

Sunday, June 28, 2020 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost from Centennial Hall on Sunday, June 28 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 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, 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, Awilda Diaz, 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.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 2020

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

⁵The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ⁴⁰"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Be with us as we pray for those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Laraine Sundin and the people of St. James Lutheran Church in Rogers City, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all, 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, Masjid At-Tawheed, Westminster Presbyterian Church and Temple Emanuel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Bless the work of Trinity’s Earth Keepers. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*). Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. 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.

We welcome into the body of Christ
through the waters of Holy Baptism

Alison Abigail Wittenmyer



JUNE 28, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



We are freed from sin to care for others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Genesis 22:1-14	Command to sacrifice Isaac
Thursday	Psalms 13	Prayer for deliverance
Friday	Acts 6:5-15	The arrest of Stephen
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, grace, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has freed you from sin bless you with a holy life and life eternal. (Romans 6:22)



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JUNE 28, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



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:

- When have you been tempted to do something you knew was wrong? What happened?
- Should there be consequences when someone does something wrong? Explain.
- How does the Christian faith lead you beyond selfish desires?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith was license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul (6:15). What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power in the universe opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to that life opposed to God (6:4). What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “to God as instruments of righteousness” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. The life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend so Paul writes, “I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations,” so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence (v. 19). How does God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve in Christ’s name?

Pray: **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Leading a life as a follower of Jesus can seem to be a big task. In Matthew 10, Jesus reminds us that even the small things we do are acts of service, like giving a cup of water (v.42). Giving a drink of water, holding a door, and offering a kind word can make a difference in someone’s life. What acts of service can you do this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them. Whether mealttime or bedtime prayers, reading the Bible, singing hymns, or blessing one another, the faith practices we model in our homes live on from generation to generation. Make a list of faith practices you do in your home. What ones have you passed on to others?



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