



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville

*St. Luke, Evangelist
October 19 and 20, 2020*

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Service of Holy Communion

Significance of the Day From the visit of Mary to Elizabeth's house; through the visits of Jesus to Zacchaeus's house, Mary and Martha's house, and Levi's house; to the visit of the risen Christ to Cleopas's house, Luke's gospel is a story of God's hospitality. God is guest and host, and Jesus' meal fellowship is a proclamation of God's inner circle of outsiders, a gathering not of the righteous but of those who have received God's mercy.

Gathering

Prelude

Hymn Variations on *Nettleton*

(Hobby et al)

Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**
**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**
We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.
Amen.

Opening Hymn We Come to You for Healing, Lord

(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

We come to you for healing, Lord,
of body, mind, and soul,
and pray that by your Spirit's touch
we may again be whole.

As once you walked through ancient streets
and reached toward those in pain,
come, risen Christ, among us still
with pow'r to heal again.

You touch us through physicians' skills,
through nurses' gifts of care,
and through the love of faithful friends
who lift our lives in prayer.

When nights are long with wakefulness,
through days when strength runs low,
grant us your gift of patience, Lord,
your calming peace to know.

We come to you, O loving Lord,
in our distress and pain,
in trust that through our nights and days
your grace will heal, sustain.

(The assembly stands.)

Apostolic Greeting

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.

Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke to reveal in his gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your church the same love and power to heal, and to proclaim your salvation among the nations to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our healer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly sits.)

Word

First Reading

Isaiah 43:8-13

A reading from Isaiah:

8 Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!

9 Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them declared this,
and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, "It is true."

10 You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.

11 I, I am the Lord,
and besides me there is no savior.

12 I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses, says the Lord.
13 I am God, and also henceforth I am He;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work and who can hinder it?

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124

(The psalm will be spoken responsively by verse.)

1 If the LORD had not been on our side,
let Israel now say;
**2 if the LORD had not been on our side,
when enemies rose up against us,**
3 then would they have swallowed us up alive
in their fierce anger toward us;
**4 then would the waters have overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over us;**
5 then would the raging waters
have gone right over us.
**6 Blessed be the LORD
who has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**
7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler;
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
**8 Our help is in the name of the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:5-11

A reading from 2 Timothy:

5 As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

6 As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 From now on there is reserved for

me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

9 Do your best to come to me soon, 10 for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

Alleluia!

**How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet
of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first and twenty-fourth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

Luke writes:

1 Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, 3 I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

44 Before He was ascended Jesus said to the disciples and their companions, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets,

and the psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(The assembly stands.)

By all your saints still striving,
for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus,
forevermore be blessed!
For you arose victorious
that they might wear the crown
and share the light of glory
reflected from your throne.

For Luke, belov'd physician,
all praise, whose gospel shows
the healer of the nations,
the one who shares our woes.
Your wine and oil, O Savior,
upon our spirits pour,
and with true balm of Gilead
anoint us evermore.

Give praise to God Almighty,
and worship God the Son,
and sing to God the Spirit,
eternal Three in One,
till all the ransomed number
fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory
ascribe to God alone.

(The assembly stands.)

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

(Brief silence)

A: Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; for our worship leaders, teachers, pastors, and all who heal in your name. Lord in your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

A: God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. We celebrate the harvest from your good earth and pray for the farmers who give us our food. May we give them fair compensation in return. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. We pray for our country as we get close to a national election. Help us to see all of our neighbors, including those with whom we don't agree, as your children, who you call by name. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you, especially Ken, Ron, and Alice. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord in your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The assembly sits.)

Meal

Music as the meal is prepared Aria from Messiah (Handel)

(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you open your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer these gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from your bounty. Accept them for the sake of him who offered his life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: *We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(After the dismissal, those who do not plan to remain for the laying on of hands may leave. Those who want to participate in the healing rite may be seated while the pastor and deacons go to their places at the altar rail, at the baptistry, and at the bottom of the chancel steps. Please wait until one of the healing sites is vacant and approach that site as an individual or family for anointing. As you wait, you may also go to one of the locations where there are candles available for you to light while you pray for healing. You may pray this, or another appropriate prayer: "Healing God, you sent your Son to bring me to wholeness and life. You know the needs for healing within me, even if I can not name them myself. I trust the saving promise you have made to me, and the healing you continue to bring. I pray for that healing today." As you light a candle, please make sure to place it firmly into the sand. You may remain to pray as long as you wish before departing.)

Postlude

Improvisation on *Balm in Gilead*

(Witherup)

Serving Saturday

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Pianist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Linda Armstrong

Serving Sunday

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon David Lineman
Communion Assistant Nancy McLaughlin
Lector Tammy Daniello
Head Usher Olivia Martin-Call
Altar Guild Ruth Gruber
Mary Beth Bradley

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes
The Rev. Dr. Robert Harris, retired, Mercyhurst University
The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor
The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College