

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR JEROME'S RETIREMENT FROM TRINITY
APRIL 25, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: On October 15, 1983 Trinity Lutheran Church called Jerome Evavold to be pastor: to proclaim God's word, to baptize and teach, to announce God's forgiveness, and to preside at the Lord's Table. Pastor Jerome, Mary and family, have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to the Duluth community, and in God's mission to the whole world. Today we give thanks for Pastor Jerome Evavold's 37+ years of ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church and celebrate with him as he enters into retirement.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

P: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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: "Come to Us" by Jerome and Barry

Come to us, come to us, come to us Lord Jesus

Come to us, come to us, come to us Lord Jesus

This we humbly pray, bless us on this day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

L: Most merciful God,

P: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASTOR JEROME: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GIVING THANKS FOR JEROME'S BAPTISMAL MINISTRIES:

L: For over three decades as we have gathered for worship, you have spoken these words of assurance to the congregation. You have presided at over 500 Baptisms in which the cleansing waters of baptism bear witness to this gift of new life in Christ. You have introduced this congregation to over 30 groups of confirmands affirming their baptismal promises. We thank you for your ministry surrounding baptismal promises.

And all of God's people said, *(everyone unmute and respond)*

P: "Thanks be to God!" *(remute)*

SONG: "Take Up Your Cross"

By Jerome and Barry

Take up your cross Jesus said
Don't let pride get in your way
Humble yourself, listen to him say
Come and follow me today
So take up your cross, He says to us today
I'll be with to show you the way
In order to live, the way life was meant to be
Just take up your cross and follow me

CHILDREN'S TIME: Shivon Miller, Minister of Congregational Life

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 103

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

¹⁴For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

¹⁹The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

²¹Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

²²Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

PREACHING TEXT: Romans 14: 7-9

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

MESSAGE: "We Are The Lord's" Pastor Jerome Evavold

GIVING THANKS FOR PASTOR JEROME'S PREACHING MINISTRY:

L: In the pulpit, from the center aisle, at outdoor services, on Facebook and Zoom you have proclaimed the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ at over 1000 worship services throughout these past 37 years. In addition you have preached at around 300 Trinity member funerals and at over 300 weddings. You have been a faithful servant of this church's pulpit and messenger of the good news of God's love in Christ. We thank God for your preaching ministry.

And all of God's people said, *(everyone unmute and respond)*

P: "Thanks be to God!" *(remute)*

SONG: "Connections" by Jerome and Barry

Connected to your love, through the one who is divine
Connected through the Spirit, like branches to a vine.
We are One and nothing can divide
We have won cause we're on his side.

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

Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly. Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.

GIVING THANKS FOR PASTOR JEROME'S OFFERING OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

L: With guitar and accordion, through lyrics and music you have written and led, joining your voice with members of the band, you have shared the gospel through song. Your gifts of music brought new life and new form to congregational worship. As you leave this contemporary music ministry, we thank you for your unique gifts and the way they ministered to the people of this congregation. And all of God's people said, *(everyone unmute and respond)*

P: "Thanks be to God!" *(remute)*

OFFERING SONG: “Getting Comes Through Giving” by Jerome and Barry

Help us Lord to hear
The Way your word appears
Help us Lord to see
The truth that sets us free.

Chorus:

Getting comes through giving
Winning comes through losing
Life comes out of dying
Happiness of crying
Getting comes through giving – this I know.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world, for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

P: Amen.

SETTING THE TABLE FOR THE MEAL PRAYER

L: God of all creation, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine, gathered in to be one loaf and one drink. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world a sign of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P:Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Leader: Pastor Jerome, Shivon leading the Assembly)

PASTOR JEROME: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

PASTOR JEROME: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

PASTOR JEROME: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PASTOR JEROME: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. With all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name.

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTOR JEROME: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Unmute and join Pastor Jerome in the 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

PASTOR JEROME: The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

THE MEAL

PASTOR JEROME: We receive the bread - The body of Christ, given for you. *(Everyone eats the bread)*

PASTOR JEROME: We receive the wine (juice) -The blood of Christ, shed for you. *(Everyone drinks the juice/wine)*

PASTOR JEROME: For all not taking of the elements but celebrating with us in one body, receive a blessing: Child of God, May God bless and keep you.

PASTOR JEROME: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMUNION

PASTOR JEROME: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Amen.

GIVING THANKS FOR PASTOR JEROME'S MINISTRY AT THE TABLE:

L: You have presided at the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You have reminded us of the story of Jesus' beginning of this meal. As you leave this table, we thank you and remember that we continue to be gathered with you around the table of God throughout all time and space.

And all of God's people said, *(everyone unmute and respond)*

P: "Thanks be to God!" *(remute)*

COMMUNION SONG: “We’re Not the First” by Jerome and Barry

We’re not the first to walk by faith, We’re not the first to know God’s grace
We’re not the first one’s God has chosen, We’re not the first ones to say
We’ve listened to God’s word today,
We’re not the first to join the cloud above.

Chorus:

A cloud of witnesses, a cloud of witnesses
They have held the light for us and kept it shining bright.
A cloud of witnesses, a cloud of witnesses
So we could have our sight, a cloud of witnesses.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this fourth Sunday of Easter, let us pray for the church, the earth, and all in any need, responding to each petition with the words, “Abide with us in love.”

A brief silence.

God of goodness and mercy, we pray for the church: that bishops and pastors be upheld in their tasks as shepherds of your flock; and that congregations persevere in their ministries of nurture of the young and care for the aging.

O God, steadfast shepherd of the church, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We pray for the earth: that green pastures and clear waters be provided for herds and flocks, those raised for human use and those living wild; and that farm fields be saved from storm or drought.

O God, mighty preserver of the universe, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We pray for the nations of the earth: that governments cease aggression against their neighbors; that peace come to all the earth.

O God, the true cornerstone of society, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We pray for justice in our land: that our criminal justice system continue to be reformed; that ethnic and economic prejudices cease.

O God, almighty judge of righteousness, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We pray for those who are hungry: the unemployed, the underemployed, those living in refugee camps or on our streets, the migrants seeking a better life; that they be fed.

O God, benevolent table of food and fellowship, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We pray for all who are sick or suffering: for those stricken with the coronavirus, especially in India and Brazil; for the children who have known continual sorrow; and for those we name here before you. . . .

A brief silence.

O God, healer of our every ill, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We pray finally for ourselves: that you will receive the petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

O God, tender shepherd of each of us, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

We praise you for all the sheep of your fold, each lamb of your own flock. Especially today we remember **Craig Godmare**. Bring us with all the saints to dwell in your house forever.

O God, eternal giver of life, we pray:

Abide with us in love.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING PASTOR JEROME AND MARY:

Pastor Jerome, you have been a blessing to us and we look forward to seeing you again.

Mary, as you leave Trinity with Jerome, we wish to bid you farewell also. In holy baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you a member of this church.

God has blessed you both in this community, and God has blessed us through both of you.

As Jerome will no longer be Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, we honor these boundaries together. Mary and Jerome will continue to be friends, family in Christ, and we will cherish that relationship. Thank you for journeying with us all these years.

RELEASING PASTOR JEROME FROM CALL:

L: People of God, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Jerome Evavold from service as your pastor? *(everyone unmute and respond)*

P: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together. (remute)

L: Pastor Jerome Evavold, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Trinity Lutheran Church?

PASTOR JEROME: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

L: Let us pray:

Almighty God, we give you thanks for Pastor Jerome's ministry among the people of God in this place. Help Jerome and Mary and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us. As they have been a blessing to us, send them forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

PASTOR JEROME: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forever.

P: Amen.

SENDING SONG: “God Be with You Till we Meet Again”

God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide uphold you,
With a shepherd’s care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet
Till we meet, till we meet – God be with you till we meet again.

DISMISSAL:

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God!

AFTER THOUGHTS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Abundant Care

One of the things that drew people to Jesus was that he was a master communicator. Drawing from examples of daily life, like shepherding, fishing, and growing grapes, he helped people see the connections between their story and God's story. He drew from very ordinary and familiar elements like bread, water, and light to describe how God is at work in our lives and the world.

If Jesus were using imagery from our world today, it's interesting to ponder what illustrations he might use to remind us of God's presence and grace. However, even though much has changed from the ancient world, the "I am" sayings of Jesus, like those found in today's gospel, are still amazingly relevant and tell us a great deal about how God moves among us.

When Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), and describes how this shepherd cares for his sheep, he is naming God's abundant care for each and every one of us. Perhaps you don't always feel the immediacy of God's care. There are moments in each of our lives when our outlook is bleak, when God's provision doesn't seem obvious, and when we wonder where God is in the midst of a trying situation.

But as the good shepherd, Jesus does not wait for us to be able to name our needs and pain before he comes to heal it. Jesus knows each one of his sheep in all their particular uniqueness: "I know my own" (John 10:14). God the good shepherd anticipates our needs and gives generously so we may have life in Jesus' name. This is a promise we can depend on yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

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