



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Buffalo, New York

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.*

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

Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity.

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

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

VOLUNTARY

Two Slow Airs,

Herbert Howells

(1892 - 1983)

- I. Lento, assai espressivo*

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing “Truro”

ELW 389
(vs. 1 & 5)

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

**We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.**

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.
Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

**To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever. 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.

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, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

THE READING: Acts 8:26-40

The first reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter is recorded in Acts, the 8th Chapter.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Wade in the Water

African-American Spiritual
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866 – 1949)

Grace Mingoea, *mezzo-soprano*

Wade in the water, children, God's a-goin' to trouble the water. See that band all dress'd in white. The Leader looks like the Israelite. See that band all dress'd in red. It looks like the band dat Moses led.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

The holy gospel according to Saint John

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

SERMON MEDITATION

Two Slow Airs,

Herbert Howells

(1892 - 1983)

II. *Rather slow and with gentle feeling*

Please stand, if able.

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it bears fruit and witnesses to your love. 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.

You have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we seek vital connections among all that depends on the earth for life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that they lead not by fear but with love for those they are called to serve. We pray especially for all men and women serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak, or fearful. Provide for the needs of all. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts and our minds... We pray today for the children of our community and especially for Matthew and Zachary. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Sing Ye a Joyful Song from Biblical Songs Op. 99, No. 10
Text: Psalm 98:1-8

Antonín Dvorák
(1841 – 1904)

Grace Mingoea, *mezzo-soprano*

Sing ye a joyful song unto the Lord,
Who hath done marvelous, marvelous things.
Praise the Lord all the earth !
Sing praises, shout and be joyful.
Let the sea roar and all that is therein.
The round world and all they that dwell there.
Lift your voices, floods and tempests.
Mountains, clap your hands for joy.
Let the fields laugh and sing with waving corn,
and let all the trees of the forest be joyful!

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ.

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

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.

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

We Know That Christ Is Raised “Engelberg”

ELW 449

(vs. 1 & 4)

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.


Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Exultate, Op. 1296

Carson Cooman
(b. 1982)

*At the ringing of the bells, please exit 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.*



Today's ushers are Mike Day, Ron Leiser and Elizabeth Vihnanek.
Worship Assistants are Robert Mann and Sofia Atlas.

The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Michael G. Bloos by Heidemarie Kunz and Family; and In Loving Memory of Ralph and Maxine Loew and in Honor of our Families by Janet and Michael Day.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Matthew and Zachary Bousman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLANT SALE: The pick-up date for the LYO plant sale will be Saturday, May 15 from 10:30am to 12:00pm.

PORTER FARMS CSA Registration is now open. Porter Farms now has online registration and you can sign-up for a share of the CSA by visiting <https://www.porterfarms.org/join-our-csa>. Standard (Mail-In) Registration is still available and you can find instructions as well as a registration form by visiting <https://www.porterfarms.org/join-our-csa>. At this time, Holy Trinity does not have a coordinator for the usual Holy Trinity distribution/pick-up, however, there are several sites available around Buffalo. If you are interested in serving as the coordinator for Holy Trinity, please contact Pastor Brenda.

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.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Each week via Zoom at 9:30 at <https://zoom.us/j/427428740?pwd=Y1BZdUdLL3l4YU5QWnJUUTdkRlk4Zz09#success>. Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195.

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.

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Barb Wozniak, President
Emily Notari, Vice-President
Guy Huber, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Gary Herrnreiter, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

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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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