



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, July 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrating our 142nd Anniversary

Service of the Word 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

Share your story!

Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity.

Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!

Find us on Facebook at:

*Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo
Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic*

INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

PRELUDE

Pastorale, from *Six Pieces Op. 150*

Josef Rheinberger
(1839-1901)

Rebecca Torres, *violin*

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we gather from our homes, we invite you to place a bowl or cup of water in front of you, to remember our baptism.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In this time of uncertainty, with a future unknown, let us give thanks to our God who is always with us.

Holy God, source of living water, all life flows out from you.

In the days of chaos,

Your voice moved over the water and life sprang forth.

In the days of the flood,

You kept Noah and his family safe from harm.

In the days of fleeing Egypt,

You separated the sea so your people could pass.

In the days of wandering in the wilderness,

You made water flow from a rock.

Holy God, source of living water, all life flows out from you. Through the baptism of Jesus, all water is made holy. The water that nourishes the land. The water we drink. The water we bath in. The water we use to wash our hands so many times a day.

Holy God, source of living water, all life flows out from you. We praise you for the gift of baptism that binds us to one another and to you.

As we stir and trouble this precious water, remind us of who we are: your beloved children. Help us see each person as a member of your body. Ease our anxieties and strengthen our resolve to care for each other. Deepen our faith.

(At home, dip your finger into a bowl or cup of water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.)

**Holy God, source of living water, All life flows out from you.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens “Holy Manna”

ELW 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - `ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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

Let us pray together.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

FIRST READING

A Reading from 1 Kings 3:5-12

A Reading from Kings:

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

MEDITATION

Elegie, from *Six Pieces Op. 150*

Josef Rheinberger
(1839-1901)

Rebecca Torres, *violin*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. We pray for our ecumenical and inter-faith siblings in VOICE Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities, and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection Village and the Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick, especially today, we give thanks for the life, love, and family of Barbara Cromer. We lift up to you all those we name out loud, and the prayers of our hearts and our minds. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with someone in your home, or share a message of peace via text, tweet, or post (or call someone after worship.)

OFFERTORY

Abendlied, from *Six Pieces Op. 150*

Josef Rheinberger
(1839-1901)

Rebecca Torres, *violin*

THE OFFERING

Thank you for your gifts and offerings which make our ministry possible. You may share your offering by clicking the “Contribute Today” link below this Livestream and on our Homepage, or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray together.

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.

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.

BENEDICTION

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing "The Ash Grove"

ELW 547



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Gigue, from *Six Pieces Op. 150*

Josef Rheinberger
(1839-1901)

Rebecca Torres, *violin*



About Rebecca Torres, *violin*

Rebecca Torres has a BA in music from SUNY Buffalo and an MM from SUNY Stony Brook. After college she made four national tours with the Goldovsky Grand Opera Theater and played with the Opera Orchestra of New York. After moving to California for 20 years, Rebecca played with the North State Symphony and also toured with Anne Murray, Wayne Newton and Bobby Vinton. Returning to Buffalo in 2004, she has played with Ars Nova and several local chamber music groups. Rebecca started teaching violin at 17 and retired from teaching last year. Besides her private studio, she taught string methods at California State University - Chico, and taught middle school strings at Nichols School for four years.



Music Notes

Joseph Rheinberger was born at Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein, in 1839, and is considered to be the principality's most important composer. At seven years old, Rheinberger was appointed as organist in Vaduz and rapidly began to compose and to perform on the organ. He entered the Munich Conservatory, studying with Julius Joseph Maier and the organist Johann Georg Herzog, and privately with the composer Ferdinand Lachner, who had been a member of Schubert's circle in Vienna. In 1859 he joined the teaching staff of the Conservatory, his pupils over the years including Engelbert Humperdinck, Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari, the American composer Horatio Parker, and Wilhelm Furtwängler.

The six pieces that make up Op. 150 do not have any real interconnection, either thematically or with regard to key. The *Pastorale*, *Gigue*, *Elegie* and *Abendlied* may be regarded as "characteristic pieces." The G major *Pastorale* is meditative and inspired by nature, with the ostinato bass of the organ and the folk-melody influenced violin part fulfilling the suggestion of the title. The *Gigue*, in B-minor, quickly departs from the Baroque-inspired and moves on to a section rooted in Major, which almost has the character of a *romance*, while the *Gigue* itself returns in the middle and final sections. The most beautiful movement of the set is the D-minor *Elegie*, with its melodically inspired feelings of melancholy and longing. *Abendlied*, like the *Elegie*, is a perfectly moulded miniature in ternary form, which accurately describes a particular emotion as deeply felt, in its warmer key of Eb-Major.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUTDOOR SERVICE: *A Service of Holy Communion will be held outdoors today at 12noon.* Worshippers will be encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs, while folding chairs will be available for those who are not able to bring their own. Chairs will be placed a minimum of 6-8 feet apart from one another at designated pre-marked spaces. Face coverings will be required in addition to other safety protocols in place. A second service is being planned for August.

HT ON PARADE: Our Parade had to be postponed due to the extreme weather conditions. We have rescheduled for Thursday, July 30 when we ask you to join us for a physically-distanced car-parade as we celebrate some of our members who have limited opportunity to leave their homes and connect with others. We will meet at **Noon on Thursday, July 30** in the front church parking lot and then caravan past the homes of several members of our H.T. family. An HT lawn sign will be placed in the yard of each parade stop whenever possible. Participants will be asked to remain in their cars throughout the parade. *Please email the church office if you want to suggest the name of an HT community member who would benefit by being a stop on the parade route.*

SIDEWALK CHALK SUNDAY! A chance to gather together - with physical distancing in mind - and spread some love and positivity in our City. Individuals and Family Groups are welcome to come to Holy Trinity at **noon on Sunday, August 16** and receive direction from Pastor Lee or Pastor Brenda on which sidewalk square they will be "assigned." Individuals and families are encouraged to bring their own chalk, but some will be available for those who don't have their own. Chalking groups will be distanced from each other to keep one another safe. Inspirational ideas will be provided, but your own images and designs are welcome and encouraged.

LYO FUNDRAISER: Flocking season is here! How it works: Place an order for a flock of flamingos to be sent to your friend's yard. Volunteers will be sent out to covertly flock the yard. The flamingos will roost on the lawn for a week when they will mysteriously migrate to another friend's lawn. The "flockee" will have the opportunity to select the flock's next migration location, for a reasonable donation. If you are not interested in having our fine pink feathered friends make a trip to your yard, you can purchase Anti-Flocking Insurance. This will guarantee the flamingos fly past your yard and flock at a different home. The flamingos will only be in the Buffalo area for a short time, from July-Sept so catch them before they continue on their migratory path. All proceeds of this Fundraiser will go to support the LYO Mission Fund. You can find the order forms in the church newsletter. Flocking Fees are \$20 for migration location, \$25 for Anti-Flocking Insurance and \$15 for early-herding and transportation of flock.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: While in-person faith formation might not begin in September, Confirmation Class will gather virtually until we can meet in-person. There will be a virtual confirmation informational session for all parents/students in August, date to be announced. This informational session will cover the class schedule, class expectations, as well as answer any questions you might have regarding confirmation class. Please be on the lookout for a letter to be mailed to your home in the next couple of weeks, which will include the date of the meeting as well as additional information. Confirmation Class is for students who are entering 7th and 8th grades. If you are unsure whether or not your child is on our roster to begin confirmation this year, please call the church office or reach out to Pastor Brenda. You may also contact Pastor Brenda with any questions you may have.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Uli MacDonald, President
Emily Notari, Vice-President
Guy Huber, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Theedralyn Bradley, Kathy Crissey, Ryon Fleming, Richard Lee,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

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The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor
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The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
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