

Sunday, October 11, 2020 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Trinity's Weekly Connection

*Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost from Centennial Hall on Sunday, October 11 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.*

### Worship Flowers for October 11

Today's worship flowers are given by Pastor Bob and Rebecca Linstrom in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

### Prayer of the Day for 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Prayer for the Blessing of Teachers

God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher. Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education: give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought, and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students that they may grow in wisdom and be prepared to face the challenges of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Trinity Members in Our Prayers

We pray for Trinity members Fran Anderson, Dan Babin, George Bauer, Krysta Billock, Sherry Blair and family, Bob Carwell, Captain Karl Crist, Jack Danielson, Angela Davis, Riley Day, John Derbin, Awilda Diaz, Lois Engel, Beth Engstrom, Carol Eriksen, Ryleigh Fischer, Joe Fisher, Mari Franz and family, Mary Frick, Richard and Phyllis Gehl, Jack Greiner, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Carol Welz-Gustafson, Alexander Hahn, Mark Hahn, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Ruth Helzer, Jerry Hendricks, Bill Heyne, Carrie Hoeksema, Callan Hughes, Christopher Humphrey, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Gayl Kessel, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Roy Lamprich, Logan Landon, Marilyn Leese, Bob and Cathy Luders, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Joyce McKenzie, Bill McClimans, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Johnny Mielock, Moglia family, Michael Mulligan, Tim Neilson, Maddie Nojos, Roger Perham, Dan Pollert, Valeriano Ramirez, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Petra Rotzell, Tiago Saline, Bishop Craig Satterlee, Marian Schaible, Carolyn Schaner, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Ilene Seadal, Karen Selle, Joan Sellman, Jim Searfoss, Michael Smith, David Smoes, Joyce Snyder, Courtney Steketee 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.

## 19th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

*In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you are my God;  
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things,  
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.  
<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap,  
the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more,  
it will never be rebuilt.  
<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;  
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.  
<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor,  
a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.  
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,  
<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,  
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;  
the song of the ruthless was stilled.  
<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.  
<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

*Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.*

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, bless those who share in our ministry, including Pastor Jonathan Reid and the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Suttons Bay, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, guide us to a spirit of unity and harmony so that we may come to cherish our commonalities with people of other faiths. Bless our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Masjid At-Tawheed and Westminster Presbyterian Church. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, we ask for your guidance and blessing on our Stephen Ministry. We pray that each of us, during difficult times in our lives, will recognize our need to receive care from others, and that we will be willing to receive your care through our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*). Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community, including "In the Image" and the various other partner ministries we seek to support here in Grand Rapids. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, including Michael Franz and Susan Kwast, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of 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.

OCTOBER 11, 2020  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God's grace makes a difference in our lives.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his co-workers
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-14	The people make an idol
Thursday	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	A nation asks for forgiveness
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, guide our thoughts and actions in ways that reflect your reign of goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who promise us a feast of rich food, help us to take joy in this meal today. Amen. (Isaiah 25:6)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)



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OCTOBER 11, 2020

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Just As I Am, without  
One Plea*



### 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:

- Talk or think about a time you went to a party filled with friends, food, and laughter.
- Would you invite someone off the street who you do not know to a party? Why or why not?
- God's love in the Bible is seen sometimes as an invitation to a great party or feast. What does this say about God?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 22:1-14.

It is said we can have our own opinions, but not our own facts. Similarly, you can have your own message, but not your own Christian gospel. Matthew makes it clear that the good news of Jesus is powerful. God's mercy has the last word; it includes a divine judgment that says that the marginalized, the belittled, the "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3) will be blessed (v. 10). If we take the grace of God for granted, we not only miss the feast, we miss the fact that "many are called, but few are chosen" (v. 14). This text is from Jesus' final week before his crucifixion. The people see him as a prophet, a true messenger of God (Matthew 21:46), but soon he will suffer, be humiliated, and die. There will be false prophets who come along. They are like the guest who is not wearing the proper clothing and their message will be rejected. Our life in Christ will not be associated with messages and actions of hate, racism, prejudice or contempt for the poor. God's grace makes a difference in our lives and in the world in which we live. How does God's grace challenge your thoughts and actions toward people who are different from you?

**Pray: God of grace and mercy, cleanse us of our way of life that can become indifferent to the people you love through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



There is a theme this week about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think about what it means to show hospitality. Invite someone you may not know very well to your house for a meal.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalms 23 is one of the most well-known scriptures in the Bible. This psalm is the shepherd David's song to God. David likens how a shepherd cares for sheep to how God loves each one of us. Write a list of ways a shepherd cares for sheep. Look at your list and think about God caring for you in these ways. Pray: **Lord, thank you for caring for me and leading me with love. 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)