**MODIFIED SERVICE FOR TRINITY SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020**

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, PHILIPSBURG**

Welcome to everyone on this Trinity Sunday, which we celebrate gathered safely from the comfort of our homes. David Doering is still recuperating in the hospital, he is hoping to be released tomorrow, we will remember him in our prayers this morning. I spoke with Reta Seyler this week and she is thankful for the prayers received.

Today we will celebrate communion together. I ask that you set and prepare your table, perhaps with a tablecloth and a candle, and some juice or wine and bread or crackers. Even though we are physically separated God is with us in the bread and wine that we share. If you do not feel comfortable having communion it is perfectly acceptable to wait until we are again gathered together.

Just a reminder that if there is anyone you would like to include on our prayer list, please call or email me, or send an email through the website. We will also be setting up some GoTo Meeting times and coffee hours, this is similar to Zoom and simple to install. Be sure to look for an email in the coming weeks. The Messenger will be a little later in being prepared as we wanted to include any discussions from the Council this week.

Please remember that Zion relies on your continued support each week to meet our monthly expenses. There will be an updated financial statement for April and May included in the Messenger this month. Thank you to all who support and pray for our congregation.

**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.**

**OPENING HYMN- Come Join the Dance of Trinity- YouTube link or ELW-412**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God’s forgiveness with these or similar words.*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1--2:4a (please read in your bible)**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

[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.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 28:16-20**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**SERMON**

Today is Trinity Sunday, a festival day where we celebrate the doctrine of the three in one…God as creator, Jesus as the Son, and the Holy Spirit as a power that moves in, through, and around us. This festival day is unlike many of the others in the church year because it is a set of beliefs that has been taught to us by the church. I remember many years ago, I was on a call committee and we went to hear a pastor preach on Trinity Sunday. He mentioned how difficult it was to come up with a sermon for Trinity Sunday because the concept of the Trinity is heady and hard to understand. How can God be three different entities? Back then I did not understand the difficulty in writing such a sermon but now I must admit that I get his reservation, especially when we try to understand it thorough the lenses of our world today.

 In our gospel reading today from Matthew, Jesus has just been resurrected from the dead, he meets with his disciples in Galilee, just as he had told them to do in Matthew 28:10. The disciples went, believing in him, but some had doubts and reservations. Jesus arrived, and he encouraged the disciples giving them the great commission saying “all authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Jesus sends out the disciples with the promise of a God who “is with,” a God who is with the disciples and with us always. Rolf Jacobson in the online Sermon Brainwave found on the Working Preacher website this week speaks of the Trinity as being missional, that God was on a mission to “to love, save, and bless the entire world.”[[1]](#footnote-1) God worked through Jesus to send out the disciples to baptize and share the love of God with the world through the power of the Holy Spirit, shares in the missional aspect of the Trinity. God has always and will be on a God mission!

 In these past months and weeks, some of us may have wondered about God’s mission in the world. Our world seems to be full of troubles and suffering. Is God with us in these turbulent times? Covid-19 is still running rampant throughout the world, there are almost 7,000,000 cases and 400,000 deaths, and 3,300,000 recoveries. Protests and marches are taking place around the world, especially in the United States, protesting the treatment of POC by police. Building and vehicles have been destroyed, bottles and cement have been thrown at police, and protesters have been hit with rubber bullets and tear gas, even those who were peacefully protesting. Curfews are in place; many have been arrested and sadly lives have been lost on both sides of the issue.

 Our premier said in an interview this week that Canada does not have the same systemic, deep roots of racism that the United States has. There was immediate backlash. Canada too has a racist past and present. Residential Schools were in operation until 1996 (that is less than 25 years ago), these schools were responsible for erasing Indigenous cultures. There are thousands of MMIW and men, forgotten by police but not by their families. In WW2, Japanese internment camps were formed where Canadian citizens were removed from their homes simply because they were Japanese. Many African American families have mealtime discussions on what to do if their sons should get pulled over by the police. Your previous pastor Joanna Miller wrote a powerful post on Facebook this week. Joanna and Raymond, like many other families, were discussing current events and Isla their daughter, who just turned 8, asked what they were talking about. Pastor Joanna responded saying “in the United States, a police officer who is a white man killed a man who was black, and we don’t think the man deserved it; people believe the officer killed him because he was black.” Her eyes filled with fear. “I can never go to the United States,” she said. “You could go, mom, and Opa can go, but Daddy and me and Spencer, we can’t go there.”[[2]](#footnote-2) Tears came to my eyes as I read what Isla said because I, we, will never understand the fear that Isla, Spencer, Raymond, and Joanna and other families of POC will have to contend with during their lifetime.

 We as white people need to do better, we need to understand our privilege and what it means within our world. Many of us do not even realize our privilege, I know for a long time I did not. Having privilege does not mean that we will not face difficult times in our lives, it means that our race is not an added factor in the difficulty that we are having. I have spent much time in these past two weeks having discussions with Greg and our kids about what is going on in the world, and our call to do and be better.

 We will never fully understand the mystery of the Trinity, and think that that is okay, maybe we are not supposed to. But I know that now more than ever, we need the Trinity in our lives. We need God the creator, who created us all in God’s image as equals, we need Jesus Christ, God’s only Son who became fully human to understand the pain that we live with, and who stood with the oppressed and lifted them up to be people of God. We need the power of the Holy Spirit to work in, through, and around us to work for justice so no more lives are lost due to authority, racism, injustice, and hate. When we stand together in God’s love; when we participate in solidarity of God’s love with one another regardless of race, colour, sexuality, or gender, we are sharing in the unconditional love of God, we are God’s people standing together united in faith, love and trust for one another. As people of God, as people of the Trinity, as stated in Sermon Brainwave, “we are called to love one another and share that love in places where love has been deprived, we are called to give mercy to those to who have been shown no mercy and we are called to search out for justice where justice has not been served.”[[3]](#footnote-3) May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

**HYMN OF THE DAY- For The Troubles and the Sufferings of the World- YouTube link**

**apostles CREED**

We confess 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to see waterways, plant life, birds, fish, insects, and mammals and call them good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice in often ignored communities. We remember Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and all people of colour that have been killed under questionable circumstances. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need especially Eddie, Elaine, Ruth, Mary Ann, Susie, David, Donelda, and those we name in the stillness of our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship, you accompany this body of faith. As the rhythms of summer begin, protect our congregation, renew all who will enjoy a time of sabbath, and shelter all who will not be protected from the sun’s heat. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**MEAL**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup, we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power

to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ’s body and blood

may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,

and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest

until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please commune together saying,

**The body of Christ given for you.**

**The blood of Christ shed for you.**

**Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth, sustained by these gifts and your love, so that we may share your neighbourly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

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.**

**SENDING HYMN- Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty- ELW-413**

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1. Rolf Jacobson, Sermon Brainwave #728, The Trinity Sunday in *Working Preacher*, accessed June 4, 2020, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/brainwave.aspx?podcast_id=1269>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Used with permission from Joanna Miller, 2020, Facebook, June 1, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/joanna.miller.5074>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Sermon Brainwave #728, The Trinity Sunday in *Working Preacher*, accessed June 4, 2020, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/brainwave.aspx?podcast_id=1269> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)