

Announcements

-The council has determined that based on current circumstances, our church building will be closed through June 30. Full details are in the June newsletter. Contact Pastor Beth or a member of council with questions.

-Zoom Coffee Hour: After Sunday worship online, we'll have an opportunity to connect over Zoom. There's also an option to dial in with a regular phone. The conversation will start at 11 every Sunday when we're apart.

<https://zoom.us/j/601353237?pwd=YjhXSE5rZ2hPaUg1SlIzMUNMNVI2dz09>

-Sip & Scripture: If you're not ready for video calls at 11 on Sunday morning, or if you'd just like another opportunity to check in and have some time for reflection on the readings & sermon from the previous Sunday, Sip & Scripture is for you. Grab your favorite thing to drink and join on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 (come and go as needed) at this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86015279481?pwd=b0o4SEwrZUxUZlYweWVyNU5WMy91QT09>

-If you need pastoral care, have prayer requests, or otherwise need to be in touch with Pastor Beth, please let her know by calling 785-656-2348 or emailing pastor@trinitytipton.org

-This Sunday, as well as June 14 and June 28, we will include Holy Communion in our online worship service. Lutherans teach that through the promises of God, Jesus is present in the bread and cup whenever the congregation assembles in faith. Even if we assemble in front of screens at home, God's promises still apply. I invite you to bring bread or crackers and wine or grape juice with you to online worship. At that point in the service, I will speak the Words of Institution and you may commune in your home. If you are unable to get bread and wine or juice, contact me: I have individually packaged wafers and juice which I will deliver at your home this weekend if you prefer. If you can't access online worship but want communion, call me about having a physically-distanced home communion visit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phiant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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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

O God, make us bold in our trust of you. Make us bold to follow as you lead, no matter what opposition we face. Let our lives reflect your glory.

Amen.

WORD

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While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it

was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. They said, "What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard." After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

SERMON

Who could take issue with a man being restored to health? If you hadn't just read the snippet from Acts 4, you'd probably answer "No one!" After all, shouldn't we all rejoice at the good fortune of others and condole with the bad?

That's exactly what the religious authorities of the Temple did not do. Now, please keep in mind that there were many religious authority groups in Israel at this time, and they didn't all agree. Jesus and his followers got along much better with the Pharisees than with the priests and Sadducees. Even those groups had disagreements about how to interpret the Torah and other Jewish scriptures. These religious leaders feel threatened by Peter and John, so they arrest and interrogate them. "By what power or name did you do this?" they ask, and here we get to the heart of the matter.

A great deal of conflict arises out of power struggle. From large scale conflict like war or political maneuvering to small scale conflict like the toddler who insists

“DO IT SELF” or coworkers fighting over whose turn it is to make a new pot of coffee, no one likes to give up power. Certainly no one likes to feel that their power is being threatened. The Temple leaders, these priests and Sadducees, are experiencing both a loss of control and a threat from “uneducated and ordinary men.”

It doesn't have to be this way. Power and respect aren't pies. Sharing power or recognizing that other people and ideas are worthy of respect doesn't mean there's less for the original leaders. As followers of Jesus, we can freely offer all we have received from Jesus (you know, like forgiveness, love, and grace) without fearing that we will have less.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, “He died for all.”
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

PRAYERS

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Bless all who shepherd your sheep and guide them in their serving. We pray for church custodians, secretaries, children's teachers, confirmation leaders, youth workers, baptismal sponsors, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Protect and guide first responders. Bring mercy and justice with their presence. We pray for military personnel, firefighters, paramedics, and police officers, and for disaster relief and crisis intervention teams. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise up all who are crushed by oppression. We pray especially for an end to racism. Make us bold in standing up for what is right. Watch over Minneapolis and all places of unrest. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heal and renew all who ache for a better tomorrow. We pray for the unemployed and underemployed, the forgotten, the nameless, and the outcasts; for our enemies; and for our loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give to all who are restless, reckless, or uncertain your abiding peace. We pray for all who live with chronic pain, who live with anxiety, and who are ill or hospitalized. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Nourish us with the bold testimony of all the disciples who have gone before us. We give thanks for the faithful departed and their witness in every age. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We entrust all our prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them by the power of the Holy Spirit and the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

