



The Holy Trinity

June 12, 8:45 AM

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

"O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God's love and hope to our neighbors.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Prelude in E-flat Major, BWV 552a

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 413

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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

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

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

The word of the Lord.

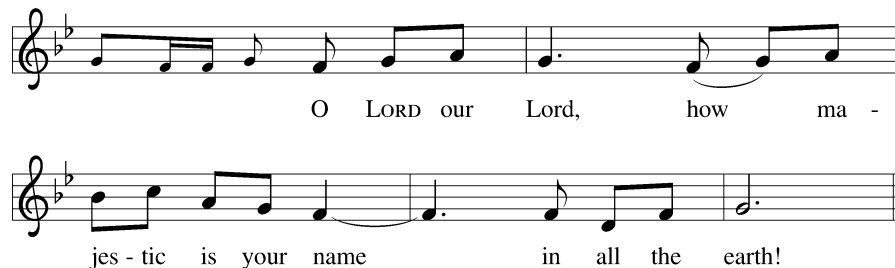
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 8

Setting by Mark Mummert

The choir introduces the refrain. Please sing the 2nd time. Verses are sung by the choir. Please sing the refrain where indicated.



O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger. **R**
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,
human beings that you should care for them? **R**
Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
You have made them rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet:
all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
O Lord our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth! **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-5

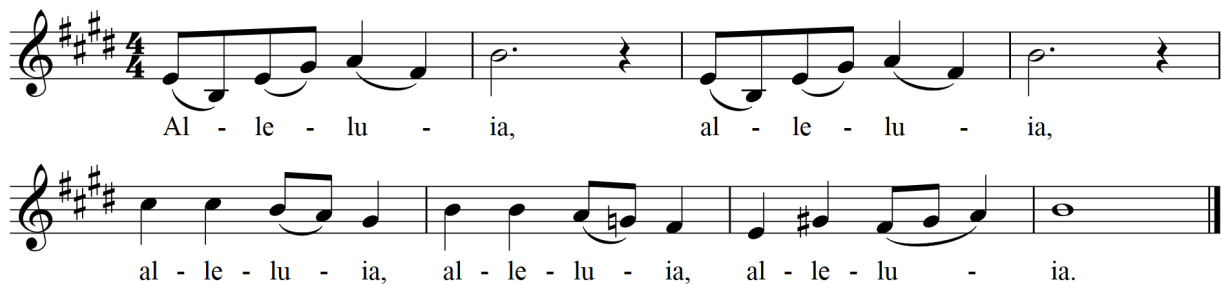
Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; God's glory fills the whole earth. (Isa. 6:3)

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 16:12-15

The holy gospel according to Saint John, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.

[Jesus said,] "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Zawistoski

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 450

I Bind unto Myself Today

Verse 4 will be sung by the choir only.

1 I bind un - to my - self to - day the strong name
of the Trin - i - ty by in - vo - ca - tion
of the same, the Three in One and One in Three.

2 I bind this day to me for - ev - er, by pow'r of
3 I bind un - to my - self to - day . . the vir - tues
faith, Christ's in - car - na - tion, his bap - tism in the
of the star - lit heav - en, the glo - rious sun's life -
Jor - dan Riv - er, his cross of death for my sal - va - tion, his
giv - ing ray, . . the white - ness of the moon at e - ven, the
burst - ing from the spic - ed tomb, his rid - ing
flash - ing of the light - ning free, the whirl - ing
up the heav'n - ly way, his com - ing at the
wind's tem - pes - tuous shocks, the sta - ble earth, the
day of doom, I bind un - to my - self to - day.
deep salt sea, a - round the old e - ter - nal rocks.

continued on the next page

choir 4 Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,
only Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,

Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and strang-er.

5 I bind un-to my-self the name, the strong name of the

Trin-i-ty by in-vo-ca-tion of the same, the

Three in One and One in Three, of whom all na-ture has cre-

a-tion, e-ter-nal Fa-ther, Spir-it, Word. Praise to the

Lord of my sal-va-tion; sal-va-tion is of Christ the Lord!

APOSTLES' CREED

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

God, Three-in-One,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers
and those in our hearts into your holy keeping.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us then click *Giving*
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

CHORAL ANTHEM

O Trinity, most blessed light

O Trinity, most blessed light,
O Unity of sovereign might!
As now the fiery sun departs,
Shed thou thy beams within our hearts.

All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, Eternal Son, to thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore,
For ever and for ever more. Amen.

To thee our morning song of praise,
To thee our evening prayer we raise,
Thee may our souls for evermore
In lowly reverence adore.

Text: St. Ambrose (340-97)

Music: C. Kenneth Turner (1907-1977)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. God,

Creator of all time and space, in this, our own time and place, we give you thanks and praise for giving us life, and inviting us to share in the history of a people who are blessed by your faithfulness, challenged by your prophets, forgiven by your mercy, and ever surprised by your power to do more, working in us, than we can ask or imagine.

We thank you for your life manifest in Jesus, Whose life, death and resurrection reveal you fully: your love for humanity, your desire for human freedom, your passion for justice.

We remember that Jesus, gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, 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.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Come now, Holy Spirit of God. As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and cup become for us the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing. As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and make this community, in receiving this bread and cup, one body in Christ.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.

Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.

Come to the banquet.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

When communing, kindly receive the communion elements from the servers. The servers will then step back. At that time, please remove your mask and partake of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then proceed to the appropriate station to deposit your individual cup. If you wish gluten free bread, simply let the server know .

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

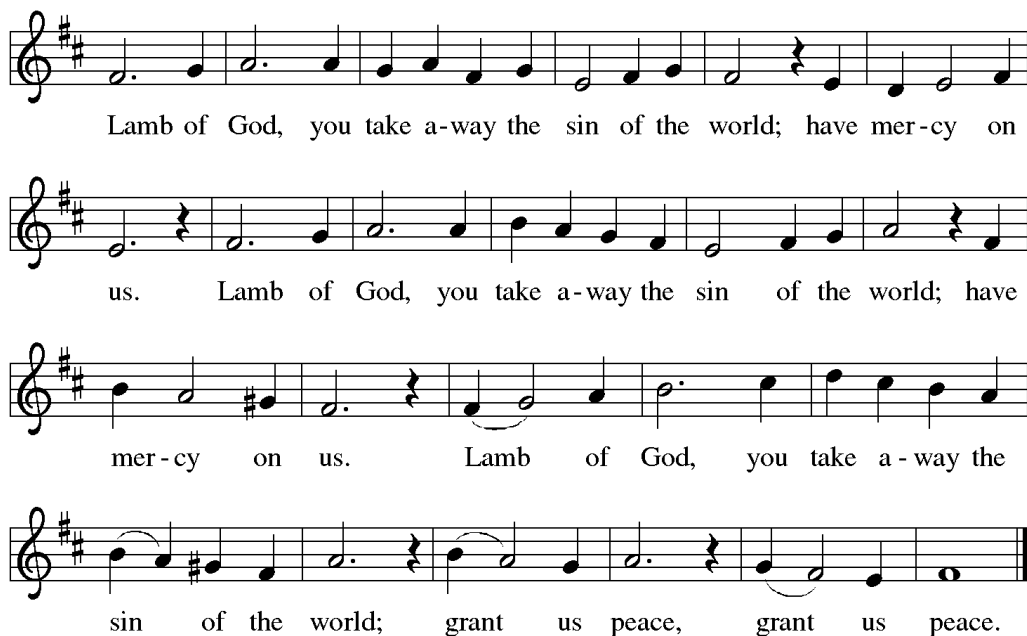
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 415

Father Most Holy



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
2 Trin - i - ty bless-ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea-tures praise thee; all for thy
4 Lord God Al - might-y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three

Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
bound-ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,

ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.
joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - ing.
wor - ship thee de - vout - ly, hear thou our voic - es.
praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

Text: Latin hymn, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681

Text from *The English Hymnal* outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.


Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
 Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552b

Johann Sebastian Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, *Confirmation Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

READER

Karen Evans

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Schola Cantorum

THE FLOWERS ABOUT THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by the Moose, Nichols, and Stesney families in honor of the Confirmands (11:15): Joanna Moose, Annalise Nichols, Henry Nichols, and Wyatt Stesney, and also in thanksgiving for Pastor Zawistoski, Melissa Groen, and the Confirmation teachers: Ed Fenstermacher, Willard Unkenholz, Annika Dodrill, and Sarah Pfanz.

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, June 12—The Holy Trinity

8:45 AM Holy Communion
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Rehearsal
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM * Holy Communion
12:15 PM Reception

MONDAY, June 13

6:00 PM Yoga

TUESDAY, June 14

10:00 AM Mary/Martha Circle (Hybrid)
7:00 PM Reformation Bells

WEDNESDAY, June 15

6:30 AM Zoom Faith Connections
9:00 AM Zoom Program Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Women In Community (Zoom)
5:30 PM Zoom Sara/Lydia Circle
7:30 PM AA

THURSDAY, June 16

7:30 PM Zoom Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, June 17

12:00 PM Food Ministry

SATURDAY, June 18

8:30 AM Zoom Men's Group
9:00 AM Quilters
9:30 AM AA

SUNDAY, June 19—The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:45 AM Holy Communion
10:00 AM Summer Choir Rehearsal
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM * Holy Communion

*NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed
* in person only*

Upcoming Commemorations

Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379; Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015

Friday, June 17, 2022

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

Saint Luke Update 6/12/2022 Edition

A BLESSED TRINITY SUNDAY! Did you know that the celebration of this festival began in the ninth century? It was time to find a way to describe our amazing God. *IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.* We say these words each week as we begin our worship service, and today, Trinity Sunday, we celebrate that great doctrine of God, three-in-one. This is also the only Sunday dedicated to a doctrine. All the other Sundays of the church year focus on the life of Jesus.

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER – God is creator, and God is behind all we have in this world. *I believe in God the Son* – God who redeemed this broken world by sending Jesus. *I believe in God the Holy Spirit* – the Spirit of God who lives in us, who guides us, who directs us, and who walks with us.

PRESCHOOL OPENINGS! Saint Luke Christian Day School (CDS) is still enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year. CDS is a part-time, play-based program serving children ages 2, 3, Pre-K. The first day of school is September 6, 2022. CDS has space available for all age levels.

To learn more and apply on-line, visit www.saintlukekids.org. Students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

SUMMER CHOIR—Are you too busy to join choir during the school year? Starting June 19, (next Sunday!) this summer you are invited to sing at the 11:15 Holy Communion Service. Just come down to the music room at 10:00 a.m. robe up, and we'll get ready to sing for the service. No need to commit for the entire summer!

MIGHT YOU CONSIDER serving as an usher (8:45 or 11:15 a.m.), a member of the Altar Guild, a Carillon player, a reader on Sunday morning? If you might be able to help in any way, please email stluke@saintluke.us. Thank you for prayerfully considering these possibilities. More to come. Gradually we are safely getting ministry teams restarted.

INVITATION TO FORMER HANDBELL RINGERS—You are invited to ring the National Anthem at the Nationals vs. Braves game—by Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 July 14, 2022. Registration deadline is June 24. Ringer tickets are \$50.00 which includes a T-shirt that will be worn for the event and transportation to and from the ballpark from First Baptist Church Alexandria. The music must be memorized (AG36050 by John Benke) and is available from your favorite supply store. Cluster rehearsals will be held in June to refresh ringers on the music or for new ringers to the event. Family and guest tickets are \$35.00 that does not include transportation to the ballpark. For more information email Jerry at jdeanhill@aol.com. If you would like to participate, please contact Edie Venit at evenit1@verizon.net

LOOKING AHEAD:

Vacation Bible School

June 27-July 1

Today's Music

HYMN NOTES

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty

Reginald Hever, 1783-1826

In spite of a very limited rhyme scheme (the “ee” vowel), irregular accent, and uneven numbers of syllables in the various lines, this hymn based on John’s vision of God enthroned in heavenly glory as found in Revelation 4 is a very popular hymn. The use of the angels’ song (Holy, holy, holy) is pure adoration of God in his “wholly-otherness.” Although filled with apocalyptic language, the hymn combines a sense of mystery with God’s mercy, power, love and purity.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

I bind unto myself today

Attr. St. Patrick, c. 372-466

In baptism, God by the Spirit in the Trinitarian name enters, shakes the church of God, and grafts us into Christ’s body. In this hymn the church responds by binding to itself the strong name of the Trinity—acknowledging and laying hold of the binding that God has already accomplished. Then it tells the story of what God has done in Christ, of the creation to which the church also binds itself as God does, and of Christ’s presence within, behind, before, beside, above, in quiet and danger, in mouth of friend and stranger—to win, comfort, and restore. While “St. Patrick’s Breastplate” is a striding tune, “Deirdre” used for the fourth stanza, has more stasis, is more meditative and introspective, a good fit for quietly celebrating Christ’s presence rather than narrating it.—ELW Hymnal Companion

Father most holy, merciful, and tender

Latin, 10th century

Three translations have been made of this Sapphic ode text by A.E. Alston, R.A. Knox, and Percy Dearmer. Two have appeared in Anglican hymnals, and the other in the Catholic *Westminster Hymnal* (1940). The theme is Trinitarian, and phrases of praise and adoration from many sources are borrowed to create a rich tapestry of praise.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Immortal, Invisible, God only wise

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908

“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever” (I Timothy 1:17) is the basis for this hymn of pure praise. The rollicking anapestic rhythm of the Welsh melody rushes the singer along to the climactic poetic thought of God being invisible only because He is hidden by the splendor of light.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

MUSIC NOTES

Prelude and Postlude: Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552—Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

In 1739, J.S. Bach published the *Clavier-Übung III*, a monumental collection of liturgical organ works which is sometimes called the German Organ Mass. The compilation begins and ends with two mighty musical pillars which have been catalogued as the Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552. The latter has been nicknamed the “St. Anne” Fugue because its subject is strikingly similar to William Croft’s English hymn of the same name.

The *Clavier-Übung III* is filled with references to Christian numerology, especially to the Trinity. The Prelude, set in a key with three flats, is made up of three themes. The first, containing the majestic dotted rhythms of a French overture, may represent the Father. The second theme, representing the Son, is quieter with a graceful galant statement, followed by an echo. This section has been compared to an Italian concerto. The final theme, representing the Holy Ghost, is filled with fugal counterpoint with rapidly moving eighth notes “descending, flickering like tongues of fire.” As the Prelude unfolds, the themes overlap, suggesting a cosmic sense of unity.

In his 1905 book, *Jean-Sebastien Bach, le musicien-poète*, Albert Schweitzer wrote,

The triple fugue...is a symbol of the Trinity. The same theme recurs in three connected fugues, but each time with another personality. The first fugue is calm and majestic, with an absolutely uniform movement throughout; in the second the theme seems to be disguised, and is only occasionally recognisable in its true shape, as if to suggest the divine assumption of an earthly form; in the third, it is transformed into rushing semiquavers as if the Pentacostal wind were coming roaring from heaven.

Emerging over the eternal foundation of the “St. Anne” subject, the dance-like third subject evokes a lightness of spirit. In the final, euphoric moments, these elements combine into a joyful, celestial celebration.—Timothy Judd

Choral Anthem: O Trinity, most blessed light—C. Kenneth Turner (1907-1977)

Charles Turner was an English composer and part-time spy, who took the last recorded British pre-World War II photographs of Adolf Hitler. His anthem on the text attributed to St. Ambrose starts quietly. It ends with jubilation over the words forever praising God.

*I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the
Trinity
By invocation of the Same
The Three in One
and
One in Three.*