

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
“LOVE IT SUNDAY”
FEBRUARY 14, 2021



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Wear Red and Remember you are Loved Sunday**

***On this traditionally “Love It Sunday” you will be invited to respond to some questions in the Zoom chat or Facebook message area, giving thanks for all that we love.**

Gathering “Love It Sunday” Question:

What is something you have loved doing even as we have been quarantined during this past year?

What is something you love to do that you can’t wait to do again?

WELCOMING A NEW MEMBER:

L: Today we welcome Cheryl Moeller as a member of Trinity to join with us in worshipping God, hearing the Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people and striving for justice and peace in all the earth.

L: Let us pray, We thank you Lord for Cheryl. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one and you will be All-in-All. Amen.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always. Let us share the peace with one another.

CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 27

L: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?

P: The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid

L: One thing I ask from the LORD,

P: that I may dwell with the LORD all the days of my life and gaze on the beauty of the LORD.

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

P: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: “Drawn to the Light”

ELW#593

People who walk in darkness have sought a light in the heart of the darkest night,
Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God

Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.

How can we tell, a heaven from hell if everyone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels and we’re drawn to the light of God.

Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none? The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
Bids us to come! Life has begun when we’re drawn to the light of God.

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 abundant 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. Almighty God, the light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME: *"Lit Up by Love"*

SONG: "He is the Light" LifeTree Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fzoOmdZrx8>

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

¹Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho.

⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” ¹⁰He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its drivers!” But when Elisha could no longer see Elijah, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 50:1-6

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.

⁵“Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

⁶The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause,
for it is God who is judge.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 9:2-9

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.



MESSAGE: Shivon Miller

SONG: “*Light of the World*”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eI302Av7vSI>

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.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONGS:

"Beautiful Savior" Ginny Owens

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6bRpkR363s&list=PLcLftddRUpoa68tSOg0sz5Xza_rS6JHL-&index=45

"This Little Light of Mine" Cave Quest VBS Music Video | Group Publishing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA>

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this last Sunday after Epiphany, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need, responding to each petition with the phrase, "Alleluia! Amen."

Hear our prayer, O God:

Alleluia! Amen.

O God of light, we pray for communities of faith around the globe, for our own congregation, for our pastor(s), and for all Christians who cannot gather for communal worship. Show us your face in the darkness, and speak your word of power to all the faithful. Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

O Morning Star, we pray for the earth, for life forming in the dark earth and ocean depths, for creatures seen and unseen, and especially for the animals who require cold and ice. Give us your Spirit's guidance in our stewardship of the planet. Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

O Sun of righteousness, we pray for our nation's elected leaders, for attorneys and juries, and for all who work for justice in our land. Give to them all integrity in service and courage to choose what is right. We pray for our citizenry, that prejudice cease, that resentment about the election wane, and that violence be averted. Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

Beautiful Savior, we pray for all who suffer from Covid-19, for medical workers, and for all who await the vaccine. We pray for those enduring famine, for those experiencing homelessness, for the people of Yemen, and for all who live in war zones. We pray for all who are ill, for all who receive no medical care, and for those we name here before you: **Marilyn Peterson, Ronald Lundin and family (husband of Roni [Larson] Lundin and Art Strum's son-in-law)** ... heal them with your loving might. Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

Love divine, we pray for those who especially on this Valentine's Day feel lonely, for those who are abandoned, and for those who must live apart from their dear ones, especially for the children separated from their parents at our nation's border. Embrace all who are alone with your care. Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

Shine, Jesus, shine, also on me, and receive the petitions of my heart.

A longer period of silence.

Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

We remember before you all who have died in the faith. Be with us in our every darkness, until at our end we join with the saints in your everlasting light. Hear our prayer, O God:
Alleluia! Amen.

On this "Love It Sunday" we give you thanks for all that we love.

We thank you for the creation we love....*(invite to enter into chat beloved aspects of creation, Ex. Lake Superior, large oak trees, small critters in our backyard, etc.)*

We thank you for the foods we eat and love... *(invite to enter into the chat loved foods)*

We thank you for the hobbies we enjoy... *(Share loved hobbies and interests)*

We thank you for the people who lovingly provide service...*(ex. Firemen, restaurant servers, CHUM, etc.)*

We thank you for the people we love and who love us...*(Share names)*

We thank you for this community and the gift of each other.

O holy Trinity, Light-Creator, Light of Light begotten, and Light-Revealer, receive our praise and hear our prayers, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, 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.

THE BLESSING

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: “My Lighthouse” Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reAlJKv7ptU>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

AFTER THOUGHTS

February 14, 2021

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

A Cosmos of Kaleidoscopic Fragments

It was several months since her death, months of looking to make sense of his pained world that had changed so completely. In desperation, he wandered into a room of unknown faces, a circle of uncertainty. Welcome. Names. Introductions. Then instructions from the grief counselor: "Next week, bring an item, something that will let us know your loved one."

He wondered how that could possibly be done. What one thing, what symbol would be able to define a whole life? What to bring? Her hiking boots or blue sport sandals, the spinning wheel, a gardenia bush or bouquet of zinnias? The gold wedding ring worn for thirty years? Her passport? Perhaps one of her paintings. Maybe her recipe for spaghetti sauce with olives—no, better, her grandmother's date cookies. The flannel-lined jeans or white linen dress? A picture of her children, her Bible, a book, her diary? He did not return to the circle. He could not imagine any token to be stand-in for a whole life.

There with Jesus on a high mountain apart from the comings and goings below, just hours away from when he would foretell his own suffering and death, three disciples grasped for a full-screen image of their rabbi, Jesus. In one dazzling flash of terrifying brightness they thought they had found it. But then the same voice that presided over Jesus' baptism interjected: "This is my Son . . ." (Mark 9:7). Suddenly, a cosmos of kaleidoscopic fragments rushed in: there was Jesus restoring sight to blind eyes, defying demonic strongholds, settling seas, passing bread and multiplying fish, rattling an empire, embracing a child, drinking the Samaritan's water, eating the sinners' meals, casting mercy about like seed, robing enemies in love, championing the lowly, promising life, accepting death. There is no way that this Jesus could be condensed into a single moment, image, or being.

As if to say, "Don't be blinded by the light," from the cloud there came a voice: "*This* is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

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