

Dear friends in Christ,

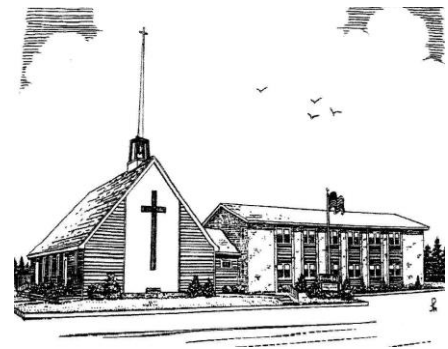
Today is the 5th Sunday after Pentecost.
I hope you have been enjoying the July 4th weekend!

Over the past couple of weeks, I hope that all of you received and read the letter by email or regular mail from Council President, Randy Thumhart, myself, and the Church Council about in-person worship in church. This Sunday, July 5th we resume in-person public worship. The letter explains what to expect at the brief Service of the Word with social distancing practices. As we move forward, we will continue to send the services electronically for all who choose to worship in that way.

Please continue to keep in your prayers all those with COVID 19, all medical personnel, and all essential workers on the front lines. In addition, please continue to pray for constructive dialogue, understanding, and safety for all in our nation.

The service follows below with links for music and the sermon within the service. May God bless you and your loved ones with faith, compassion, and understanding, well-being.

Pastor John



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
5800 Long Beach Blvd. Cody
Brant Beach, NJ 08008
5th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday July 5, 2020

Welcome & Announcements
Prelude



Order for Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Hymn *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiQ_R-s6h00

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

Readings

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

⁸The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.
⁹LORD, you are | good to all,
and your compassion is over | all your works. **R**
¹⁰All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you. PP
¹¹They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom
and speak | of your power,
¹²that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.
¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through- | out all
ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in | all your works.
¹⁴The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down. R

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a

friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon *The Yoke of Jesus*

<https://youtu.be/12QgrcEtOjA>

Apostles Creed

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

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.

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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations (*especially the United States and Canada, celebrating their nationhood*). Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Free us from patriotism that hinders relationship-building. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, all with COVID 19, all medical personnel, all caregivers, those on our parish prayer list, all who are oppressed (*especially*). Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith (*especially*). Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

<https://www.google.com/search?q=hillsong+worship+-+the+lord%27s+prayer&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjOtrcj4q7qAhUilXIEHf8oB18Q1QIoAnoECCEQAw&biw=1366&bih=657>

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.

Sending

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

Hymn *Tis Good, Lord To Be Here/How Good, Lord To Be Here*

"How Good, Lord, to be Here" was written by an Anglican Priest, J. Armitage Robinson (1858-1933), who was a renowned scholar in the study of the Early Church Fathers. The biblical passage from which the hymn is based is Luke 9:32-33 which relays that after Jesus' transformation on the mountaintop, Peter said to Him, "Master, *it is good for us to be here*; let us make three tabernacles; one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." What a wonderful reminder of the blessings found when we experience Jesus in our Midst.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmlgPokv6zs>

Dismissal

Go in Peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

We are praying for the following:

Dawne	Bev	Leo
Jean	John	Alex
Robert	Mary Ellen	Melissa
John Jr.	Dick	Emil
Tim	Bobby	
Phyllis	Pat	
Michelle	Carol	
Cody	Sandy	
Lynn	Judi	

