

Sunday, January 24, 2021 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Trinity's Weekly Connection

You are welcome to join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service from Centennial Hall on the Third Sunday after Epiphany, January 24 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 access to the live stream and the recorded video 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 the 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 Emily Albaitis, George Bauer, Janelle Beaudry, Jim and Sue Boyse and family, Bonnie Deb Bambini and family, Brandstadt and family, Pat Bruin, Janet Chobanian, Judy Cisler, Barb and Bob Crossman and family, John Derbin, Awilda Diaz, Beth Engstrom, Joe Fisher, Renee Fisk and family, Mari Franz and family, Mary Frick, Richard Gehl and family, Jack Greiner, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Mark Hahn, John Hall, Bob and Linda Heine and family, Ruth Helzer, Jerry Hendricks, Bev Heyne and family, Sid and Carrie Hoeksema and family, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Christopher Keller, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Joni Korb, Chris and Joanna Kutschinski, Roy Lamprich, Allison Landon, Logan Landon, Marilyn Leese, Jane Leguault, Judy Mallen, Roger Marks, Brian Mazurek and family, Marcia McClimans and family, Jill McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Johnny Mielock, John and Karin Moglia and family, Christophe and Benita Muganza, Kenny Muganza, Michael Mulligan, Tim Neilson, Joan Perham and family, Valeriano Ramirez and family, Jacqueline Riegling, Mark and Gayle Rohde and family, Lynn Rose, Thiago Saline, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Ilene Seadal, Jim Searfoss, Joan Sellman, Neil and Sue Sandler and family, Matt and Kara Seyffert and family, Kris and Tom Shannon and family, Michael Smith, David and Mary Smoes and family, Courtney Steketee and family, Gary and Pat Stevens and family, Linda Taffs, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Chris and Joanna Waite and family, John Walls, Fred Wilcox, Marge Willman, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Susan Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 24, 2021

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. ¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For those who share in our ministry, including the pastors and the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Au Gres, synod partners with us in mission and ministry, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For a spirit of unity and harmony so that we may come to cherish our commonalities with people of other faiths, and for our three "Standing Together" partner congregations here in Grand Rapids, Temple Emanuel, Masjid At-Tawheed and Westminster Presbyterian Church, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For those who provide leadership in Washington, D.C. and in state and local governments, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief, including those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*), that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that look forward to meeting again at Trinity during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.
Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Prayer for this time of pandemic and social upheaval

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.

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.**

A Prayer for our Nation in a Time of Transition

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of transition in our nation, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

JANUARY 24, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY



There is peace in waiting for God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:14-20	Jesus calls the first disciples
Monday	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Jonah goes to Nineveh
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 7:29-35	Live without anxiety
Wednesday	Philippians 4:4-7	Paul encourages his co-workers
Thursday	Isaiah 40:26-31	The Lord gives strength
Friday	Joshua 1:1-9	The Lord speaks to Joshua
Saturday	Psalms 62:5-12	God is powerful and kind
Sunday	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus teaches in the synagogue

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Psalms 62:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, my soul waits for you in silence; let me wait for you with confidence, peace, and hope through Jesus Christ. Amen. (Psalm 62:5-6)

Mealtime Prayer:

In peace we eat this food before us; in faith we receive this food with thanksgiving. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the steadfast love of God be yours as you place your trust in the good news of Jesus Christ. (Psalm 62:12 and Mark 1:14)



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

JANUARY 24, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*He Comes to Us As
One Unknown*



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 are some things that distract you and lead you to worry?
- How might God want you to deal with your worries?
- Why do you think the psalmist encourages us to wait for God's presence in silence? (Psalm 62:5)

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Corinthians 7:29-35.

The lectionary text ends at verse 31, but without verses 32-35, the heart of Paul's thought can be missed. Paul originally anticipated that Christ's return would happen in his own lifetime. Attention to marital matters, grief over the death of a loved one, concern for possessions, and daily schedules and responsibilities detract from the higher attention to "devotion to the Lord" (v. 35). What is helpful for us today is to be reminded that routine tasks can dominate our thoughts and we can miss the greater joy and calm that is ours through Christ. Our lives are finally, not measured by the demands of the day but by the steadfast love and faithfulness of God that is shown to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Yes, be responsible for the sake of the love of neighbor, but do not be defined by any accomplishments or failures. Be known, understood, and loved as a child of the risen Lord. Then we are able to hear the heart of Paul's message in verse 32: "I want you to be free from anxieties." Be free, be attentive, be faithful, and, of course, experience God's grace, mercy, and peace, not anxiety or fear. Indeed, isn't this part of what Simon and Andrew and James and John experienced when they walked away from the beach to follow Jesus in Mark 1:14-20? When have you been able to let go of anxiety because of the greater good that God has in store for you?

Pray: **God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, give us peace to see you in the midst of all things, and let us be devoted to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



There is much anxiety in people's lives. Seek out someone you know who is experiencing frustrations or worries. Take time to listen to them and offer them a prayer of hope and comfort.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer that does not ask for specific requests. It is simply an openness to God's presence and what God may want to say to the person praying. Cross your arms over your body and breathe in saying: **Bless me with peace, O Lord.** As you exhale say: **Thank you for your peace, O Lord.** Do this several times and then sit in silence until you feel ready to conclude 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