

September 20, 2020
9:30 Worship
Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
“Participating in God’s mission of life”
7104 - 39th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53142

*We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation
(All are welcome here)*

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Abram initially doubted that God would fulfill God’s promise of descendants. But God reaffirmed God’s promise, stating Abram’s descendants would be as numerous as the stars and Abram believed. Often God’s promises are grand, and they are fulfilled in surprising ways.

God’s mission of life looks like this: during a global pandemic, homebound members are called, prayers are gathered, food is collected for local pantries, worship services are streamed, groceries are delivered to the vulnerable, offerings are given to the glory of God; during times of injustice, voices of the oppressed are lifted up and listened to with respect, oppressors recognize their complicity and repent from wrong doing, and all come together to work for a more just world. God’s mission of life is happening all around and through each of us.

WELCOME

AM: Good morning, welcome to Trinity Kenosha. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who welcomes and affirms all persons into the life of our faith community.

We extend a special welcome for those watching who are new to our faith community and invite you to explore our ministries by visiting our website at trinitykenosha.org. Today following worship, Pastor Tom and our new member team leader, Joe Falduto, will facilitate a learning event titled Trinity 101. During this zoom gathering, persons will learn about the mission of Trinity and the ministries we offer. All are invited to attend. Please email Pastor Tom or Joe to receive the link.

Welcome to worship!

GATHERING SONG

♪ *Lord I Need You*

(J. Reeves, K. Stanfill, M. Maher, C. Nockels, D. Carson)

*Lord, I come, I confess.
Bowling here, I find my rest.
And without you, I fall apart.
You're the one that guides my heart.*

*Lord, I need you oh, I need You.
Every hour I need you
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

*Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more.
Where grace is found is where You are.
And where You are Lord I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.*

*Where You are, Lord, I am free.
Holiness is Christ in me.*

*Lord, I need you oh, I need You.
Every hour I need you
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

*So, teach my song to rise to you
When temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You.
Jesus, You're my hope and stay.*

*Lord, I need you oh, I need You.
Every hour I need you
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.*

*Lord, I need you oh, I need You.
Every hour I need you
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh, God, how I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness;
Oh God, how I need You.*

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worshiptogether.com songs*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

AM: We gather in the name of God the Source of life, God the Redeemer
of our lives, and God the Encourager who journeys with us. Amen.

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of all ages,

C: ... you have chosen us as your own, yet we so often live as if it were not so. We succumb to things which are not good for us. We believe we know better than you. We refuse to put our trust in your promises. Sweep away our foolishness and bring us back into a trusting relationship with the one who has lovingly created us and longs to be our strength and life.

P: Dear people, hear the joyful good news: God forgives you all your sins! Our misdeeds and folly are forgotten; grace and mercy abound. Let us give thanks. The Triune God is compassionate and merciful

C: Thanks be to God, Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

♪ *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens* *Hymn 771*

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens
Infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance
Through the silent fields of space:
We, your children in your likeness,
Share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating,
Show us what we yet may do.*

*We have ventured worlds undreamed of
Since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging
Through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom,
Yielding unimagined power,
Facing us with life's destruction
Or our most triumphant hour.*

*As each far horizon beckons,
May it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose,
serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
Each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance
Till our goals and yours are one.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day. Almighty God,

**C: ...you long for us to trust that you hold our lives safely in your hands. Reveal the surprises you have for us in your good time, and show us that your mercy never fails us, in Jesus' name.
Amen**

AM: Today's scripture readings are provided by Paula Lattergrass via audio file.

L: Through the proclaimed word of God, the holy Spirit moves to instill and deepen faith.

A reading from the Gospel of Luke. (Luke 3:8)

⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

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

L: A reading from Genesis. (Genesis 15:1-6)

¹⁵After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram

said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Tom

A moment of silence follows the sermon for the movement of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

♪ *Praise to You, O God Of Mercy* *Hymn 208*

Praise to you, O God of mercy;

Thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly:

Thanks be to you forever!

From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you forever!

Truth and justice you have taught us:

Thanks be to you forever!

Strong is your faithfulness,

Strong is your love,

Remembering your covenant of life with us.

Praise to you, O God of mercy:

Thanks be to you forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly:

Thanks be to you forever!

Thanks be to you forever!

APOSTLES CREED

AM: Let us confess our faith together with the words of the 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 THE CHURCH

AM: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: Faithful God,....**"Hear our prayer"**

AM: Often the plans we make look nothing like the amazing future you have in store for us. Keep us open to the unexpected and surprise us with your grace. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: As the days and nights even out and we reach the midpoint of the season, we pause to thank you for the fruits of the earth, the beauty of nature, and our interdependence with this planet on which we live. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the ministries of our partner ELCA congregations in the Kenosha-West Racine cluster and their pastors as they seek to proclaim the gospel and do justice. Embrace them with our love, deepen their faith and give them strength:

- Campus Ministry of Carthage College and Pastor Kara Baylor
- Cross Lutheran in Burlington and Pastors John Brink and Elizabeth Lee
- Peace Lutheran in Burlington and their pastor Susan Bowen
- North Cape Lutheran in Franksville and Pastor Brad Brown
- Grace Lutheran and Pastor Jonathan Barker
- Lakeside Lutheran and Pastor Jim Lynch
- Lord of Life and Pastor Carol Jeunnette
- Spirit Alive! and Pastor Kevin Beebe
- St. Mary's and Pastor Paul Petersen
- St. Paul's and Pastor Cindy Aasen
- Christ Lutheran in Salem and Pastor Eric Silberschmidt
- Messiah Lutheran in Twin Lakes and Pastor Melody Brink
- Norway Evangelical Lutheran in Wind Lake and Pastors Mark Jaramillo and Kristie Jaramillo, Forgiving God,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: When we try to count the stars, we fall short; how easily we underestimate the vastness of your creation. Give us respect for our relative size within the cosmos and awe at the splendor of all that you have made. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Be present with those who have given up hope of anything improving in their lives, and compel us to encourage others by the promises you give to all. Send your healing strength to those whom we name today... Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Give us courage to walk where you lead, even if no one has ever walked that way before. Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: *(Here other petitions may be offered)* Faithful God,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Our prayers—and our lives—are safe within your hands. We trust in your faithfulness and give thanks that you have heard us, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

C: Amen.

PEACE

AM: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

AM: If you are gathered with friends or family, share a word of peace with one another.

OFFERING

AM: We'd like to share a video presentation showing how our offerings care for persons in our community through the ministry of Outreach for Hope and the Grace Welcome Center.

P: During this season of “together while apart” your financial gifts given to the glory of God are especially precious and needed.

Three ways to give:

1. Mail a check to Trinity, 7104 - 39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142
2. Text a dollar amount with dollar sign (i.e. \$20) to: 262-429-9785

3. Select the “Giving” button on our homepage,
www.trinitykenosha.org

Thank you, and thank God for you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

AM: Let us pray:

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.

C: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

AM: As we pray together the Lord’s Prayer, please use the version that best nurtures your faith.

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.

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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

♪ *Countless Wonders* (C. Tomlin, E. Cash, M. Armstrong)

*You reign in endless power above the world You made.
Across the sky is written Your majesty and praise.
And still, You move in mercy and hear the humble heart.
For every soul that's searching, Jesus, there You are.*

*Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.
Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.*

*The mysteries of heaven and all Your works displayed,
Every star, every ocean, the universe proclaims
For every sun that rises, Your faithfulness to me,
Like the changing of the seasons, like the river to the sea.
Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.
Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.*

*No one can fathom all Your mighty work, O God.
Just one glimpse of you and I am overcome.
You open up Your hand and pour out once again
Your everlasting love.*

*Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.
Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.*

*Your beauty fills the sky,
Your glory reigns in brilliant light.
Great God of countless wonders,
I will lift my eyes.
I lift my eyes, lift my eyes.
I lift my eyes, lift my eyes.
I lift my eyes, lift my eyes.*

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DISMISSAL

AM: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.