

ONLINE WORSHIP

June 1st and 2nd, 2023
Trinity Lutheran Church
West Bend, Wisconsin

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Loving God, while the world celebrates independence, we come to recognize our dependence on you and on one another. Help us to accept that we cannot make it on our own, and open our hearts to the Good News that we do not have to. We prayer in the name of the creator, the redeemer and the sustainer, one God now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING MUSIC

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

If you want to travel fast, travel alone. If you want to travel far, travel together.

The greater perfection a soul aspires after, the more dependent it is upon divine grace.
Brother Lawrence (Monk)

“Whether it's a Christian or a non-Christian, there's nothing like suffering to show us how small, needy, and not in control we are. Suffering has a way of sobering us up to the realization that we can't make it on our own, that we need help, that we're broken.”
– Tullian Tchividjian (writer, pastor, grandson of Billy Graham)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to worship Jesus the Christ.

People: He is the vine from whom we draw our sustenance.

Leader: Being the branches, we are dependent upon him in every way.

People: Thus are we fed and are able to bear fruit.

Leader: Connected to the vine we are also connected and dependent on the other branches..

People: This is life as God intends- dependence, not independence.

Leader: Our worship confirms God's plan for our lives.

People: Our worship indeed confirms how we are to live: as ones who are dependent on and in Christ.

PRAISE SONG All My Relatives

THE CONFESSION

Generous God, faithful provider, in the depth of our hearts we know that we are dependent on you; we know that we can only find life when we are connected to you. Yet with painful awareness we know how often we have tried to make it on our own. We cut ourselves off from you and others as we strive for independence. We wall up our compassion and close our eyes to our connection to those in need. We end up alone and defensive.

Restore our trust in you. Let us place ourselves in your care. Let us know the pleasure of being with others on the journey of faith, who give us what we need most in love and allow us to share with them. Let our gifts and our lives be bound with you in the unfolding of your new community. Amen.

Confession Response *Alleluia! How Good It Is!*

THE READINGS

THE LESSONS

Genesis 2:18-25

Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the earthling should be alone; I will make them a helper as their partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the earthling to see what they would call them; and whatever the earthling called each living creature, that was its name. The earthling gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the earthling there was not found a helper as their partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the earthling, and they slept; then God took one of their ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the earthling he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 (The Message)

¹²⁻¹³ You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We

each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which *he* has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

¹⁴⁻¹⁸ I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it.

¹⁹⁻²⁴ But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a *part* of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes *no* difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair?

²⁵⁻²⁶ The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.

The Gospel

John 15:1-9

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and

my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

MESSAGE: Celebrating Dependence

Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE (stand) *All of My Life*

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and 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, and the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT

Leader: We know as we leave this building we are not alone. We leave aware of our dependence on God and one another, recognize the gift. Go in peace.

Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: Ubuntu

THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.