

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19th / July 20th 2020

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

1216 Colfax Street
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(715) 732-2956



Welcome to Trinity!

We're glad you're here to worship!

*If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tesch
(715-587-8521) or Principal Danell (715-732-2956)*

They will be happy to hear from you.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

(Hymn 234 vv. 1,2,4)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord,
who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen
All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

4. Praise to the Lord,
who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily
attend you.
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do
As with his love he befriends you.

Please rise

Confessions of Sins:

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

C: Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness:

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants, who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated

Old Testament Lesson

Christians trust God—especially when life doesn't make sense. Consider Joseph's life. He went from favorite child in a wealthy family, to slave in a foreign land, to unjustly convicted prisoner, to sudden ruler over a powerful nation—all by the time he was 30.

In the roller coaster that was Joseph's life, the only constant was God. God was there for Joseph in the good times and the bad—caring for him, guiding him, and giving him strength. In every stage of his life, Joseph learned to serve God in faith—using whatever resources and opportunities God provided.

In Genesis 41, we witness Joseph's elevation to de facto ruler of all Egypt, but Joseph's purpose didn't change. His job was still to serve God in faith, just on a much larger scale. All the ups and downs in Joseph's life had trained him to trust God. His faithful service in small things prepared him to serve faithfully in big ones.

Wouldn't it be great to be able to rescue a nation from disaster? We're tempted to think that we don't have the resources or that we're not important enough. We learn from Joseph's life that it is up to us to serve

God faithfully with whatever resources and opportunities he provides. Then we leave it up to God how he will use our service.

God could be preparing you to save the nation. Or he might be preparing you to save just your corner of it. Be faithful. Don't underestimate what God is doing through your service. He is working for his kingdom through all of us.

We read from the history of the ancient world, dictated to Moses by God himself, in the book of Genesis, chapter 41.

Genesis 41:41-49 (EHV)

⁴¹ Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “Look, I have appointed you over the whole land of Egypt.”

⁴² Pharaoh took his signet ring off of his hand and put it on Joseph's hand. He dressed Joseph in robes made from the best linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ He had him ride in the second-best chariot that he had. Men went ahead of him crying out, “Kneel down!” Pharaoh appointed him over the whole land of Egypt. ⁴⁴ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, but in the whole land of Egypt no one will lift up his hand or his foot without your permission.” ⁴⁵ Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath Paneah, and he gave him Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, as a wife. Joseph went out and began to rule over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and traveled throughout the whole land of Egypt. ⁴⁷ During the seven years of abundance the earth produced plentiful harvests. ⁴⁸ He collected all the food during the seven good years in the land of Egypt, and he stored up the food in the cities. In every city he stored the food from the fields that were around the city. ⁴⁹ Joseph stored up a huge amount of grain, like the sand of the sea. Finally, he stopped keeping track, because it was too much to measure.

Gospel Lesson

It's hard to comprehend just how much Jesus cares. We get glimpses in the Gospels. When Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been executed by Herod, he wanted to be alone. So, he went by boat to a deserted place to grieve. He loved his cousin.

But crowds of needy people tracked him down and denied him his privacy. And we see Jesus' love well up again. He put their needs before his own and healed them. When they got hungry, he fed them.

When his disciples told him to send them away, he told them to care for them instead.

Which brought an opportunity to show his love again—this time for his disciples. He gave them a chance to exercise their faith.

He told them, “You give them something to eat.” The disciples, however, saw all of the problems and none of the possibilities. They could estimate how many months’ wages it would cost; they could count the measly resources on hand.

Their math didn’t fail them, but their faith did. They didn’t even begin to understand what kind of Lord they had in Jesus.

Jesus taught them that Christians trust in God. He said, “Bring them here to me!” They really should have done that first. “Bring it to Jesus” should be our first response in any need or crisis. Look how he answered! He provided so much food that thousands were fed and there were bushels left over. Here, the Son of God showed that he cares for every need of his people.

Trust in God! His love runs deep. He cares for us—as only our Savior can.

We read from the 14th chapter of the apostle Matthew’s eye-witness account of Jesus’ life, dictated word-for-word by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 14:13-21 (EHV)

¹³ When Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place to be alone. When the crowds heard this, they followed him on foot from the towns.

¹⁴ When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw a large crowd. He had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ When evening came, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place and the hour is already late. Send the crowds away, so that they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

¹⁶ But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

¹⁷ They told him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.”

¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he replied. ¹⁹ Then he instructed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. After looking up to heaven, he blessed them. He broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples. The disciples gave the food to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were filled. They picked up twelve basketfuls of what was left over from the broken pieces. ²¹ Those who ate were about five thousand men, not even counting women and children.

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Sermon Text - Christians and God's Gifts

We live in a spectacular world! I stopped to watch a bumblebee crawl into flower after flower today. That's pretty cool—the beauty of the flower and the intricate persistence of the bee. God created them to work together. A breeze blew some of the heat away from my skin. The sun was shining and birds were singing in the distance. What an incredible creation.

It's easy to lose sight of God's artistry in the middle of plagues, protests, and politics, but God has created an amazing home for us here on earth. We're surrounded by beauty and wonder. He provides food and oxygen. He grants rest and awakens us with new energy.

Of course, we sinned. We threw away our relationship with God. We took the good things God made and defiled them. Just look at what people do with God's good gifts. God's gift of marriage is degraded to lust. God's gift of food is warped into gluttony. The gift of rest is reduced into laziness. The very gift of life is turned into something selfish and greedy.

What's even more amazing is that he fixed that too. He came into this twisted, sinful world and washed sin away. Then he made us new. He brought us back into the family to enjoy life and eternity again. (and again, and again).

Let's receive God's gifts with thanksgiving. Let's use them according to God's guidance in his Word. Let's keep looking up and remember that everything belongs to God. Let's offer prayers of thanks and praise. Let's savor his blessings and remember whose arms hold us close.

God gives us life—a wonderful life here, and a perfect life forever in heaven. Let's enjoy them together in the grace of God.

We read from the 4th chapter of St. Paul's first letter to Timothy, dictated word-for-word by the Holy Spirit.

1st Timothy 4:4-5

⁴In fact, everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵because it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Special Prayer regarding Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, our Great Physician,

We come before you in great need. We ask that you would end this plague on our world. We do not ask because we are worthy, but because you are gracious and merciful. If it is your will, heal those who are afflicted. Comfort those who are suffering. Grant wisdom and success to those who are treating and researching this disease.

Teach us to celebrate your blessings and your love. Help us not to take for granted our health or the connections we have among family and friends.

In your name we come to you. Amen.

Prayers for Our family and Friends

Milferd Behnke, Clem Bintz, Ashleigh Bourdelais, Gladys Constine, Geri Garbrecht, Dorothy Johnson, Rose Karr, Noah & Kristin Olson, Dave Schacht, and Lisa Schmitt

Prayers for those called to protect

Military: Jesse Adams (Sue Connor's son), **Greg Carow** (Dennis Carow's godson/nephew), **Aeron Forsberg** (Linda and Gene Erickson's grandson), **Dayton Godfrey** (Dave & Cindy Schacht's great-nephew), **Joshua Jansen** (Isaac Jansen's cousin), **Jesse Johnston** (Jim & Laurie Johnston's son), **Patrick Noppenberg** (Denis & Deb Vieth's son), **Aaron Stocker Jr.** (Martina (Dura) Stocker's husband), **Dylan Vanko**, (Roy and Grace Chmela's grandson), and **Thomas Weirich** (Mary Bush's nephew).

Firefighter: Steve Campbell.

Police: Greg Haemker, Raymond Cashaw (Pastor Sonnemann's niece's husband) and **David Peterson** (Jamie Tesch's uncle). Ask the Lord to bless them, strengthen them, and keep them safe.

The Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

The Benediction:

*The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.*

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

(Hymn 432 v.1)

*1. I am Jesus' little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.*

WELS Connection



Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.

~1st Timothy 4:4

TRINITY'S CORE MISSION

Shining the Light of the Gospel in our community.

John 8:12 - *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Matthew 5:16 - *"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*