

Sunday, July 5, 2020 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

## Trinity's Weekly Connection

*Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost from Centennial Hall on Sunday, July 5 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 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, 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, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Ted Turnage, Sheryl VanderBaan and family, Dale Volkerding, Joan and John Walls, Meghan Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Dave and Kathy Young, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 2020

*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

### FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

- <sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
<sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
<sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

### SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

*Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

- <sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin

that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

### GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

*Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.*

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Be with us as we pray for those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Jeff Bonn and the people of Messiah Lutheran Church in Roscommon, 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, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Temple Emanuel and Masjid At-Tawheed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations, especially the United States and Canada, celebrating their nationhood. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed, including those we name now in our hearts (a brief silence). Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for your blessing upon our Stephen Ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church. Help us to work together to make Trinity a community where people feel welcome, loved, and connected to you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new 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.

JULY 5, 2020  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking  faith  
home

*Jesus gives rest to the weary.*

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary
Monday	Zechariah 9:9-12	Coming ruler of God's people
Tuesday	Romans 7:15-25a	The conflict in us
Wednesday	Genesis 24:34-67	Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca
Thursday	Psalms 45:10-17	A royal wedding
Friday	Song of Solomon 2:8-13	Springtime love rhapsody
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-14	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the sower

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” **Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Merciful God, we thank you for giving us rest when we are weary and the invitation to lean on you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord God, we thank you for this gift of food that strengthens our bodies and your presence in our lives that gives rest for our souls. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord bless you with grace, mercy, and steadfast love. (Psalm 145:8)



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JULY 5, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesus is a Rock  
in a Weary Land*

taking  faith  
home

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 you are weary and tired, where do you find rest?
- What is something that weighs you down and can feel like a burden?
- Think of or tell about a time you felt Jesus lifted burdens off your shoulders.

DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

In this text Jesus speaks with two very different emotional tones. Jesus' naming "this generation" is naming us, we as a people bent on rejecting God, preserving alienation from God, and pursuing idols of any sort. We as a people pursuing our own glory will never be satisfied with God. We reject the austerity of John the Baptist and the life of abundant pleasure of Jesus (vv. 18-19). God's message offered music that we refuse to dance to and grief for which we refuse to express sadness (v. 17). But the tone changes dramatically at verse 25. God reveals Jesus to infants, to the weary, and to those carrying heavy burdens (11:28). In the moment of need and awareness of our great need, we are open to Jesus giving us rest, taking our burdens, and giving us an easy yoke to guide us. The Gospel of Matthew is filled with judgment for those who are content in their own judgments and merciful to those wanting and needing something they cannot give themselves: the peace and joy of the reign of God. Jesus speaks with words of judgment and of comfort. Why do you think we need to hear both?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, cleanse us of our self-assurance that is blind to you, and help us to hear your invitation to find rest for our souls through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Going through hard times alone makes us feel weighed down and exhausted. Jesus cares for our hurts and grief through the hands and voices of others. Take time to reach out to someone with the love of Jesus by praying with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 145 is a song of praise to God. Read verse 8 aloud several times, "**The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**" After each time, pause for a moment of silence. Think or tell about a time when God's steadfast love was a comfort to you. Read the verse one more time and close with, "**Amen.**"



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