

WORSHIP June 7, 2020 (Trinity Sunday) Good Sunday Morning,

It's been quite a week since last Sunday. The COVID-19 cases in Arizona continue to rise, the murder of Mr. Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police has set our nation into a deep questioning of our national soul when it comes to race relations, unemployment rates remain alarmingly high, two American astronauts have lifted off of our own soil to rendezvous with the International Space Station, and still many congregations (like us) are not worshipping together in person at this time. The times we live in are so very ripe for people of God to exercise their depth of faith in service, prayer, and demonstrations of love.

Today, we will hear (via You Tube) the sermon by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Eaton is the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her sermon is being made available to all Lutheran congregations across the United States. You will be hearing, along with your fellow Lutherans nationwide, the words of our Bishop today.

Because of recent events, Bishop Eaton needed to revise her message and we received the You Tube link on Wednesday instead of earlier. So, I decided to craft my own message for this Sunday because I was not sure how long the delay would be. Once the Bishop's sermon was made available, I decided it best to have her message be what we hear today. Today is Trinity Sunday. The Bishop's message is crafted around the Trinity Theme. Since we have already recorded the service and message I had prepared for this Sunday on Wednesday past, I will be using that service next Sunday. So, there will be some duplication between this week and next, but the sermon will be different.

In the meantime, continue to pray for our nation that we do the hard work of seeking to bring race relations in our country to a place that is in line with what God wants ... what God demands. Blessings to you as we all worship together in spirit this Sunday.

Pastor Rick

Pastor Rick Lawrence

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GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP
CALL TO WORSHIP

*We have come to worship God, Creator of all, a living God,
who calls us all to bear witness to truth and justice.
We have come to praise God the son; Jesus, our Lord and Savior,
who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace and love.
We have come to worship God the Spirit, the Holy Spirit,
who chooses even you and me, to receive and carry the Word of life and hope.*

(Adapted from United Church of Christ's Worship Ways Archive)

A BRIEF CONFESSION

*God is good! God is gracious! God is merciful! To God we bring our confession:
Where we have failed to honor your desire for our lives;
Good and gracious Lord, have mercy and forgive us.
Where we have failed to act when needed;
Good and gracious Lord, have mercy and forgive us.
Where we have acted with malicious intent;
Good and gracious Lord, have mercy and forgive us.
God is good! God is gracious! God is merciful! We are a forgiven people!*

GREETING

*The Lord be with you
May God surround us as Creator, Savior, and Comforter.
We worship a magnificent God!*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

1st reading – Psalm 8

*O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,*

*to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,
all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

*O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

Gospel reading – Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’

SERMON

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America delivers the
sermon for Holy Trinity Sunday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCxlyckuam4&feature=youtu.be>

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God loves all of creation and had loved us into being. We believe, are awe struck, and live in the creating light of God’s great love.

Jesus is God’s love in the flesh. We believe he is the human expression of God on earth. His ministries of healing, teaching, and feeding the hungry bear witness to how deeply God values each of us. In his death and resurrection, Jesus brings into focus how God’s love reaches into the depths of our brokenness to bring healing and new life.

The Holy Spirit is God’s love active in and among us today. We believe that God’s Spirit is our energy for ministry, service, and

actions of kindness. We call on God's Spirit for all that we do and can become as the People of God. AMEN.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Great God of Creation, we are the people of your creation. You have made us in your image. Help us to always seek to live into that image. It is an image of mercy, compassion, and love. It is an image of generosity, service, and care. It is an image of wisdom, intellect, and spirit. All these divine attributes you have woven into the fabric of our being. Help us, empower us, to live lives that reflect your divine image. Lord, in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Great God who became human in Jesus, we are the people you came to save. In the spirit of Jesus we pray for each other. We ask your blessing of presence and healing to be with all those on our Bethany prayer list, with those sick from COVID-19, with those who have lost loved ones, with those suffering emotionally and spiritually, with those who put their own lives at risk to care for the sick. We ask your blessing of peace to be a powerful presence in our communities, our nation, and our world. We ask your blessing of wisdom to be inform leaders of nations to lead in ways that unite and bring well-being to our world. Lord, in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

Great God whose spirit fills our world, we are the people of your inspiration. Help us to be open and receptive to your desire for us and for all creation. Your spirit is our power to live as Jesus calls us to live. Your spirit is our power to change where we need to change. Your spirit is our power to be the People of God in a world desperately in need of what you can give for the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy ... hear our prayer.

OFFERING (Please mail your weekly offering to the church.
4300 N 82nd St. Scottsdale, AZ 85251)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Let us pray:

*God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing.
As you give to us the good things of life, both physical and spiritual, help us in turn to be of a
generous spirit using our gifts to serve others and to honor you. AMEN*

The Lord's Prayer

*You may say traditional Lord's Prayer or use the Aramaic translation printed below or you
may say both in succession*

*O Creator, the one who gave birth to the universe,
You are the sacred source of our being.
Focus Your ways, Your light, within us.*

*Make us useful for Your purposes here on earth so that
Your desire and our lives become one*

Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.

*Loosen the cords of mistakes binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of other's guilt.*

*Do not let surface things delude us, snare us, and lead us away
from You and Your purpose.*

*But free us from what holds us back, give us power to
live as you intended and created us to live.*

*From You comes the all-working will, the lively strength to act,
the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age to age. AMEN*

BENEDICTION

*Let the majesty of the God the Creator
be the light by which you walk,
the compassion of the Jesus
be the love by which you walk,
the presence of the Spirit
be the power by which you walk. Amen.*

DISMISSAL

In the presence and power of God the Creator, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit we go to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.