MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GATHERING MUSIC

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITY WELCOME

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

[God] works on us in all sorts of ways. But above all, he works on us through each other. [People] are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other [people]. Usually it is those who know him that bring him to others. That is why the church, the whole body of Christians showing him to one another, is so important. -C.S. Lewis

Never doubt that this is God's world, and that it is brought near to him by the right works of the least of his children no less than by the mighty works of geniuses. -Helen Keller

CALL TO WORSHIP (stand)

- L: Today we stand beside saints in the making.
- C: Yesterday we stood by those who now live as saints in light.
- L: Tomorrow may be our turn to take our place among them.
- C: While we live, we live to the Lord.
- L: When we die, we die to the Lord.
- C. So then, whether we live or whether we die,
- All: We are the Lord's.



OUR CONFESSION

- All: Lord, the saints have shown us that there is so much to live up to: You want us to be kind, humble, meek and patient, and most days we struggle, at best. We are to forgive, love and let peace rule our hearts, yet the focus is often on me, not on others' needs. Studying your Word has not become a priority for us. There is so much work to do so we recommit our lives to you with the promise that this will be a fresh start. Help us to follow the example of the saints who have gone before me. Help us to give others a glimpse of your kingdom that is to come in all we say and do. Amen.
- Leader: Believe it or not we are saints, set free by God to live as the people of God. Let us live lives worthy of the Gospel.





CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (sit)

THE LESSONS

Hebrews 12:1-17 (The Message)

The writer assumes the readers and hearers are acquainted with the history of God's first people, the Israelites, as shown by his reference to Esau, but now they have a new identity through Jesus and suggests what that could mean for their living.

¹⁻³ Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

⁴⁻¹¹ In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as *his* children?

My dear child, don't shrug off God's discipline, but don't be crushed by it either.It's the child God loves that God disciplines; the child God embraces, God also corrects.

God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. God's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's *training*, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God's training so we can truly *live*? While we were children, our parents did what *seemed* best to them. But God is doing what *is* best for us, training us to live God's holy best. At the time, discipline isn't much fun. It always feels like it's going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off big-time, for it's the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God.

¹²⁻¹³ So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet! Clear the path for long-distance runners so no one will trip and fall, so no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it!

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time. Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears.

John 6:52-59

This takes place after Jesus had provided food for 5,000 people and the Jewish leaders were wondering who He was. He told them prior to this reading, "I am the bread of life" and metaphorically what eating Him can mean. We experience this through the bread and wine offered weekly during our worship experience.

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

THE MESSAGE "Follow the Leader(s)" Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE (stand) "Find Us Faithful"

- 1. We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road, And those who've gone before us line the way Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary, Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace. (chorus)
- Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us run the race not only for the prize, But as those who've gone before us, let us leave to those behind us The heritage of faithfulness passed on thru Godly lives. (chorus)
- After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone, And our children sift thru all we've left behind, May the clues that they uncover, and the mem'ries they uncover Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find. (chorus)



LIGHTING CANDLES AND REMEMBERING SAINTS

John Abel Sr. Liam Michael Adkins Wayne Fink Lanie Hall Daniel Harter Kathryn Kriss David Meath Robert J Moore John Nielsen Erik William Odness Robert "Bob" Peters Rose Ann Peters Robert Arthur Peters Edward Pierog Robert Carl Pomerening Mary Rady Joan Rudd Allen Schweiger Richard Sutton Neil Traxel June Weiss Sheila Werner Patricia Zuelsdord Walter Zube

THE OFFERING Please remember that your offerings of money, time and talents enable Trinity to "share the love and promise of God" through its ministries.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE COMMUNION SENTENCES

- L: In the still of this hour, we come to find rest for our hearts and contentment for our souls.
- **C:** We come to remember, to give thanks, and be refreshed.
- L: In the quiet of this place, we come to find new life in the bread and the wine.
- C: We praise you, God, for your heavenly food given in love for us. (A time of silence)
- L: In the night in which Jesus was betrayed he took bread, and after giving thanks broke it and shared it with his friends saying: "Take this, and eat it. This is my body." Also, he took the wine and gave thanks saying: "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant. It is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me.
- C: Jesus is the true gift of love from God.
- L: At the table of the Lord we find fulfillment of all we desire. In the body and blood we experience the forgiveness of a dying Savior whose resurrection belongs to us. We are united with all who have gone before and all who will come after. All things come together in the risen Savior, Jesus. Praise God!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FAMILY MEAL. (Sit)

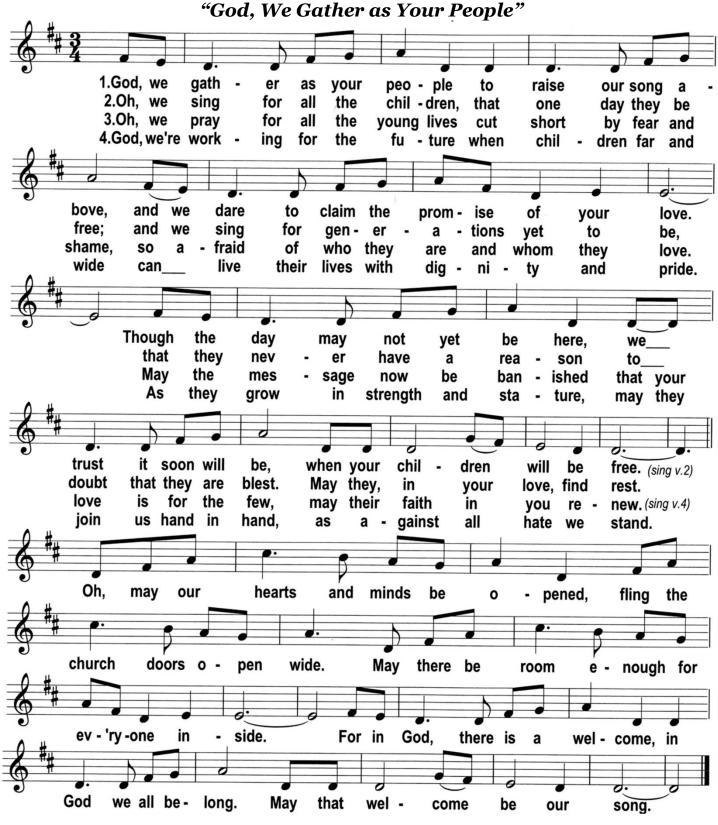
All who celebrate Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to commune today.

When you receive the bread, you may either dip the bread in the first chalice of wine or the second chalice of grape juice Please indicate to the pastor if you need a gluten free wafer. We also now have individually packaged gluten free wafer/wine in the front pews.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION



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THE BLESSING (stand)

THE SENDING OUT

Leader: O God, let us remember all the saints who shared your light with us. Let Your light shine through us and help us follow in Your way, until we too join You in the feast which has no end.

All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG



THE DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Please join us for a coffee hour after the 9:30 worship service.



Scanning our QR code takes you directly to Trinity's giving page where individuals can make a one-time donation, set up automatic giving and/or visit as many times as they wish to help support the costs of Trinity's ministries.

WE THANK OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastors: Pastor David Schoob, Pastor Cristy Schoob Worship Assistant: Paul Bauman Communion Set-up: Cyndee Bruder Communion Servers: Ushers: Ron Hinzpeter, Tom Bulin Reader: Chris Budoff Vocalists: Tony Brodzeller, Ruthann Dorn, Rick Gilbertson, Gaytha Hillman Keyboard: April Brodzeller Video: Peter Nelson Audio: Sue Gilbertson Counters: Shirl Curreri, Diane Ferstadt Coffee Hour: Ashley Bungert, Jennifer Walth

Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi people. As such, we wish to give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home. It is our sincere desire that this acknowledgement initiates an ongoing instructive, and

constructive journey toward respect, truth and healing regarding colonialism, the church community, and inclusivity for all children of the Great Spirit. We commit ourselves as God's children to pray for our indigenous siblings, to pray for God's blessings on them and for strength for them and for us as we work together for justice, dignity, respect and peace for all the diverse people of the land.

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