

Sunday Devotion for Martin Luther Church

Holy Trinity, June 7, 2020



A warm welcome to watch this devotion and related videos at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjEQnirqCMOIOe8CEdJXqHcWxJGhzoK0>

A. GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Words of Welcome

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

I have chosen to come out here and fight the wind today to bring you all to Queens Park. This is where I come often to clear my head, feel God's presence, and commune with the world around me. This week and many others it has been a place of division, protestors who feel all COVID restrictions should be lifted for the sake of the economy, protestors who want subsidies for themselves and their families, protestors who are outraged by the violence and racism suffered by often



marginalized people in this country, protestors of all kinds have descended here this week. Each one angry and despotic. This has been a place of hurt and division. And today is Holy Trinity Sunday. This is the only big day that celebrates an element of our shared doctrine. That is the doctrine of the Trinity, recognizing God as Triune, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, God the father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost. Names aside, the doctrine is at our core and is shared by so much of the Christian family. In a world with hurt and instant division let us celebrate the unity of The Father, Son, and Spirit, unified with our siblings in Christ, a unity, a peace we are called to. Before we begin our time together doing so, let me pray for us.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

B. WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm 8, read by Patricia

¹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.

³When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, human beings that you should care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them little less than divine; with glory and honor you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet:

⁷all flocks and cattle, even the wild beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Bible Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, read by Vicar Adam McComb

[Paul writes:] ¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. 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. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20, read by Erik

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Sermon by Vicar Adam McComb

Our Old Testament reading Genesis 1 "In the Beginning" tells our creation story, God a powerful, present, intentional and loving Father.

The Epistle from 2nd Corinthians; short and sweet, The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Jesus our Lord, a Redeemed people, a young church would have read these words in letters and gathered hope while facing adversity and living in fear of persecution. Often living isolated.

Finally, our Gospel, almost as short and just as sweet, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

It is the, it is OUR great commission. A big commission, demand, command, a big ask, but wait. ...

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” An in dwelling, ever present God, the Spirit our sustainer.

Three readings, God the father our Creator, God the Son our Redeemer, God the Spirit our sustainer.

In our Words of Welcome today I Highlighted that this is the only major festival in our calendar that celebrates doctrine and I was sure to refer to it as shared doctrine. Now that you have heard each of the readings for today, I am sure you can hear those elements that we sing, say, and share each Sunday, gathered or otherwise. The Grace, meaning the signoff from 2nd Corinthians, “The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you” is shared in services across the Christian family. The Doctrine of the trinity, God as Triune, 3 in 1 it is big, and it isn’t even clear. The Word never makes understanding the trinity easy, Christ never sat down with the disciples producing a three-leaf clover Like St. Patrick, and said, this how the Trinity works. There was never a confusing parable about three sheep, or three mustard seeds that were one. As people we want logical, sequential, simple, we are built that way, the Triune God knew us before the world began, knew we want easy, nope! The Triune God’s word instead shows us who is in charge, sends us out into the world to as a UNIFIED people of action to teach about our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. It calls us to action without understanding, in short it calls us to faith, burgeoning, burning, growing, faltering, faith. Across our Christian family we can disagree well but the things we share, our unifiers are always where I feel called to dwell and reflect. Each and everyday we are called to action often without understanding, a faithful people of action, disciples. Where will your faith lead you this week? Will you tend to the creation we are a part of? Will you find you voice and shout unified with your siblings in outrage at injustices? Will you quietly sit and pray for your family, community, country, and this world? Today, this week, every day. Let your faith stir you to action, let your actions demonstrate your faith, let your heart yearn for unity, and your soul rest assured

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Amen

Hymn: Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty! ELW 413

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Prayers of Intercession, read by Iris and Vicar Adam McComb

These prayers are offered from the Lutheran Church in Canada and our siblings in Christ from the Catholic Church

God, this Trinity Sunday we have come before you to offer our praise and adoration. You are God the creator, giving us richly all things to enjoy. You are Christ the Savior of the world, made flesh to set us free. You are the Spirit of truth and love, willing to dwell in us. You are holy and blessed. One God, eternal Trinity, be near to us the people formed in your image, and close to the world your love brings to life. Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to see waterways, plant life, birds, fish, insects, and mammals and call them good.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the universe, we praise you for your creation, you have provided mankind with everything it needs for life and health. Grant that the resources of the earth may neither be hoarded by the selfish nor squandered by the foolish but that all may share your gifts.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice in often ignored communities.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship, you accompany this body of faith. As the rhythms of summer begin, protect all who travel, renew all who will enjoy a time of sabbath, and shelter all who will not be protected from the sun's heat.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, we pray for this broken world, create in us a love for peace, not peace that is absent from struggle, nor peace that is blind to injustice but peace that makes whole what now is broken. We remember those who struggle against injustice, for men and women who have to establish love's supremacy in violent and oppressive societies, and for those whom war and famine have robbed of homes, families and friends, may they be filled with your strength and wisdom and grant that where the love of man has failed your divine compassion may heal.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of unity, we pray for your church throughout the world, for those that are thriving and those which have lost a sense of direction.
We give thanks for our church and its people, and gladly acknowledge all the gifts you have given us through its life, we ask you to open wide our hearts that we may welcome the stranger and share our faith with others,
open wide our minds that we may receive new truth and understand your will
open wide our doors, that as we have come into worship so we may go out with you to the service of the world
open wide our lives that through discipline and prayer we may experience your power in daily living.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives. We pray for the families and friends of Inge Bourhofer and Gunther Friedrich Holz who mourn them as they pass from this life to rest eternally with you Lord. May those hurting find comfort knowing you are with us to the end of this age.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless those who have celebrated their birthday this week, including Martina, Klaus, Marianne, Peter, Eric, Friedrich and Silke. Accompany them with the spirit of friendship and warmth in their new year of life.

God of all, You turn our darkness into light;
in your light shall we see light
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

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

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Apostle's 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 Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

C. SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Our final prayer and blessings today is offered in unity with our siblings in Christ, the Presbyterian Church of Canada

May the Lord always bless you. May the Lord always keep you.
May his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
May he lift up his countenance unto us all.
And may He give you peace as eternal peace.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go forth today unified in the love of God, called to action and service.

Announcements

In light of the current COVID-19 outbreak, **all meetings and worship services are taking place virtually.**

- Sunday [Video Devotions](#) are on our [YouTube Channel](#). Please subscribe and comment.
- German [Radio Devotions](#) on our website and Sundays at 9.30 am on CHLO Radio AM 530
- [Virtual Sunday Coffee Hour](#) at 11:00 am through Zoom (link sent by email)
- [Sunday School lessons](#) and [Fabulous Fridays](#) on our website
- [Virtual Coffee Shop Talk](#), Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm through Zoom led by Vicar Silke Fahl. Email vicarfahl@martinluther.ca to sign up.
- [Coffee or Lunch with Job](#): Bible Reading and Discussion about the Book of Job led by Vicar Jordan Smith until June 24. Two opportunities: 8:30 am and 12:15 pm. Email vicarsmith@martinluther.ca to sign up.
- [Virtual Prayer Circle](#), Wednesdays 5:30-6:00 pm through Zoom led by Solveig Christina Voss; we also have a Prayer Request Wall in the Church Foyer
To request a prayer or join our prayer circle, email prayers@martinluther.ca.
- [Give Peas a Chance](#)- A grow some, give some movement hosted by Martin Luther and Redeemer Lutheran with donated seeds.
- [Corona-Care Calls](#)- Volunteers are continuing to call you with more information and to understand your needs. Let us know if you'd like to join the call team!
- Please phone or email the church office:
 - ◇ if we can help you in any way
 - ◇ if you'd like to volunteer by doing Sunday readings, spring cleaning and growing seeds
 - ◇ with feedback on what we're offering
 - ◇ to support our church and [donate](#). Best ways are PAR or send cheque to church office

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*Member of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) &
Partnered with Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)*