

Sunday, May 30, 2021 — The Holy Trinity

Trinity's Weekly Connection

Join us for live streaming of our "Virtual Worship" service for Holy Trinity Sunday from Centennial Hall on Sunday, May 30 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.

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.

Altar Flowers and Eternal Light for Sunday, May 30

The altar flowers for the traditional and Rejoice worship services are given by Pastor Bob and Rebecca Linstrom in loving memory of Ruth Johnson's May 30 birthday. She would have been 89 today.

Prayer of the Day for The Holy Trinity

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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, Fran Anderson, Deb Bambini and family, George Bauer, Krysta Billock, Jim and Sue Boyse and family, Kim Bradbury and family, Kim Brock and family, Pat Bruin, Judy Cisler, Mike Danielski, Jack Danielson, John Derbin, Carol Eriksen, Ruth Ann Evans, Diane Field, Kris Fox, Mari Franz, Mary Frick, Marge Greiner and family, Elena Griewahn, Adam Guigue, Craig Gunderson, Mark Hahn, John Hall, Ruth and Denny Helzer, Jerry Hendricks, Sid and Carrie Hoeksema and family, Callan Hughes, Carol Huttenga, Austin, Meredith and Theodore Johnson, Patricia Johnson, Christopher Keller, Susan Knoll, Jen Knowles, Joni Korb, Roy Lamprich, Allison Landon and family, Greg Law, Marilyn Leese, Jane Legualt, Judy Mallen, Jessica Marks and Patti Patton and their families, Roger Marks, Mark and Rebecca Mattison and family, Peter McKinney, Marilyn Mellema, Johnny Mielock, John and Karin Moglia and family, Christophe and Benita Muganza, Kenny Muganza, Michael Mulligan, Karen Nagle and family, Tim Neilson, Kris Racek, Jacqueline Riegling, Lynn Rose, Petra Rotzell and family, Thiago Saliba, Marian Schaible, Chas Schaner, Chris Schomberg, Vince Schumacher, Jim Searfoss, Joan Sellman, Neil and Sue Sandler and family, Matt and Kara Seyffert and family, Michael Smith, David and Mary Smoes and family, Joyce Snyder, Courtney Steketee and family, Gary and Pat Stevens and family, Shirley Tedford, Jeremiah (JD) Thamban, Dale and Gale Volkerding and family, Richard Waite, John Walls, Fred Wilcox, Marge Willman, Eric Wollen, Peyton Wollen, Rick and Michelle Wolner, Mark Youngren, and Kathryn Zielinski.

Holy Trinity Sunday

May 30, 2021

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for your holy church around the world. Revitalize and renew us, that we may be reborn once again through the waters of baptism and the blowing wind of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who share our ministry, including Pastors Gary Bunge and Haley Vay Beaman and the people of University Lutheran Church in East Lansing, synod partners with us in mission and ministry. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, you invite us to cherish our commonalities with people of other faiths, including 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.**

We give you thanks for your power revealed to us in creation; for cedar and oak trees, for rushing waters, for the echoes of thunder. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations and our leaders, that led by your Spirit, they work towards a world where all of your children enjoy peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for healing for all those who suffer, especially victims and survivors of trauma or violence. Give respite to those living with PTSD or any other mental health concerns. Restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day, including those lifted up in Trinity's prayer ministry, published and announced, and those we name now in our hearts (*a brief silence*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this worshipping community, Trinity Lutheran Church, that the splendor of your majesty and the holiness of your mystery may be glorified through our worship and our relationships with one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for those who have died in the faith, including Trinity members Ilene Seadal and Jack Greiner. We remember also those whose lives have been lost due to the horrors of war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.
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.

MAY 30, 2021
TRINITY SUNDAY



God is holy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Psalms 103:1-14	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Friday	John 15:12-15	Jesus calls us friends
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And one [angelic figure known as a seraph] called to another and said:
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."
Isaiah 6:3 (NRSV)*

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us courage and hope to live each day through Jesus Christ born in us through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Creator God, for the beauty of the earth and for this food, the fruit of the earth that we are able to eat this day, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)



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MAY 30, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God Almighty*



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 hear the word, "holy," what do you think of?
- How is God more than a "good buddy" who gets me through tough times?
- How does God's holiness strengthen you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 6:1-8.

We live in an age when we can often envision God for us as a close and warm friend. That image is reinforced for us in John 15:15 when Jesus describes his followers as "friends." However, even in the John passage, there is an expectation of obedience, not just coziness. In Isaiah, the sense of reverence, awe—even deep fear—is present as Isaiah accepts his call as a prophet of God. In this dramatic moment in the temple with God and Isaiah present together, there are angels that have appearances that look like snakes and lions that can fly around with wings. It is a scene in which Isaiah responds with the words, "Woe is me" (v. 5). Trinity Sunday reminds us of God in three persons. A danger in such language is to assume that with such words we can really grasp the totality of who God is. Isaiah reminds us of the total otherness of God that is filled with power, might, judgment, and holiness. Jesus makes God accessible and personal. Trinity Sunday can remind us that our intimate relationship with God remains filled with awe and wonder. God is filled with glory, strength, majesty, and holy splendor (Psalm 29). Describe what this means to you and your faith.

*Pray: **Awesome God, you who are far beyond what I can imagine, I thank you for reaching out to me and to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

SERVICE

Psalm 29 gives many images of the power and awesomeness of God. As followers of such a mighty God, you are entrusted with divine powers of love to serve your neighbor near and far. How can you use God's divine power of love to serve others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Begin your devotion times this week by saying the *Prayer for the Week* and marking yourselves with the sign of the cross. You may also wish to light three candles during devotions to represent the Trinity.

*Say: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.***



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