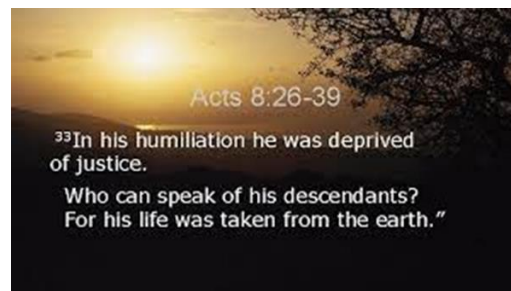


When Philip was sent by an angel to a lonely wilderness road, he couldn't have known he would have an encounter with a man that had the potential to affect an entire kingdom.

April 25, 2021
9:30 Worship
Fourth Sunday of Easter



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)*

Email: churchadmin@trinitykenosha.org
Phone 262-694-5050

The mission of God is life. Hope replaces despair. Faith replaces fear. Life replaces death. How are you participating in God's mission of life?

WELCOME

AM: Welcome and good morning to you. Trinity is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We welcome and affirm all persons into the life of our faith community and extend a special welcome to those watching who are new to our faith community. We invite you to explore our ministries by visiting our website at trinitykenosha.org, or contacting Pastor Tom by email at ptom@trinitykenosha.org or texting 262-287-8098. Welcome to worship.

GATHERING SONG

♪ *Trust and Obey*

J. Sammis

*When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.*

*Trust and obey, For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, But to trust and obey.*

*Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss,
Not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.*

*But we never can prove
The delights of His love,
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.*

*Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do;
Where He sends, we will go,
Never fear, only trust and obey*

FORGIVENESS AND CONFESSION

P: We gather in the name of Holy Triune God-Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

Trusting in the abundant mercy and everlasting love of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Risen Lord,

C: ...we admit that we are slow to believe, and even slower to follow where you lead us. We doubt your promise, divide your people, and fail to proclaim the power of your resurrection. We choose to live small lives when you have given us the biggest gift of all: your eternal life. Forgive us. Raise us up to a place where we can serve you faithfully.

P: Christ is arisen, bringing gifts of life, mercy and pardon for sin! Believe that you are forgiven, and go out and live in the joy of your Lord's resurrection in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: ...You have revealed yourself to people of every time, place and situation. May we not put limits on where or how your Spirit might capture human hearts and spread the word of your gospel far and wide, for the sake of our risen Lord. Amen

BAPTISM - Thomas Jack Montemurro

♪ 'Yes, Jesus Loves Me' plays as the family returns to their seats.

WORD

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Now the Feast and Celebration #167

AM: We sing the Gospel Acclamation to welcome the Gospel and prepare our hearts to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

♪ *Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
To the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!*

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God.

*Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
To the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!*

Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever.

*Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
To the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!*

For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new.

*Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
To the God of life and love and freedom; praise and glory forevermore!*

AM: Through the proclaimed word of God, the Holy Spirit moves to instill and deepen faith. Let us pray... Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless Linda McKinney, who will read to us the scripture. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: A reading from the gospel of Luke (Luke 24:44-47)

⁴⁴Then Jesus said to them, “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.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 8:26-39)

²⁶Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then

Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Tom

A moment of silence follows to allow the Holy Spirit to instill and deepen faith in Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

♪ *All Who Believe and Are Baptized*Hymn 442

*All who believe and are baptized
shall see the Lord's salvation;
baptized into the death of Christ,
they are a new creation;
through Christ's redemption they will stand
among the glorious heav'nly band
of ev'ry tribe and nation.*

*With one accord, O God, we pray,
grant us your Holy Spirit;
help us in our infirmity
through Jesus' blood and merit;
grant us to grow in grace each day
by holy baptism, that we may
eternal life inherit.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

AM: Please take a moment to text prayer concerns to 262-287-8098

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: God of truth... "**Hear our prayer**"

AM: The word which came through your servant Philip spread to places far beyond his own world. May your Spirit's power also magnify our witness and extend it well past the limits of our own reach. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Even when we draw boundaries of background, status or ability, you erase the borders between people with your radical message of love for all. Instill this passion for our brothers and sisters of every persuasion within us as well, so we might be more effective, faithful messengers of your gospel. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: You transformed the Ethiopian officer in the waters of baptism, and he was filled with your praises. Transform our hearts at the sight of your created world: the waters, fields, forests, and deserts, that we might be moved to protect them fiercely from the ravages of overdevelopment, pollution, and irresponsible harvesting of resources. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We who seek to represent Christ cannot always see that it is our own hearts which need to be healed. Open us to see ourselves honestly, and transform our broken places with your Spirit's mercy. Attend to all who need your healing, especially... God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Along with St. Mark, the evangelist and early church founder, we honor our ancestors in faith who paved a way for us to receive your gospel message. We pray for the strength of their convictions in our own witness. God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: (Here other petitions may be offered.) God of truth,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ. 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: During this season of “together while apart” your financial gifts given to the glory of God are especially precious and needed.

There are 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

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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS - Pastor Tom

BLESSING

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

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

♪ *On Our Way Rejoicing* **Hymn 537**
On our way rejoicing gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe.

*Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?*

*On our way rejoicing, as we homeward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!*

*Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing now and evermore.*

*On our way rejoicing, as we homeward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!*

DISMISSAL

AM: Go. Proclaim the good news. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!