

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY - June 7, 2020, The First Sunday After Pentecost

Parts of this service marked with an asterisk () may be led by one person.*

Baptismal Remembrance (*Please fill a small bowl with water, and place it nearby*)

* We worship as we live,
in the name of the One who created heaven and earth, air and this water;
in the name of the One who came and comes, who lived and serves, who embraced death and gives life,
and who immerses us, through water, in the love of God;
in the name of the One who infuses life into every atom of the cosmos,
and who unifies us in love with our creator, with each other, and all of creation.
We worship as we live,
in the name of the Father,
in the name of the Son (†),
in the name of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn (*Read or sung together*)

(Hymn lyrics printed under OneLicence # 11411292)

Come all you people, come and praise the Most High.
Come all you people, come and praise the Most High.
Come all you people, come and praise the Most High.
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come all you people, come and praise the Saviour.
Come all you people, come and praise the Saviour.
Come all you people, come and praise the Saviour.
Come now and worship the Lord.

Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit.
Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit.
Come all you people, come and praise the Spirit.
Come now and worship the Lord.

For those of you reading this on line, a choral version of this hymn may be heard by clicking here -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMZJFhhTr0I>

Prayer of the Day (*Prayer used by permission of Augsburg Fortress*)

* God is with us. Let us pray.
Almighty Creator and ever living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and 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 holy presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Scripture Reading

* A poetic version of the first chapter of Genesis
In the beginning there was darkness, there was void.
The world was static, motionless, changeless, going nowhere.

Then God said, "Let there be light." And light was.
And light began its journey at 299,792.45 kilometres per second.
And let all God's people say, "And it was good!"

And God said, "Let there be sky." And sky was.
And light had somewhere to play. And creation's journey began.
And let all God's people say, "And it was good!"

And God said, "Let there be land." And land was.
And there were oceans. And continents. And islands. There were places to go.
And God said, "Cover it." And plants were. Now creation could grow. And the journey continued.
And let all God's people say, "And it was good!"

And God said, "Let there be lights. Big ones and little ones. Let them mark days and nights, beginnings and endings, seasons and durations."
And lights were, and the journey now took time.
And let all God's people say, "And it was good!"

And God said, "Let there be water creatures.
And birds. And bugs, for heaven's sake!
And let them have young, and grow, and take part in the journey."
And they were. And they did.
And let all God's people say, "And it was good!"

And God said, "Let there be land creatures;
domestic and wild, creepers and crawlers and swimmers, all kinds.
And let **them** have young, and grow, and take **their** part in the journey."
And they were. And they did.

Then God said,
"Now let us make people;
people who will not only take part in the journey, but who can begin to reflect on what the journey **means**."

So God made people in God's very image, male, female, and everything in between, the whole rainbow of possibility.

And God said, "You are good. Care for the good world. Have young and grow, and embrace the journey."

And God joined all of God's people, and said, "It is all very, very good."

Word of life. Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

* Water.
The stuff of life.
Our bodies are, on average, about 60% water.
The surface of the earth is over 70% water.
We are alive because of water.
Without water, we die. Without water, we don't exist.
Without water, life on this whole *planet* doesn't exist.
So it does not really surprise us
that one of the sacraments centres around water.
Baptism makes us Christians. It makes us part of the body. It brings us in.
We *belong* because of water.
And this is not unique to Christianity.
Many religious traditions use water in their ceremonies, their entrance rites.
It's kind of a universal thing!
Think of all the uses to which we put water:
Drinking. Cleaning. Cooking. Bathing. Swimming. Fishing. Curling.
We could go on and on.
Think of all the images which refer to water:
Dipped. Submerged. Splashed. Drooling. Moistened. Overflow. Soaking. Diluted.
Again, we could go on and on.
So water is not just about life.
Water is also about living.
Water is life is living is baptism is new life.
Water is a sign of God's love for life, for living, for us.
Water reminds us.
That is, re-minds us; that is, gives us new minds.
Water makes us think about life, about living, about God's call on our living.
Water makes us ask questions.
Uncomfortable questions.
Like, how are we using this precious gift which gives life?
(Not well, actually)
Like, how many bottles of water are purchased around the world?
(One million every minute)
Like, wait! Did you just say ***one million every minute?***
(I did)
Like, where does the water come from?
(Lakes and rivers and water tables,
the same sources as our drinking water)
Like, what happens to all those bottles once we're done with them?
(It's estimated that 14% of them are recycled)
(That's all; 14%)

Like, what happens to the rest of them?
(They end up in landfills, or beside the road, or in the oceans...)
Water as convenience, as product, as commodity, as profit margin....
Holy Trinity Sunday calls us to change course.
The Trinity calls us (literally) to pay attention to water
As symbolized by the water in the bowl in front of you right now.
Put your finger into the life-liquid.
Feel the life-giving, life-sustaining wetness.
Touch your forehead with your wet finger
So that this water may re-mind you.
Touch your heart with your wet finger
That God may remove your heart of stone.
Touch your left shoulder with your wet finger
That God may breathe new life into your weary body.
Touch your right shoulder with your wet finger
That God may encourage your living
And empower your response in this water world.
The sign of the cross.
A remembrance of baptism.
An invocation of the Holy Trinity:
The One who created water
The One who walked on water and cried water and bled water
The One who still moves over the waters
And blesses the water that is you.
And now, **use** this water.
Drink it in a cup of tea.
Pour it over a potted plant.
Give the dog a drink.
Don't dump it down the drain,
Because...
Water is life is living is baptism is new life.
Water is a sign of God's love for life, for living, for us.
Water is a sign of God
For you.
Amen.

Offerings

Please take a moment to support our parish with your financial gifts. Expenses continue, as you know, even in the middle of this pandemic shut-down. Your consistent support is crucial to maintaining the ministry of this parish.

You can do this several ways:

- *All of our churches will receive offerings via mail.*
- *You can make an on-line donation through the ELCIC website, secure.elcic.ca. Include the name of your congregation and its location in the "Personal Message" box.*

- *Zion in Lunenburg can receive on-line donations through www.canadahelps.org.*
- *Both Grace and Zion have installed a secure mail slot/box on the front of their buildings, in which your offering envelopes may be placed whenever convenient.*

Thank you for your on-going support in these challenging times.

Prayers of the People

* Celebrating God in all, we offer our prayers for the world, the church, and all creation.

[Short pause]

Creator, Saviour, Unifier, you have made us from dust and water, you have come to us as one of us, you have filled us with your holy breath. We give you thanks. Holy Trinity,

Hear our prayer.

Creator, Saviour, Unifier, too often we abuse your gifts, we deny your coming, we turn our back on your presence. We are especially aware of the scourge of racism which infects our world. Forgive us. Inspire us to turn around. Holy Trinity,

Hear our prayer.

Creator, Saviour, Unifier, you create your church through Good News, through physical sacraments, through promise and love. Inspire us to be a community which lives in the light of your love. Holy Trinity,

Hear our prayer.

Creator, Saviour, Unifier, no part of creation is separated from you. You are present to the sick and isolated, the angry and despairing, the hungry and the hopeless. Restore us to health, that we may share your love with the world.

[Names of those who are of special concern may be offered.]

Holy Trinity,

Hear our prayer.

Creator, Saviour, Unifier, you hear our prayer. You inspire our prayer. You *are* our prayer. Open us to the vastness of your being, which can be touched in a simple cup of water. Holy Trinity,

Hear our prayer.

We pray this in the name of our risen and living Saviour, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray,

Lord's Prayer *(The backwards edition)*

Loving God, Our God, Our forever God,

The glory of all good things belongs to you.

The power to heal creation belongs to you.

The reign of love is also yours.

Deliver us from all the evil that denies life,

and free us from the temptation to give up on the journey.

As we forgive those who have wronged us,

forgive us who have wronged you by wronging your good creation.

Remind us that you give us everything we need for this journey.

As your will is done in heaven, may it be done in us.
And may your reign of love and healing be seen among us, every step of the way.
May your name be honoured among us.
In heaven, Loving God, Our God, Our forever God.
Amen.

Hymn (*Read or sung together*)

(*Hymn lyrics printed under OneLicence # 11411292*)

You are holy, you are whole, you are always ever more
than we ever understand; you are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near, blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy. You are wholeness. You are presence. May the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosannah in the highest! Sing hosannah, sing hosannah to our God.

For those of you reading this on line, this hymn may be heard by clicking here -
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOEdW0iQZSA>

Benediction (*Read together*)

May almighty God,
The Father who created us to live in love,
The Son (†) who died and rose to bring us new life,
And the Spirit who breathes new life and restoration into us,
bless us all, now and forever. Amen.

Go in peace. Serving God's good creation.
Thanks be to God!