

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 17, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “Come to Jesus” Chris Rice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1T-VfypD8j4>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

P: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundance grace of God.

Holy God,

P: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

L: How vast is God’s grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God’s own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God’s forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ’s justice and the Spirit’s reconciling peace.

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SONG: "I Am" - Crowder

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cH_LLGiE0f0

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out;
. O LORD, you have known me.
²You know my sitting down and my rising up;
. you discern my thoughts from afar.
³You trace my journeys and my resting-places
. and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
. but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
⁵You encompass me, behind and before,
. and lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
. it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts;
. you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
. your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
¹⁵My body was not hidden from you,
. while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
. all of them were written in your book;
. my days were fashioned before they came to be.
¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
. How great is the sum of them!
¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
. to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by divine power.

¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are parts of the body of Christ? Should I therefore take the parts of the body of Christ and make them parts of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with that prostitute? For it is said, 'The two shall be one flesh.' ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with the Lord. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

GOSPEL READING: John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked Jesus, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And Jesus said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son-of-Man."

PREACHING TEXT: 1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; lie down again." So Samuel went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if the LORD calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that the LORD told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that God told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "The LORD will do what seems good to the LORD."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

SERMON: “*Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening*” Pastor Jerome Evavold

SONG: “*Here I Am Lord*” Chris Bray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NT4WJns0Sg>

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING

SONG: “*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*”

ELW #751

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.

The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise;
All my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise:
God, the wellspring of life.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Then pray these intercessions:

As this week we observe the Week of Prayer for Christian unity, commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., and inaugurate the new President of the United States, let us offer our laments and petitions to God, responding to each with the words “In mercy, receive our prayers.”

O God, we lament the times when our churches have rejected collaboration with your world-wide family of grace — *a brief silence* — and we pray for your blessing on the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, evangelicals, and independents, that all your people will follow your call to discipleship and grow deeper into our unity in Christ.

Another brief silence.

O God, Shepherd of your people, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the ways that we and our society have misused your earth with selfish or short-sighted actions — *a brief silence* — and we pray for an increased commitment to the care of your marvelous creation.

Another brief silence.

O God, Gardener of the globe, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the occasions when our government has neglected the needs of the people of America and the calls for international cooperation — *a brief silence* — and we pray for President-elect Biden, for Vice President-elect Harris, and for all our elected members of Congress, that they fulfill their obligations to uphold and extend the common good.

Another brief silence.

O God, Shield of the commonwealth, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the uncontrolled rage and the senseless violence that recently defaced our nation — *a brief silence* — and we pray that peace reign in our streets, that our capital cities be safe, that all citizens come to accept the new administration, and that a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation mark the next stage of our national life.

Another brief silence.

O God, Peacemaker in our land, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the decades of ethnic injustices and racial prejudice that brought such suffering to many residents of our country — *a brief silence* — and we pray that you bless the Indigenous peoples, descendants of Africans, and all immigrants to this land, and that you form us into a nation in which all are honored in equal measure.

Another brief silence.

O God, Liberator of the oppressed, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the unspeakable sadness that has been unleashed by the coronavirus here and around the world — *a brief silence* — and we pray that you bring health to the sick, comfort to the dying, resilience to health workers, prompt vaccinations to everyone, and a lasting end to this scourge.

Another brief silence.

O God, Physician and Nurse, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament also our private sorrows and our hidden fears,
and we pray that as with the boy Samuel, you speak to us in the night of our need.

A longer period of silence.

O God, Lover of our souls, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

We lament the lives of those who have died, in storms, in riots, and in sickbeds. We praise you especially for the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., and those we name here before you. . . .; and we pray that at the end, we join with all the members of your family in your presence.

A brief silence.

O God, eternal Arms of Mercy, hear our cries;
In mercy, receive our prayers.

Into your hands, O loving God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: 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.

BLESSING

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: "No Matter What"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPeY_RK7akk

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

P: Thanks be to God.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Trinity's Annual Meeting will be held as a Zoom meeting on January 31, 2021 at 11 a.m. Prior to the meeting, the 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Budget and Ballot will be e-mailed to those with e-mails. A hard copy will be mailed to anyone who requests one.

ENDOWMENT APPLICATIONS: Application forms and information are available on our website and Facebook.

REMINDER TO COUNCIL/TEAM MEMBERS: Please get your reports to Aine as soon as possible because of the early mailing date for the Annual Congregational Report.

AFTER THOUGHTS
January 17, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Where Nothing Is Expected

At one of his life's worst intersections, when legs trembled and steps were mired in bogs of doubt, his companion looked into the man's hollowing eyes and said, "I believe in you. I know you." Have you ever needed such a word?

The list is painfully long that names all of the circumstances and places from which it is assumed nothing good can come. Perhaps you have compiled your own catalog of those who fall short, the irredeemable neighborhoods, or the situations beyond hope in the life of others. Perhaps you find yourself on someone else's list, among those whose life and plight has been dismissed as "nothing good." So it was thought of Jesus, whose life was rooted in the hillside soil of a sidetracked town—Nazareth—where nothing remarkable, not much at all, was expected to grow up. That town and its people were on the "unfavorable" list.

It is a riddle of scripture that the likes of Philip (or Peter, John, James, and Andrew—those gospel familiars) would, seemingly without discernment or a second thought, leave everything when Jesus interrupted his settled life and bid him, "Follow me." For Nathanael, it was different. He took an honest and reasonable step back. He knew all the talk about nothing good coming from Nazareth.

So many of our stories wither and so much of who we are dies when we are confronted with the "I know about you" list of painful failures instead of a loving, hopeful invitation to "come and see." (John 1:46).

There is a mighty mercy, an opening of heaven itself before our very eyes, a retelling of each "Nazareth" in our lives if we dare to "come and see" Jesus. Then that painful, long, imposed or self-inflicted list is no longer our truth because we, in seeing Jesus, begin to see ourselves and others as Jesus does. An epiphany happens: "I believe in you."

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