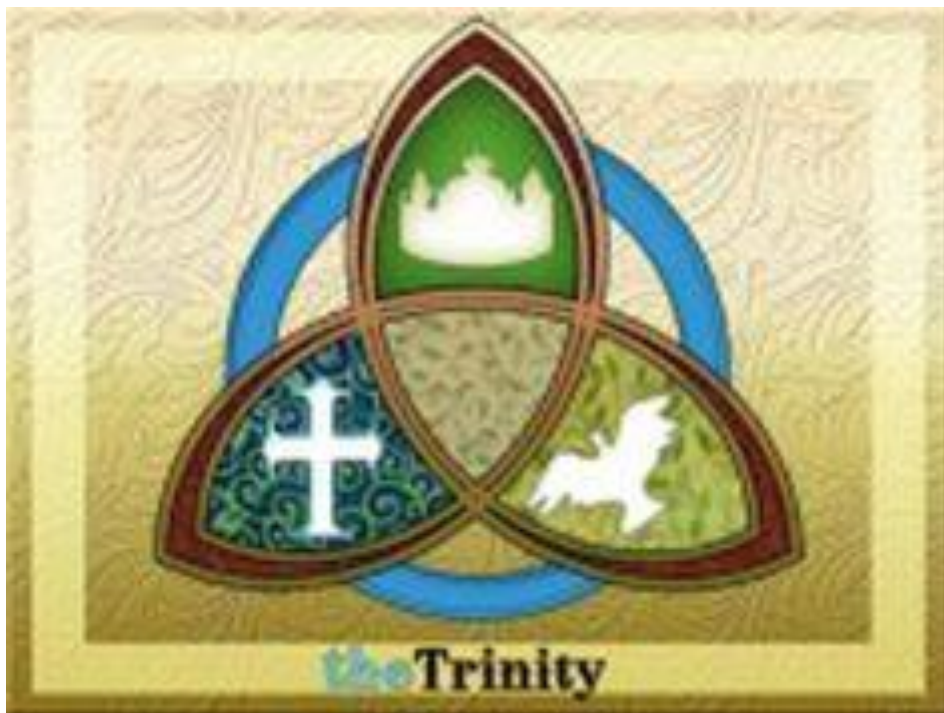


St Paul's Lutheran Church

3108 Sterrettania Road, Erie, PA 16506 | (814) 833-1761 | stpaulserie.org



Holy Trinity Sunday
June 7, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

The Holy Spirit Gathers Us as the People of God

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

We gather together to worship the One who is always with us. We come together as a church who has walked at one time or another through the dark wood. During this time of Lent, we will be reassured that in these dark times, God was with us and perhaps find God's light; even within the darkness. And as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are invited to sit or kneel.

CONFESSING RACISM: A LAMENT FOR THE CHURCH

As church, we confess the sin of racism and condemn racist rhetoric and the ideology of white supremacy. God have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

As church, we confess, repent, and repudiate the times when this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

Racism is deeply ingrained within the ELCA, a predominantly white church. It is deeply embedded within the individual congregations whose members continue to foster stereotypes and support policies that actively hurt people of color. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

As church, we declare that the enslavement of black bodies and the removal on indigenous peoples established racism in the United States, a truth this nation and this church have yet to fully embrace. God, have mercy. **God have mercy.**

Rooted in slavery, racism is manifested through the history of Jim Crow policies, racial segregation, the terror of lynching, extrajudicial killings by law enforcement, and the disproportionate incarceration of people of color. God, have mercy. **God, have mercy.**

As church, we lament the institutional racism of discriminatory treatment within the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregation; systemic policies and organizational practices; and a failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of black people, indigenous people, and people of color. God, have mercy. **God have mercy.**

Confessions are empty promises without meaningful action—actions that are grounded in prayer, education, and soul-searching repentance. The sin of racism separates us from one another. Though we trust that we are reconciled to God through Christ's death and resurrection, we see such life-giving reconciliation with one another. As we repent, let us not turn back to ideologies that promote white supremacy. We trust that God can make all things new. **Amen.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Please pray with me.

God of heaven and earth, **before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Join the Dance of Trinity



- 1 Come, join the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun—
- 2 Come, see the face of Trin - i - ty, new - born in Beth - le - hem;
- 3 Come, speak a - loud of Trin - i - ty, as wind and tongues of flame
- 4 With - in the dance of Trin - i - ty, be - fore all worlds be - gun,



the in - ter - weav - ing of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.
then blood - ied by a crown of thorns out - side Je - ru - sa - lem.
set peo - ple free at Pen - te - cost to tell the Sav - ior's name.
we sing the prais - es of the Three, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son.



The u - ni - verse of space and time did not a - rise by chance,
The dance of Trin - i - ty is meant for hu - man flesh and bone;
We know the yoke of sin and death, our necks have worn it smooth;
Let voic - es rise and in - ter - weave, by love and hope set free,



but as the Three, in love and hope, made room with - in their dance.
when fear con - fines the dance in death, God rolls a - way the stone.
go tell the world of weight and woe that we are free to move!
to shape in song this joy, this life: the dance of Trin - i - ty.

We Hear the Word of God

CHILDREN'S CHAT

As the children come forward, we are invited to sing...

The B-I-B-L-E

Yes that's the book for me.

I stand alone on the Word of God

The B-I-B-L-E.

As the children return to their seats, we are invited to sing, again...

Reception of God's Word

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the Spirit leads us through the dark wood. We have only to trust.

THE FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Assisting Minister

[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.

Following the reading: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We are invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:16-20

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 28th chapter. **Glory to you, O LORD.**

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."

Following the reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We are invited to be seated.

SERMON

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

We are invited to stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

This song helps us further engage with the message of the sermon.



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

OUR PUBLIC BELIEF STATEMENT

Let us confess before God and one another our faith using 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.**

PRAYER, MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

We are invited to pray, reflect and meditate on what we have heard, seen, and experienced thus far and prepare our hearts and minds to receive the gift of Christ in Holy Communion. As we begin, we call upon God through a Song of Meditation/Reflection (below).



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

We are invited to kneel or sit.

PRAYERS

Gathered into the mystery of the Trinity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

Following each petition, we are invited to respond: Lord in your mercy... **...Hear our prayer.**

We are invited to stand.

THE THANK-OFFERING IS PRESENTED

We Share in an Agape Meal

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We pray over the offering that has been sent to the church by mail or electronically.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

AGAPE MEAL

Please pray with me.

Holy Comforter, we gather in your name, invited by Jesus and bound together with your Spirit. Through the love we feel from God and one another in this meal, strengthen our resolve, keep our hearts and minds positive, and help us be patient until that day when we will emerge into a new life. Surround us each and every day with your comforting presence so we can comfort others. Bless this food and break open our hearts. Bless this drink and pour out your love. **Amen.**

It is because we know the agape love of God and trust that God is always near, we are able to sing...

Ho - ly are you God of Re-sur - rec-tion. We praise your name for - ev - er.

Your love is stead-fast _____ and your mer-cy is bound - less.

Ho - ly are you God of Re-sur - rec-tion. We thank you for your faith - ful - ness.

You are al-ways with us. You are there when we call.

Ho - ly are you God.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your love 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.**

THE AGAPE MEAL IS SERVED

Pastor Sami will direct us when to eat and drink.

FINAL TABLE PRAYER

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We Are Sent as Christ's Representatives in the World

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.

Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.

Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:

a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.

Wherever and however we gather,

unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

A prayer asking for God's support, guidance, and blessings in and on our lives before we leave this holy space to take God's word out into the world as followers of Jesus Christ.

Receive the blessing.

The holy Three, the holy One

increase your hope,

strengthen your faith,

deepen your love,

and ✠ grant you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

DISMISSAL

Being cleansed and forgiven, having heard the word of God, being fed with God's love we are sent out into the world. We are encouraged to proclaim with joy...

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. **Thanks be to God.**