.' The first option should be one with a picture of our cross tower (that is our channel).
- When you click on it you will be brought to our channel. If the service is live (from about 9:10 to 10:20 a.m. on Sunday morning) there will be a video with 'Live Now' on it.
- Simply click on the video and you will be connected to the stream.
- We also save past services in a play list called 'Rejoice Worship,' so you can view a past worship service at any time. It takes a couple of hours for the video to download on YouTube after worship ends.

If you have a YouTube account please subscribe to the channel. This will allow our videos to show up in your video feed and when we reach enough subscriptions allow us to change our YouTube url.

Prayer of the Day for Third Sunday after Pentecost

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A prayer for health care providers

Merciful God, your healing power is everywhere about us. Strengthen those who work among the sick; give them courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them when their efforts seem futile or when death prevails. Increase their trust in your power even to overcome death and pain and crying. May they be thankful for every sign of health you give, and humble before the mystery of your healing grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for Trinity members George Bauer and family, Krysta Billock, Mike and Amy Bishop and family, Amy Bonjour, Doug Brackmann and family, Dixie Brinks, Captain Karl Crist, Jack Danielson, Riley Day, Samantha DeBoer, John Derbin, Bill and Deb DeWitt's preemie granddaughters Joanna and Evelyn, Lois Engel, Beth Engstrom, Ruth Ann Evans, Jeff Fischer and family, Sarah Frecka, Mary Frick, Richard and Phyllis Gehl, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, Mark Hahn, Steve and Brenda Heacock and family, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Jerry Hendricks, David and Sarah Huckstep and family, Callan Hughes, Christopher Humphrey, Marge Jeltema and the Bolthuis family, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Susan Kwast, Logan Landon, Geoff Larsen and family, Marilyn Leese, Bob and Cathy Luders, Dan and Yvonne Lynn and family, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Carolyn McCready, Joyce McKenzie, Marilyn Mellema, Johnny Mielock, Jim Miller and family, Benita Tshiswaka Muganza and family, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Karen Palaszek and family, Roger Perham, Posthumus family, Mae Preston and family, Valeriano Ramirez, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Marian Schaible, Carolyn Schaner, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Schuen Family, Ilene Seadal, Karen Selle, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Michael Smith, Joyce Snyder, Dennis Tanis and family, Linda Taffs and family, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Sheryl VanderBaan and family, Dale Volkerding, Joan Walls, John Walls, Meghan Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Dave and Kathy Young, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2020

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

⁷O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
⁹If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."
¹¹But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
¹²O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,

for to you I have committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!
²⁶"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Be with us as we pray for those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Julie Schneider-Thomas and the people of Hope Lutheran Church in Rockford, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

One God, we pray for those who worship you in different ways. Guide us to a spirit of unity and harmony so that we may come to respect and cherish our commonalities. Bless our three “Standing Together” partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Masjid At-Tawheed and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long, including the Plaster Creek watershed and other waterways here in Kent County. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world, especially in this time of the tension and societal upheaval in our nation. Be with protestors and law enforcement alike as voices cry out for justice, renewal and reform, and keep them all from

resorting to violence. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do.

Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world:

a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

Wherever and however we gather,

unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for this time of closure and distancing

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

JUNE 21, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Christ gives us a new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael are sent away
Thursday	Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17	Save me, Lord
Friday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old and the new life
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. **Romans 6:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to trust that all that we are and hope to be is found in the new life we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all good things come from you; thank you for your goodness that gives us food to eat this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God draw near to you and free you from your fears through Christ your Lord. (Psalm 69:18)



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JUNE 21, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord Jesus,
You Shall Be My Song*



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you would like to accomplish in the next year?
- What is it about that accomplishment that is important to you?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to value a relationship with him above all things?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 10:24-39.

Core values are important because they define what we stand for and who we are. Jesus indicates that following him is non-negotiable and an all-or-nothing proposition. Sometimes we must let go of what we treasure in life to gain what really counts in God's kingdom. In the process, Jesus gives a number of stark contrasts, many of which are hard to hear. Following Jesus will lead some to be rejected by family, which was a reality in first century Christianity and can be true today, too. Acknowledge Jesus and he will acknowledge you. Deny him and he will deny you. In the midst of these tough passages is Jesus' repeated theme of not being afraid (vv. 26, 28, and 31). Jesus warns us not to deny him before others, but Peter does three times before Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 26:69-75). What Peter learns is that mercy, not judgment is the ultimate core value in the kingdom. God's mercy takes away our fear. Jesus calls us to make a difference and to rely on him. We all falter. Jesus doesn't. This is the newness of life that the Apostle Paul identifies (Romans 6:4) for the baptized that stands out for its dramatically different way of living. How does God's mercy help you not to be afraid?

Pray: **Dear God, may our life in Christ give us peace and good courage as we live each day with others. Amen.**

SERVICE



Sunday is Father's Day. Take time to offer prayers of thanksgiving and support for fathers and all men as they seek to be caregivers to those around them. Begin your prayers by saying, "Dear God, thank you for (name) . . ." Contact or visit those for whom you have prayed and/or send them a card as a sign of your appreciation and thankfulness.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Baptism involves the mystery of God's work that claims us as God's own in Christ. Think about or tell a story about your baptism or that of someone else. Fill a bowl with water. Dip your fingers into the water. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or that of another person.

Say: **May God bless you with new life in Christ each and every day.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org