



**ST. MATTHEW TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Where tradition and inclusivity meet.

Divine Worship

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2020

The Church is not closed for we are the Church! In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. We are only following our Lord's command to love and take care of one another. Taking the proper precautions to preserve the health and lives of the most vulnerable to this plague is our mission.

Introduction

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.



Welcome and Thanksgiving for Baptism

At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

You give us water for the cleansing of our hands so that we may love our neighbor as you command.

We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Salutation *II Corinthians*

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire

shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."
But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous,
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Psalm: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)

⁷Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach,
and shame has cov- | ered my face.

⁸**I have become a stranger to | my own kindred,
an alien to my | mother's children.**

⁹Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.

¹⁰**I humbled my- | self with fasting,
but that was turned to | my reproach. R**

¹¹I put on | sackcloth also,
and became a by- | word among them.

¹²**Those who sit at the gate mur- | mur against me,
and the drunkards make | songs about me.**

¹³But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have | set,
O Lord:

"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your un- | failing help.

¹⁴**Save me from the mire; do not | let me sink;**

let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of | the deep waters. R

¹⁵Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep
swal- | low me up;

do not let the pit shut its | mouth upon me.

¹⁶**Answer me, O Lord, for your | love is kind;
in your great compassion, | turn to me.**

¹⁷Hide not your face | from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am | in distress.

¹⁸**Draw near to me | and redeem me;
because of my enemies de- | liver me. R**

Second Reading: Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!"



-Roy C. Edens

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Meditation

A prayerful moment of silence is kept

Synopsis

There is terror all around. Violence and destruction, too. God’s deep and abiding love for us gives us the power to witness to this love by being truth tellers. Telling the truth about that condition of the world, however, has always been unpopular. Jeremiah experienced rejection. Even more, Jesus was killed. And Jesus calls us to follow him, to be countercultural like Jeremiah, to value the gospel of Jesus Christ even more than what the world counts as family values, to tell the truth openly about human sin and God’s mercy. It will not be easy. Still, because of Jesus’ death and resurrection and our baptism into him, we can live a new life, unafraid of death. We can trust we are seen and cared for, even in this time, as surely as God sees the sparrow. And we can tell others of this care, by our words and by our lives.

Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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Prayers

Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

John Weakland (Brian Weakland's Father)
Zoia "Charlie" Foster (Pastor's niece)
Al Wenzel (Friend of Oberndorf family, Hospitalized with Covid19)
The Family of Sean Gustwiller (Friends of Courtney Kochuba)
The Family of Charles Powers (Friend of the Meusel family. Covid19)
The Family of Richard Altomare (Our neighbor)
The Family of Francis Ng (Friends of the Stolls)
The Family of Amy Brekke (Friends of Pastor)
The Family of Arthur Jusu-Davies (Member of our congregation, Covid19)

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our needy world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your love is kind."

A brief silence.

O God, Father in heaven, hold your church in your loving arms. Protect believers who face persecution for your sake. Bless the work of evangelists and teachers like Onesimos Nesib, whom we commemorate today, as they translate their faith into other languages. Strengthen our pastors, deacons, and church councils for their ministry during these troubling times.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our provider, here in the north the summer solstice reminds us of your care for the whole creation. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been harmed. Feed all your creatures, both the animals and the humans, with the sustenance they need for life. Guide us to sources of energy that do not destroy the earth you have created.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our ruler, inspire our president Donald, our governors Andrew and Philip, and our legislators to work towards justice for all. Lead us to ways of life that are free from racial and ethnic prejudice. Strengthen the world's democracies, and sustain those who are working to secure free and safe elections. Give a home to refugees. Form our military and our police to maintain peace and to inhibit violence.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our physician, bring healing to all who are sick and suffering. Preserve the world from more waves of the coronavirus, and guide researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Protect those whose jobs expose them to contagion. Support our health care workers. We remember before you those we name here now:

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our peacemaker, inhabit each household in the land with your powerful peace. Train us to live together in harmony, especially when quarantined together. Nourish marriages, and sustain extended families. Protect children from harm of every kind.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our source of life, bless all fathers and father figures as they face both long-standing and emerging family needs. Comfort those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our beloved, receive now the petitions of our own hearts.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

O God our beginning and our end, we bless you for all our forebears in family and faith who have lived and died in you. Remind us of their sacrifices, and at the end bring us with them in your household of joy.

Hear us and help us, O God:
your love is kind.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

**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.**

Or

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

Announcements

- Congregational Meeting
- Help Keep our Pray list Current
- Ways to give
- Email: Pastorgary@stmatthewtrinity.org

Benediction and Dismissal

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Serving Today at St. Matthew Trinity Parish

The Rev. Dr. Gary C. LeCroy -Pastor

Mr. Richard Brode -Organmaster

Mr. Mark Singleton -Lay reader, cantor

Ms. Rebeka Schleifer -Lay reader, cantor

The Second Reading is read by Ms. Bernadette Oberndorf from Kearny, NJ.

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 6.

Tuesday Revelation 2:8-11.

Wednesday (John the Baptist) Luke 1:57-67 [68-80].

Thursday(commemoration of the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530; Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560) Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18.

Friday Galatians 5:7-12.

Saturday (commemoration of Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444)

Jeremiah 28:1-4.

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (commemoration of Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202) Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42.

Materials for the commemoration of the Emanuel Nine (June 17) can be found at www.ELCA.org/EmanuelNine.

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