

Dear Trinity,

It is hard to know exactly *how* to say what needs to be said. I've thought a lot and prayed a lot about our congregation, our nation, and our world during this pandemic. I've cried a lot, too, for the sake of the world God so loves especially after the murder of George Floyd.

Kyrie Eleison! Lord have mercy!

During my first call, a colleague once said to me, "I have a joke for you but it's a little bit racist." Before he could continue, I replied, "No thanks. That's not funny to me." Things were never the same between us, but I confess, I wasn't sad about it. I was glad I'd been bold enough in the moment to respond.

During my second year in Whitewater, I was helping a parent organization with concessions at a football game. When the national anthem started playing, one mother declared, "I swear if any of those kids kneel, I'll beat their *\$#." My face said it all, but to my shame, my voice did not.

Just two of many examples where I've had the opportunity to say something, do something, be something beyond myself. I know, my life has been an imperfect witness to God's love for all people. But I plan to keep at it; I plan to get better with practice because I know I live with unearned privilege based on my skin color and my marriage to a man and my education and many other things I take for granted. From my privileged place, I plan to keep stating the bold truth that God loves ALL people and let the anger and arguments keep coming.

Anger and arguments are what happens when people are afraid. Anger happens when people just touch the Spirit of God and resist being swept up by it. The Holy Spirit is bigger than us, with depths unknown but including us in its power to transform the world. Our faith in Jesus must lead us to transformation or, I fear, we're not truly engaged with Him. Jesus always beckons us to follow beyond our comfort zone and into the world for which He died. He is not partisan, but he is political. Jesus is an activist, a community organizer, an advocate who searches for the one who is lost. Jesus embodies God's narrative of love.

Which can be hard to see because of violence and division. Perhaps instead of LOOKING for God's love everywhere, its time for us to trust the truth: it IS everywhere. It's time to declare it, be it, show it to others. Let us *be* love in the name of God for this world.

I pray that your heart will be transformed and your mind renewed. In the name of Jesus, we will change this world by being proof of His love for all people.

Grace + Peace

Pastor Amy

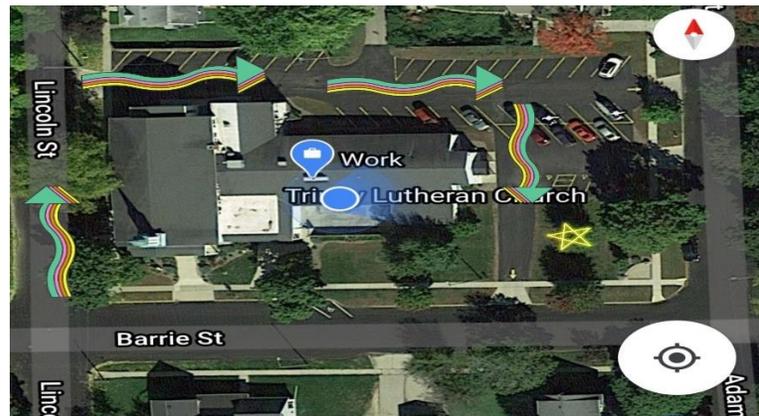
Drive Through Communion: Next Sunday, 6/14, 9 – 10 am at Trinity!

84 people received communion on 5/31. Tears were shed as the fast was broken. It was sacred and holy and decidedly different.

Communion is a sacred gift to us from God. Jesus commanded that we “do this to remember” him and still serves as the host of this meal. Come. Receive this gift, be strengthened by the love and sacrifice of Jesus, be renewed. To prepare yourself for receiving communion, please worship online with us at 8 am.

Pastor Amy and Pastor Dan will be stationed in the parking lot ready to distribute blessed elements of juice and wafer, the body and blood of Jesus. All you need to do is roll down your window!

1. Even with mask and glove precautions, there is some element of risk to this. If you feel unwell or are hesitant in any way, please stay home. Jesus loves you!
2. Enter the church parking lot of Lincoln Street and wrap around the building (arrows). Parking lot attendants will direct you to stations where Pastor Amy and Pastor Dan will pass communion to you through your window.



Please note: the church will be closed and bathrooms unavailable.
Gluten Free Wafers available on request

Yes! You can bring your offering to communion.

Yes! You can bring your quarters for Guatemala to communion.

Yes! You can bring your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House to communion.

Tune in to worship this Sunday 6/7 for a sermon delivered by Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.

Beginning Sunday, June 14, we start a new worship series called Unraveled: Seeking God when our Plans Fall Apart. Life doesn't always go as planned—sometimes that's good, and sometimes that's painful. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. This worship series explores 12 stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new. Study journals available at drive through communion and by appointment. Please contact the office for yours!

Please pray for Pastor Dan Dibbert and his family. Dan's mom Norma died on Tuesday 6/2/20. If you would like to send a sympathy card please contact Beatrice for Pastor Dan's address.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR.....Judy Almquist, Marsha Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Nick Bee, Linda Doerr, Kim Hannan, Renee Jensen, Ron Kemmerling, Bob Kyle, Phyllis Lang, Steffani Liebel, Rick Liebel, Dan Morrow, Pam Nicholas, Debbie Pierce, Tom Pomraning, Violet Prust, Paul Reed, Tim Sawyer, Denny Stark, Shelley Scheurm, Ruth Smithback, Karen Weber, Donna Weeks, Aryzone Zick, Donald Zuehlke and those we name silently in our hearts.



Daily Faith Practices

Holy Trinity Sunday (A) – 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Focus: *Our Experiences of God*

word of life

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” (2 Corinthians 13:13 NRSV)

Read 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

This Sunday is Holy Trinity Sunday—a day when the Church celebrates the mystery of the Trinity. It is the one Sunday of the church year where we do not recall an event or a teaching from the life of Jesus; rather we lift up our limited understanding of God in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

1. *How might you explain the Holy Trinity to someone new to the church?*
2. *What images are helpful when describing the Holy Trinity?*
3. *What difficulties are encountered as we attempt to understand and articulate the nature of God?*

Although there is no one event from Scripture serving as a basis for our lessons for today, Holy Trinity Sunday attempts to describe and articulate that which is indescribable and beyond words. It is a day when we affirm the ways we as a community of faith experience the presence of God.

4. *Why is our understanding of the Holy Trinity described as “limited”?*
5. *Why is the Holy Trinity “indescribable and beyond words”?*

The reading for today is the conclusion of Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth. Paul responded earlier in the letter to the news he had heard of the divisions in the community of faith and the challenges posed by some outsiders skilled at oratory and armed with letters of recommendation. (See 2 Corinthians 3:1 and 10:12.) These outsiders challenged Paul’s authority and his message. Their “gospel” was causing division in the church. Paul addresses the divisions in previous chapters and then “brings the message home” in the conclusion of the letter with his final words: “Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11 NRSV) Note: The Greek word translated in 2 Corinthians 13:11 as “farewell” is translated “rejoice” in Philippians 4:4: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say Rejoice.”

6. *How do you usually conclude a letter to someone dear to you?*
7. *What words of encouragement or advice do you give?*
8. *What is the significance of translating the word “rejoice” rather than “farewell”?*

Paul concludes the letter with a word of blessing and a prayer for the presence of the source of all peace, love, unity, and joy: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” (2 Corinthians 13:13 NRSV)

Paul writes in a few short phrases the essence of his experiences of God. We use various phrases to articulate that essence: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer; Source of all grace, love, and unity. No matter which phrases or words we use, we know that our words will always be incomplete. Our attempts to describe God will always fall short. For who can truly define the gift of the grace that comes to us through Jesus Christ? Who can truly define the love of God? Who can fully express the community experienced through the Holy Spirit? Perhaps the best we can do is celebrate the wonderful mystery of God experienced and witnessed in the life of the church, and offer a word of blessing for the grace, love, and community of God be with each of us. *And also with you.*

9. *When talking about God, what is essential to say?*

word among us

Ricky was never a church-goer. His family never took him to a worship service; in fact, he had never been inside a church building ... until this past Sunday. His best friend Jose invited him to Sunday school and church; and to Jose's surprise, Ricky said, "Yes." They gathered around two big tables that Sunday morning in the young adult class. The lesson was on our experiences of God in our lives and on what it means to be a church. At the end of the class, the leader had everyone turn to 2 Corinthians, divide into groups of two, and pray the blessing to the other from verse 13: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." (2 Corinthians 13:13 NRSV)

1. *Have you ever been offered a word of blessing? What was it like to be blessed by someone else?*
2. *Have you ever offered a word of blessing to someone? What was it like to be the one offering the blessing?*

After Sunday school, Ricky and Jose went into the church for worship. As the service began, Ricky intently tried to follow the liturgy. He was intrigued with the flow of the service and was surprised to see the pastor stand in front of the people and say this word of greeting: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all," (2 Corinthians 13:13 NRSV) to which the congregation replied, "And also with you."

"What a cool way to start!" Ricky whispered to Jose. "To be blessed from the very beginning, and to bless one another – that's cool!"

Yes, we are blessed from the very beginning by God. From the very beginning, when we were baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we were blessed to experience the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

3. *What does it mean to you to begin worship with these words of blessing?*
4. *How do these words of blessing describe the Holy Trinity and the nature of God?*

faith practice in daily life

Live among God's faithful peoples

These words (known as the "apostolic greeting") from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth are spoken at almost every worship service. They are words of blessing—a prayer for each one who gathers. As we live among God's faithful people, we experience God's nature and God's way of relating to us through the gifts of grace, love, and fellowship with one another. And as we receive this blessing, we in turn offer this blessing to one other.

5. *Who in your life continues to bless you with words and actions?*
6. *Who do you hope to bless (by your presence) in the upcoming week?*
7. *How might you be a blessing to strangers during the coming week?*

Prayer

In groups of two, take turns praying the apostolic greeting for one another. Place your hands on the other's head, and pray these words of blessing: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen"

last word

Watch for ways you experience God in your daily life.