

February 6, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany



**“Let us go on to the
neighboring towns,
so that I may proclaim the
message there also;
for that is what I came
out to do.”**

Mark 1:38, NRSV

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Trinity Christian School

(716) 674-5353

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Website: www.thinktrinitychristian.com

Principal: Mrs. Kathleen Fretthold

Worship Services

Saturday at 5:00pm (in the church)

Sunday at 9:30am (in the church)

On-line at "www.trinitywestseneca.com"

Welcome Visitors and Guests! Thank you for coming to worship God with us today! We believe that the Spirit of God had a hand in your coming. We trust that God's Word and this special time in worship will be a continuing blessing to you. Come again!

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 6, 2021 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

Imagine a man running a marathon. He puts in so much effort to make it those 26 miles (and 385 yards), but when he gets to 25.9 miles, he sits down and refuses to finish. That would be ridiculous! After so much work, finish the race! In our lives, we are often like that runner. We give up before we get to the end. In our Readings, we see a sick woman healed who gets up to serve, we hear Paul tell us to keep running the race, and then we see Jesus not giving up, but going out and preaching in many towns. We hear a promise from God: "You will run and not grow weary." Today, God urges you to keep running, even as He points to His Son who never grew weary—so you could have that perfect record of a perfect race.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 40: 28; Psalm 147:3, 5*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard?

People: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Pastor: He heals the brokenhearted

People: and binds up their wounds.

Pastor: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

People: His understanding is beyond measure.

HYMN

"Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul"

[Watts / Williams. Public Domain]

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all in me combine
To aid my tongue to bless his name
Whose favor is divine.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let his mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die.

The Lord forgives my sins,
And he relieves my pain;
The Lord has healed my sicknesses
And made me whole again.

He crowns my life with love,
He ransoms from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Has sov'reign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest;
The Lord has judgments for the proud,
Relief for those oppressed.

His works and laws and ways
He made by Moses known
But showed the world his loving heart
In Christ, his only Son.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 Corinthians 9:24–25*

Pastor: O God, You have come to call us to repentance and faith, to salvation and life. We come before You to confess and repent of our sins.

**People: For the times we have tried to keep our faith a private concern, failing to be all things to all people for the sake of Your kingdom, instead seeking Your blessings only for ourselves.
For the times we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have neglected prayer and concern for the community in need around us and for people throughout the world.
For the many faults and failings that are known only to You.
Lord, we ask for your mercy.**

Pastor: We hear today in God's Word, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable." As we run to our Savior in repentance and rely on Him to receive the crown of life He alone has earned, and upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: O God, our loving Father, as we run and grow weary and walk and feel faint in this earthly life of trials, troubles, and temptations, raise us up by Your grace that we be invigorated by Your Word and the hope affirmed through Christ's empty tomb; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 40:21–31*

(The Lord's understanding is unsearchable.)

Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Pastor: Praise the LORD, all nations!

People: Extol Him, all peoples!

Pastor: For great is His steadfast love toward us,
People: and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Pastor: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;
People: bring an offering, and come into His courts!

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 9:16–27 (*Sharing the Gospel with all people.*)

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:29–39 (*Jesus, who came for all people, heals many.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Take My life And Let It Be"

[Frances Havergal / William Havergal. Public Domain]

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt chose.

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

SERMON: “Trusting God’s Timing In My Life” – Part 1 *Galatians 4:4-5*

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You created a wonderful world for us. You give us all we need for our body and life. We thank You for all the blessings that come from Your hand: food and drink, house and home, family and friends. Move us to be good stewards of all these gifts. Lord in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You ran the good race and did all that was necessary to win us to You. While we were still sinners, You died for us. We praise You for the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life! Lord in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Spirit, You created in us a faith to hold on to the promises of God. You move us to desire to run the good race and to reach out to others in this one true faith. We worship You for changing us from death into life in the Lord! Lord in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Open our eyes for opportunities to share You with all people. Move in us not to give up when all appears lost, but to trust You in all things. Thank You for using others to bring us the gift of faith; for faithful parents and faithful pastors; for friends who encourage in the faith; and for brothers and sisters around the world we have never met. We thank You and ask You to preserve them in the faith until the end. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: For all those who struggle in their faith and have questions, come with your Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith and touch their hearts. For those who are sick and hurting, we lift up (Special Petitions...). Heal those who can be in mind, body, and spirit. Comfort the dying and those who have lost loved ones, especially in this Covid epidemic. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Take now all we have—our time, our talents, our treasures—and use it all to Your glory!

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 *Based on 1 Corinthians 9*

Pastor: As the Lord healed the mother-in-law of Peter, so He heals the wounds of our hearts.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: As Jesus sent away the evil spirits, so He gives us His Spirit of faith and love.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: As He preached the Gospel to all of Galilee, so He brings His life to us.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: In all we do for the sake of the Gospel, that we may share in its blessings.

People: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Jesus Still Lead On"

[Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf / Adam Drese. Public Domain]

Jesus, still lead on
Till our rest be won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless;
Guide us by your hand
To our fatherland.

If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let no faithless fears o'er-take us,
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
Safely past the foe
To our home we go.

When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more.

Jesus, still lead on
Till our rest be won;
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland.

[Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.]



Serving Us

Vacancy Pastor ... Rev. Ronald Habedank

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singers ... Linda Meissner, Marie Thompson

Reader ... Linda Meissner

Altar ... Kathy Stephan

Deacon ... Jerry Meissner



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
FEBRUARY 17, 2021
7:00PM**

**DUE TO COVID DISTANCING POLICIES,
ASHES WILL NOT BE IMPOSED.**



Niagara Easter Candy Fundraiser

Trinity School is holding their annual Niagara Chocolates Easter Candy sale. Please consider ordering your Easter treats from any Trinity student to support this fundraiser. Unfortunately there are no brochures available to look at, but you can go to Niagara's fundraising website to view their Spring catalog (www.niagarachocolates.com/pages/fundraising). You can also place orders by calling the school office at 674-5353. Order deadline is February 10.