



May 30, 2021

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Holy Trinity: In-Person

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
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Introduction to the day

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul’s words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

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 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.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

This reading narrates Isaiah's vision of the Lord surrounded by angels. They sing "Holy, holy, holy," a song the church sings at the beginning of the great thanksgiving. This liturgical text invites the church and all creation to sing in praise of God's glory. That glory is God's mercy toward sinners.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet

my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

In describing the new life of faith, Paul refers to all three persons of the Trinity: the Spirit leads us to recognize that we are children of God the Father and joint heirs with Christ the Son.

A reading from Romans.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Jesus' miracles prompt Nicodemus to visit him in secrecy. Jesus tells him about being born of the Spirit and about the Son who has been sent by God to save.

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: God's Beloved

**In a time before all knowing, God is,
and God's breathe fills the emptiness, creating:
a universe, a world, an ecology, a biology and us, humankind.
All humankind, no exceptions, no imperfections;
and all of us beloved just as we are.**

**In a time before all knowing,
Christ Jesus watches the creating,
and steps out into creation:
becoming, living, dying, and rising, all for us.
All humankind, no exceptions, no reservations;
all of us just as we are, God's beloved.**

**In a time before all knowing the Spirit is,
and moves through every part of creation:
consoling, interceding, leading, and refreshing all the world, including
us.
All humankind, no exceptions, no differentiations;
all of us just as we are, God's beloved.**

(Written by: Lisa Frenz on *Lisa's Liturgies*)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

PEACE

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

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Communion – *Communion is shared among us.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.

Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✝ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

- **Mask wearing** will be required.
- **Physical distancing** will be required.
- While a small ensemble will sing the hymns and responses, we ask that the congregation simply hum the melodies and not sing.
- This service is taking place on Saturday, because only a limited number of people can attend, and we are encouraging only vaccinated people attend. We want our Sunday service to be open to all people, including children, and many children will not yet be vaccinated.

These Saturday evening services will be recorded and then played for the online Sunday morning service.

Option # 2 – Sunday morning in-person worship outside at 10:00 AM, weather permitting.

For this service:

- **All** people are invited to attend.
- Bring your own chairs.
- Mask wearing is encouraged.
- Physical distancing will be required.

Answers to a few questions you may have:

1. Why are we encouraged to wear masks outside and required to wear masks indoors?

Pastor Ellen talked to health care professionals about this, and here is their advice:

We understand people who are fully vaccinated may have an issue with wearing a mask as the CDC has now announced that it is safe to be either indoors or outdoors in public with no mask. The issue the congregation needs to consider is that occasionally outsiders may want to stop by for worship and if they see nobody wearing masks, they may not feel comfortable/welcome as they may not be vaccinated, their children may not be vaccinated, and we don't want to have to turn anyone away. This proposal is still a big step forward and a good place to start. It can always be re-addressed in 2-3 months as new information from the CDC comes forward.

2. Why is the Saturday service being held at 5:30 and not earlier?

This service will take place at 5:30 because we have been told any earlier time will cut into people's Saturday plans.

Please note that we are making these decisions as part of a transition process through which we hope to get back to what will be a new normal. We want all people to feel comfortable, safe, and welcome. Making these decisions is not an easy process, and we will continually consult our health care professionals as we re-evaluate circumstances and procedures throughout the summer.