

Sunday, August 23, 2020 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost from Centennial Hall on Sunday, August 23 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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, 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 Krysta Billock, Captain Karl Crist, Jack Danielson, Riley Day, Samantha DeBoer, John Derbin, Awilda Diaz, Lois Engel, Beth Engstrom, Ruth Ann Evans, Ryleigh Fischer, Mary Frick, Richard and Phyllis Gehl, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, Mark Hahn, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Jerry Hendricks, Callan Hughes, Christopher Humphrey, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Susan Kwast, Logan Landon, Marilyn Leese, Bob and Cathy Luders, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Joyce McKenzie, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Johnny Mielock, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Roger Perham, Dan Pollert, Valeriano Ramirez, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Marian Schaible, Carolyn Schaner, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Ilene Seadal, Karen Selle, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Michael Smith, Joyce Snyder, Courtney Stekete and family, Linda Taffs, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Ted Turnage, Dale Volkerding, John Walls, Meghan Walls, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Dave and Kathy Young, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

Worship Flowers

Today's worship flowers are given by Lynn and John Hagenbush in loving memory of Thomas and Nanette Held.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

- ¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You bless us with those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Sue Hand and the people of Zion Lutheran Church in Saginaw, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You also bless us when 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 cherish our commonalities. Bless our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Temple Emanuel and Masjid At-Tawheed. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us into this Grand Rapids area community in which we, though many, find oneness in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead. Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

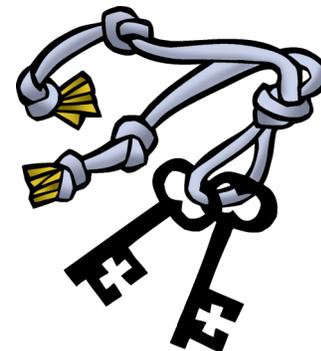
In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.



AUGUST 23, 2020
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Disciples do not conform to the world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 16:13-20	Peter's confession of Christ
Monday	Isaiah 51:1-6	Blessings for God's people
Tuesday	Romans 12:1-8	Christ brings new life
Wednesday	Exodus 1:8–2:10	Israelites are oppressed
Thursday	Psalms 124	Thanksgiving for Israel's deliverance
Friday	1 Peter 1:13-25	A call to holy living
Saturday	Psalms 138	Praise God with all your heart
Sunday	Matthew 16:21-28	Take up your cross and follow

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:2 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, in a world that can divide us from one another, we pray for your rule of mercy and grace that binds us together in faith and love through Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal and pray for all to have food to eat through your abundant and fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be transformed by the will of God to know and to do what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)



© 2019 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

AUGUST 23, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Send Me, Lord



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 are tempted to do that you know is not helpful or right?
- What influences a person to do something wrong?
- How is the kingdom of Jesus different from other powers that want to shape your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:13-20.

To be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2) is to be shaped by the powers of domination in an attempt to influence—or even control—people's thoughts, actions, and loyalties. In Matthew 16 Jesus and his disciples are in Caesarea Philippi, a place where many gods of the ancient world were recognized and worshiped, fickle gods that were seen as ruling human life rather arbitrarily. Jesus as the "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16) will transform lives like the Canaanite woman and her daughter in Matthew 15. Jesus has the power to bind and to loosen lives (16:19) and Jesus intends to loosen lives from death to life, from sickness to health, from despair to hope, from broken relationships to a life of mutual forgiveness, from lives that are judged and condemned to lives that receive mercy. How does Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God free your life to be a servant of mercy to others?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

In Romans 12:6-8, the Apostle Paul lists a number of gifts that God has given people to support the work of the church like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving generously, leading, and being compassionate. Make a list of gifts you have been given and can use to support the church in the world. The entire faith community (body of Christ) is needed to do God's work. Take action by using one or more of the gifts you listed to help people in your community or the larger world.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise: "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart" (v. 1a). Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart write a list of things you are thankful for. Take the heart and put it in a visible place as a reminder to give thanks and praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.



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