



*“The birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”
St. Matthew 13:39*

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 26, 2020 — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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Rev. Richard H. Mueller	Pastor
Joy M. Sullivan	Parish Musician
Steve Horlebein	Parish Administrator

“Come, Celebrate with Us”

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

WELCOME, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! To assist the office staff in serving you, **please sign the yellow Attendance & Communion Registration sheet included in the bulletin.** We also ask first time worshippers to sign the guest book on the table near the doors.

Please direct all pastoral care concerns to Pastor, Rich Mueller at 914-388-2240.



Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We face the font, remembering God's promise of forgiveness in baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN [557, “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun”](#)



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélemon, 1741–1808

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

[CANTICLE OF PRAISE](#)



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
2 “Wor - thy the Lamb that died,” they cry, “to be ex - alt - ed thus!”
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
“Wor - thy the Lamb,” our lips re - ply, “for he was slain for us!”
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM (*Spoken in unison*)

Psalms 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

¹²⁹Your de- | crees are wonderful;
 therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
¹³⁰**When your word is opened | it gives light;**
it gives understanding | to the simple.
¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
 because I long for | your commandments.
¹³²**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**
as you always do to those who | love your name. R
¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
 let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
¹³⁴**Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**
and I will keep | your commandments.
¹³⁵Let your face shine up- | on your servant
 and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep your teaching. R

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

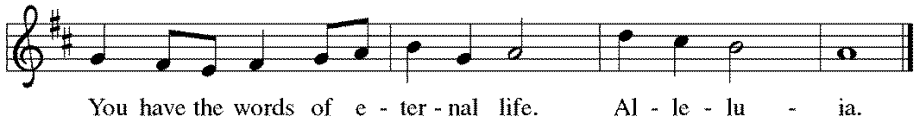
³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Spoken in unison)*



GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the

righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Linda Veren

SERMON

Rev. Richard H. Mueller

HYMN OF THE DAY

775, “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,

tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al

faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;

no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINE FREUDE, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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 PRAYERS *(Stand or kneel)*

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. *(Here a particular world struggle may be named.)* Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light *(especially)*. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

P: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Meal

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Your offering can be left in the baskets provided near the entrance of the sanctuary.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

186, "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Spoken in unison)*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The minister continues with the Words of Institution

Continue with the Lord's Prayer

C: 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

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Christ is truly present in this sacrament. We trust the Word, "The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you." By Christ's invitation, all baptized people of God are welcome to receive Christ's gift of love and mercy. Cups are available to receive wine from the Worship Assistant's pouring chalice. If grape juice is preferable, it is available in the tray the Acolyte carries.

Those not wishing to participate in Holy Communion may come forward and receive a blessing. Please notify the usher if you are unable to come forward, but wish to commune in your seat. Approach the altar from the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle.



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN [691, "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"](#)



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, h. 1957
 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, h. 1925
 Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The presiding minister may say a table blessing.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.

C: Amen

The assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

A: God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

547, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—
The sup - per is end - ed, Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.
The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now
reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing
to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

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HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Announcements for Sunday, July 26, 2020

TO KEEP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those worshipping for the first time at Holy Trinity. Cancer/Illness: **Joyce Dyas, Danny Inlow, Bruce Peterson, Dot Peterson and Wade Winslow;** Those serving in military, firefighters & law enforcement including: **Marc Alverson, Daryl Bogle, Adam and Cathryn Cormier, Steve Duke, Shawn Ethington, Brent Massey, Jordan Miller, Christopher Mueller, Rich Peacock, Derrick Thorsrud and Dylan Winslow;** Holy Trinity's Mission Partner: **Martin Luther Lutheran Church – Mobile, AL and Pastor Kathryn Love;** ELCA Leaders: **SE Synod Bishop Rev. Kevin Strickland, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Pastor Rich Mueller.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our stewardship last week: Attendance – 35 Offerings - \$4,221.00.

Congregation Meetings: On Sunday, August 2nd, 2020 directly following the Church Service we will hold two brief but very important back-to-back congregation meetings, each with a single item of business. The first will focus on approving Pastor's call renewal. The second topic will be to adopt the revised constitution and bylaws previously sent for review. Protocol requires that we officially hold two separate meetings. We need all voting members in attendance to remain in the sanctuary after the service. If you are not at the worship service but would like to attend the meetings, start time will be approximately 11:00.

SCRIPTURE AUGUST 2: *Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Today	9:00am Cancelled: Sunday School 10:00am Service of Holy Communion
Tues., Jul. 28	9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours 2:00pm Publish August Newsletter 2:00pm – 5:30pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons
Wed., Jul. 29	9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours
Thurs., Jul. 30	9:00am – 2:00pm Office Hours 1:00pm – 3:30pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons
Sat., Aug. 1	8:00am Men's Breakfast 8:00am Yoga Class
Sun., Aug. 2	9:00am Cancelled: Sunday School 9:00am Cancelled: Choir Practice 10:00am Service of Holy Communion 11:00am Congregation Meetings

Birthdays:

Audri Richards (7/29)

Assisting in Worship

Presiding Minister	Rev. Richard H. Mueller
Musician	Joy M. Sullivan: Piano Steve Horlebein: Guitar
Assisting Minister	Rich Peacock
Acolyte	Sophia Peacock
Lector	Linda Veren
Cantor	Randi Patterson
Children's Sermon	Sarah Howell
Altar Guild	Diane MacShane
Greeters	Emily Cormier & Bob Patterson
Ushers	Dave Howell, Sam Oldham & Chris MacShane
Tellers	Phyllis Buchholz & Mena Teal
Flower Pickup (<i>Saturday, August 1</i>)	Gary Lee

The flowers at the Alter today are given to the Glory of God with Great Thanksgiving by Tommie Morgan and in loving memory of Zeb Morgan.

JULY 26, 2020
EIGHTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	1 Kings 3:5-12	Solomon's prayer for wisdom
Tuesday	Romans 8:26-39	God's love in Christ Jesus
Wednesday	Genesis 29:15-28	Jacob marries
Thursday	Psalms 128	Happiness in daily life
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	God's grace is sufficient
Saturday	Psalms 119:129-136	The glories of God's law
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **Romans 8:26 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, help us in our weakness and sustain us with faith that trusts your never-failing care through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for daily food; as you restore our bodies with this meal, restore our souls with joy in your presence. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you trust that nothing will separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)



JULY 26, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*For by Grace You Have
Been Saved*



taking 
faith
home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When was there a time you felt too weak to work through a problem on your own?
- Do you find prayer easy or difficult? Explain.
- What makes it difficult to know God is with you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Jesus tells five short parables: two about growth, two about valuing something very highly, and one about separating good from bad. There are details of these parables that have challenged Christians throughout the ages. However, Jesus asks the disciples if they “understood all this,” and without any sense of hesitation they simply say, “Yes” (v. 51). Perhaps there is a cautionary tale here. Solomon simply wants wisdom and is praised by God for such a humble request (1 Kings 3:5-12), yet the larger story in 1 Kings reveals that Solomon ended up wanting and claiming much more than a humble quest for wisdom. Instead of preserving the kingdom of Israel, the twelve tribes become split into two realms because of Solomon’s failures. The Apostle Paul acknowledges our human frailty by noting that we do not know how to pray and that the Spirit helps us in our weakness. In the midst of seeking a life of faithfulness and wisdom, it is good to be reminded with much humility that our wisdom has its limits. Finally, what we need is a God who intercedes for us “with sighs too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Recall when God has been with you during a time of personal weakness or difficulty. How did God help you then?

Pray: The Lord’s Prayer.

SERVICE



“We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). Sometimes when a person is going through difficult times, they can easily lose sight of God. Do you know of someone who is struggling? Reach out to that person in their time of need through an act of kindness by taking time to listen.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Many congregations are smaller today than years ago and may feel insignificant. The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that big things can happen from the smallest of things. Growing the church is reliant on being intentional about sharing our own faith story and passing on the rituals and traditions we know and love onto the next generation. Pray daily that you may sow seeds of faith that grow into something great.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

PANDEMIC WORSHIP ADAPTATIONS

Thank you and God for being part of our worship together. To protect you and other worshippers Holy Trinity is following CDC, our synod and Alabama state recommendations as extra precautions. Here is a summary of our temporary worship adaptations that we ask everyone to respect and abide by while attending services. If you have any questions, simply ask one of our ushers.

1. Bringing and wearing a mask is strongly encouraged, especially if you cannot maintain six feet of separation from others. If you do not have a mask with you we have a small supply on hand. Hand sanitizer is plentiful.
2. It is imperative that everyone completes an attendance card. Please do so as this information would be critical if we ever need to complete contact tracing and stem a potential outbreak.
3. Please bring your own writing instrument for completing attendance cards, taking notes, etc. If you do not have one with you, ask an usher for a pen or pencil. We sanitize them before and after each service.
4. Maintain six feet separation between families for adequate social distancing once entering the building, while in the sanctuary, and until you leave the building.
5. Only the main entrance is being used. As you enter the building please pick up a bulletin in the Narthex and proceed directly to the sanctuary. The doors will remain open during worship services to optimize ventilation.
6. **Singing will be limited to only a soloist** for a while. Our usual musical accompaniment remains.
7. Passing of the Peace is curtailed for now. Opportunities always remain for a "stay in place" wave or some other safe gesture.
8. Restroom doors at the end of the hallway will remain open to minimize your physical contact with any other objects. Multiple anti-bacterial soap dispensers are inside. Since the narthex restroom does not afford adequate privacy, it is not available.
9. The offering and attendance cards will not be collected during the service but may be dropped in the labelled baskets on either side of the sanctuary. Please be sure to complete and place your attendance card in the basket before you leave.
10. Communion is being administered by family/seating unit at the front of sanctuary. This might take a little longer, but please maintain six feet from the worshipers around you. Follow the usher's guidance when it's your turn, approach from the center aisle, and exit to the left and return to your seats.
11. After the worship service please proceed to the building exit, taking with you as you leave all paper, writing instruments, bibles, precious stones, popcorn or any other items. Please be safe by being patient.
12. Temporarily, the narthex cabinets are locked and inaccessible. Hence, we do not have access to our mail folders and we are not wearing our name tags.
13. Following worship services we are not hosting any hospitality. Please avoid entering the Fellowship Hall or the classrooms.
14. The sanctuary and other common spaces are being cleaned and disinfected after each Sunday's worship.

IT DOESN'T JUST COUNT. IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Every 10 years, the U.S. census is sent to every household in the country. It contains 10 simple questions. The only wrong answer is not giving one. Completing the census helps Alabama obtain \$13 billion in funding used to improve our state's future. This means better health care, schools, roads, job opportunities, and more. And it only takes 6 minutes. Complete the census in March 2020.

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