



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Buffalo, New York

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrating our 142nd Anniversary

Holy Communion – 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.

Following New York State guidelines, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.*
- 2. that you follow the one way direction signs noted in the aisles.*
- 3. that our members and guests fill out the orange sheet for contact tracing purposes and leave at your seat in the pew.*

As our worship continues to be transformed,

we invite you to share your story and your worship experience!

Please check-in and share on any of our social media platforms.

You are invited to share the peace or any part of our worship via text message.

Please use #poweroftrinity for all your social media interactions.

You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo, on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff

INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

VOLUNTARY

Introduction, Aria, and Theme
from *Partita on St. Anne*

Paul Manz
(1919 – 2009)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

O God Our Help in Ages Past “St. Anne”

ELW 632
(vs. 1, 2 & 6)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

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

You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

THE READING:

A Reading from Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Bereite dich, Zion

BWV 248 I, No. 4 (Weihnachts-Oratorium)

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685 - 1750)

Maria Parker, *alto*

Prepare yourself, Zion, with tender efforts,
to behold your lovely one, your beloved, near you soon!
Your cheeks must now glow much more radiantly,
hurry to love the Bridegroom with passion!

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

SERMON MEDITATION

Nimrod from *Enigma Variations*

Edward Elgar
(1857-1934)

Please stand, if able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. 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, Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, and in (or in the silence) the prayers of our hearts and our minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. We give you thanks for the life, love and family of Earl Kunz. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

We ask that you remain at your seat.

*You may share the sign of peace
with a head nod or peace sign.*

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

*Offerings and tithes may be left in the offering plate
located at the exit.*

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

You'll Never Walk Alone from *Carousel*

Richard Rodgers (1902-1979)

and Oscar Hammerstein II (1895-1960)

Maria Parker, *alto*

In some areas of the UK and Europe, "You'll Never Walk Alone" became the anthem of support for medical staff, first responders, and those in quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When you walk through a storm
Keep your chin up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of a storm is a golden sky
And the sweet silver song of a lark

Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Tho' your dreams
Be tossed and blown
Walk on
Walk on
With hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, through Jesus Christ, your beloved son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you today and to serve you as your priestly people.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion

All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. In your pews you will find pre-packaged grape juice and wafers (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

When Peace Like a River “Ville du Havre”

ELW 785
(vs. 1 & 4)

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Presto from *Partita* on St. Anne

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

*Please wait until after the music to leave the church building
beginning with those seated closest to the Main Street doors
(back of church).*



*In order to follow NYS guidelines,
we are unable to host coffee and refreshments
after service until further notice.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL COMMITMENT: The Stewardship Committee thanks all of you for your continued support. Commitment cards have been mailed out and we ask that you return the cards by November 15 either in person on a Sunday, or by mailing to the church office.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet today at 2:00 via the Canvas classroom. Please log-in at least 5 minutes before the start of class so that we may promptly start on time and work out any tech difficulties that may arise.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans' Day.

HOLIDAY BASKETS: The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will once again be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets. Last year we filled ten baskets with non-perishable food items, gift certificates, and other items. We hope to do the same this season. All non-perishable food items will be used for the baskets. Cash donations to help provide gift certificates can be sent to the church office and designated "holiday baskets". Thank you for your donations.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias which will be placed in the chancel for Christmas. Flowers are \$10 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms can be found in the church paper, as a bulletin insert, or by calling the church office, and completed forms may be mailed to the church office.

AMAZON SMILE: With the holidays approaching we would like to remind everyone to select Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as the charity for AMAZON SMILE. This will ensure that a donation to HT will be made with each of your purchases through AMAZON SMILE.

BLOOD DRIVE: ConnectLife will be sponsoring a blood drive at Holy Trinity on Sunday, December 6 from 9am – 1pm. The need for blood is so important, especially at this time. ConnectLife is the primary supplier of blood for Kaleida Health, ECMC and all the hospitals in Niagara and Wyoming Counties. To schedule an appointment or if you have any questions, please call Nurse Judy Reifsteck at 632-3448.

ALTAR FLOWERS ARE BACK: Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following date is available: November 29 - 2 vases. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for these or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at msmarylschmidt@gmail.com or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Each week via Zoom at 9:30 am at

<https://zoom.us/j/427428740?pwd=Y1BZdUdLL3l4YU5QWnJUUTdkRlk4Zz09#success>. Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195.

CHIAVETTA'S BBQ – Dinner to-go to benefit the BPO will take place on Tuesday, November 10 from 4 -7pm at Kleinhans Music Hall. For information and tickets, please call 759-6428.

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Happy Hour – Join us each Friday via Zoom at 5:00pm. We'll meet together through safe physical-distancing while being able to check in with each other and enjoy the company. Bring your favorite beverage to the computer. Zoom Meeting ID: 285 453 435. Password 299123.

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.



Today's ushers are Jim Dunnigan, Herb Hough and Charmaine Kaltrider. Worship Assistants are Sam Guzzino, Oscar Guzzino and Saniyah Gilchrist.

The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Ruth Bloos and Earl Kunz by Heidemarie Kunz.



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

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist
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Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

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