



TRINITY
LUTHERAN
FAIRVIEW VILLAGE
LIVE LOVE SERVE

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 6, 2020

Introduction to the day

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways. We gather in the name of Christ today as we are able, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin. After each confession, please respond Holy God, have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

Holy God, have mercy on us.

Beloved of God,
by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit. **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

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON The Rev. Karen Sease

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community, especially Welcome Bread, Daily Bread Community Food Pantry, the Norristown Soup Kitchen, Community Dinner, and the Outreach House. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. We pray for those recovering from natural disaster.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those who are grieving today: for the Linfoot family on the death of Janice; for Pat Heller on the death of her son, Chris; for the Brunhofer family on the death of their aunt and cousin; and for all the saint we remember before you now, silently or aloud:

A brief silence

Give all who mourn your comfort and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

Thank you for remembering Christ's ministry at Trinity, as ministries and expenses continue. Please pray a silent prayer of thanksgiving during the musical offertory this morning.

- **Offering by online giving:**

Make a gift to the general fund at

<http://trinityfairview.com/give>

- Bill pay option with your local bank

- By Mail:

Send your offering to:

Trinity Lutheran Church

PO Box 340

Fairview Village, PA 19409

Please contact Kim Travetti if you would like to receive a consecrated home communion kit for you and your family. Please include the number of individuals who will receive communion in your request. Gluten free home communion kits are available.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING PRAYER

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

May God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Sending into Mission for the World

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.**



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