

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 6th, 2021



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
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Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
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Prayer; O God, whose never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth, put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things that are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday Musician: 10 a.m.: Sara Egert
Sunday Reader: 10 a.m.: Nate Kuhl

Sunday School: Trinity – <https://youtu.be/F2PIWG2TxkQ>
Precious Moments: Paul’s Shipwreck — <https://youtu.be/YTdpQ6ofjvs>
Children’s Message: *Family* – <https://youtu.be/M9oncxv33u0>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 11 Tim. 3: 14-17 Wed.: Acts 8: 26-35 Friday: Ezek. 3: 22-27
Tuesday: Ezek. 2: 1-7 Thurs: Luke 10: 1-11 Saturday: Isa. 5: 1-7

WORSHIP NOTE:

- **Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM** on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC>).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.

Any questions or concerns, please contact Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

WORSHIP NOTE FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2021:

Dear family of Christ Lutheran Church: At our most recent council meeting, the decision was made in light of the lockdown extension that we would offer just the 10 AM Blended worship service. We will update information on this as the province-wide plan of opening unfolds by regions and sectors over the next number of weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please check out our church website, or phone the church office or email Pastor Todd [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com]. Thank you and may the Lord richly bless you

COLLECTION NOTE: At this point we are not collecting any materials for the church. This means no milk bags for making mats; no SOUL bingo prizes; no Christmas cards for Sunday School or SOUL; no puzzles for exchange, etc. Thank you.

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at: WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

PASTOR TODD & JENNIFER celebrated 22 years of married life together yesterday, June 5th. Congratulations to both of you. We pray that the Lord continue to guide and protect you and your family this year and for many more years to come.

Last Sunday Attendance: May 30th, 2021 10 a.m. – 10

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (-)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	1,150.00	72,234.53	(42,493.35)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	155.00	7,272.50	(1,189.04)
Property Improvement:			30.00	2,533.50	

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pagelid=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

MORNING PRAISE

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia worship services

FIRST SONG:

"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

**Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong!
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me, see His grace,
On the cross He took my place,
There he suffered and He died,
That I may be justified!
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me, He is near,
He is with His Church so dear.
And the Spirit He has sent,
By His Word and Sacrament.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

Public domain

SPOKEN MORNING PRAYER SCRIPTURE RESPONSES

Open up my lips O LORD!

And my mouth will sing praises to Your Name!

Come quickly to Help me, O Lord

And be speedy to keep me away from harm.

Teach me Your Way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

As it was then, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give glory to our God, our Light and our Life!

O Come, let us worship Him!

PSALM

**Sing out, sing out, all voices, shout to the Rock Who saves!
With thanks, bow down before Him, Come near and praise the Lord!
For He, our King has blest us; from mountain top and hill-side,
The heights and depths He fashioned, and we belong to Him.**

**Bow down, in faith, before Him, for He has made us all!
As sheep of the Great Shepherd, He feeds us as we go.
All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
And praise to God, the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!**

(Hymn version of Psalm 96; Tune: "Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus!" LSB # 660)

PSALM OF THE DAY: *Psalm 138* *(spoken responsively)*

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down towards your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,

for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;

but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;

you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;

your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, hear my prayer;

And let my concerns come before You.

Lord God, Heavenly Father, since you never fail to help and guide those whom you bring up in your holy living and love: Give us continual reverence, love and trust for your holy name and into Whose name we live, Your dear Son Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray and Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: *Genesis 3:8-15*

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: *2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1*

[St. Paul writes:] But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SUNG GOSPEL VERSE: *"Seek Ye First"*

**Seek ye first, the King-dom of God, and His righteousness—
And all these things shall be added unto you; Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu—ia.**

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 3:20-35*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 3rd chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

....and the crowd came together again, so that [Jesus and His disciples] could not even eat. When Jesus' family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself,

that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. 'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'— for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.' Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN: *"God Of Grace & God Of Glory"* www.hymnary.org ELW2006

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

MESSAGE (printed out below)

TE DEUM HYMN:

"God We Praise You"

Tune: "Come Thou Fount"



1. God, we praise You! God, we bless You! God, we name You sov'-reign
 2. True a - pos - tles, faith - ful proph - ets, Saints who set their world a -
 3. Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, Ev - er - last - ing Son of
 4. Christ, at God's right hand vic - to - rious, You will judge the world You



Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,
 blaze, Mar - tyrs, once un - known, un - heed - ed, Join one
 God, Hum - ble was Your Vir - gin Moth - er, Hard the
 made; Lord, in mer - cy help Your ser - vants For whose



by Your Church a - dored: All cre - a - tion shows Your
 grow - ing song of praise, While Your Church on earth con -
 lone - ly path You trod: By Your cross is sin de -
 free - dom You have paid: Raise us up from dust to



glo - ry; Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne, Sing - ing,
 fess - es One ma - jes - tic Trin - i - ty: Fa - ther,
 feat - ed, Hell con - front - ed face to face, Heav - en
 glo - ry; Guard us from all sin to - day. King en -



"Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord of hosts and God a - lone!"
 Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, God, our hope e - ter - nal - ly.
 o - pened to be - liev - ers, Sin - ners jus - ti - fied by grace.
 throned a - bove all prais - es, Save Your peo - ple, God, we pray.

C. M. Idle, b. 1938

NETTLETON
 J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

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THE PRAYERS

Let us pray for God's holy church throughout the world, that it may proclaim the truth to all people and make disciples of all nations.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for all of God's people, that they may be kept in true faith and produce the fruit of faith.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for our congregation, that our faith in you and your word grows stronger every day.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for our families, that children learn the habits of worship and prayer and are raised in loving and peaceful homes.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for our world, that nations work for peace, that its leaders strive for justice, and that the oppressed are set free.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for the poor, that their communities develop basic food, water and health facilities and that those who have plenty share what they have with those in need.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for our nation and leaders, that they serve the people unselfishly and set a good example.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for this city/town of *(insert name)*, that its people will work for the common good and receive your good gifts with thanksgiving.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray for all the churches in our community, that they are strengthened by your Spirit and kept safe from the evil one.

God of grace: **listen to our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we ask you to give us all these things and whatever else we need on the journey to our heavenly home, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: ***"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."***

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING GREETING & BLESSING

The Lord be with you:

And also with you;

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, remain with you now and always!

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

"All Hail The Pow'r"

www.hymnary.org/ELW2006



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6
Music: Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

CORONATION
868686

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 2

Scripture: Genesis 3:8ff & St. Mark 3:20ff.

June 6, 2021

F, S + HS. AMEN.

The adoption process teaches you very early on in life about what's within your control. These little ones arrive from different birth families with different health histories with unique traits and personalities. The entire adoption process is entrusted to others for placements and choices and meeting and eventual, permanent homes.

While they'll learn many things from their homelife and growing up, still there's certain things in the fabric of who they are.

Raising biological children is enough of a life lesson on parental control – but adoption truly comes from outside of who we are and what we know.

[We of course have the blessing of experiencing both in our lives.]

You learn that these aren't OUR children, as in direct ownership, but unique and wonderful gifts from God to love and nurture into wonderful adults.

[You may think, well, we know that...but you'd be surprised how long it takes some parents to really believe that you can't control children!] Jesus teaches an amazing lesson today about family origin. He claims His mother and brothers and sisters are ANYONE doing the will of His Father. And what is the will of His Father, BUT to believe in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. So... believers are JESUS' family members, not necessarily His family of origin!? Even life at the very beginning of creation centered around faith and trust. It's God taking the initiative. God creating. God shaping it all. He made us in His image. He created Adam and Eve, from the dust of the ground. Amazing new life from the newly sculpted world.

God walked with them, talked with them, shared a close, loving bond.

How quickly God's relationship in faith and trust with them got shattered once the serpent deceived the newlyweds in the garden about fruit from a tree.

They lie, they hide, they blame. It's over. Paradise lost, closed off to them...

carrying sin from one generation to another through childbirth. Sin taints us all, discolours even the unseen inner fabric of our being. God deemed Adam and Eve worthy to give birth To many generations, His dear children, the nation of Israel, and with it, the promise of the Saviour. From Genesis 3:15 – the 1st proclamation of the good news of salvation – a SEED from the woman would be born to crush the satanic serpent. THAT SEED is JESUS; that woman chosen, Mary. The same mother Jesus says "isn't His mother". Why? Because it's all about faith, belief, trust, not family roots. This would've come as a HUGE shock to most the people of Jesus' day...

at least the people of Israel. While adoptions did occur, biology, lineage and family tree history was everything! Consider Jesus' history....from the house of David born in David's city, Bethlehem. Jesus' parents rooted deeply in Israel's beloved shepherd king. But Jesus was unique. He HAD to be born from direct ties to David, ultimately back to Adam's origin, Jesus is the SON OF MAN, the NEW PERFECT ADAM.

Jesus is born of His mother and the seed from the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God is born as a MAN. Lowly so that He knows our human suffering.

Perfect [w/o sin] so that He can save us. Because all of us, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, are rooted in the 1st man and woman. We are born into this world And reborn into God's heavenly world...Jesus' audience would've assumed they're saved and going to Heaven because of their family origins.

Children of that 1st promise.

BUT that promise was never connected to ethnicity—it's only connected to FAITH! Adam and Eve's only hope of salvation was believing in that promise God 1st spoke to them. EVERYONE LOOKED FORWARD IN HOPE because The satanic snake would be crushed under the nail printed feet of God's Son born to die and He reverses the curse which darkened the entire universe. This good news would be everyone's hope This is why Jesus is so dangerous in the Gospel account from St. Mark.

He's angering so many who've long given up any idea that God would love anyone but a select few. Israel was a divided house, a divided Kingdom, ruled against their will by Roman occupation. The stronger man (that is, Satan) invaded their homes and temple and synagogues and robbed everyone of the life God always intended His people to enjoy. Only the good and perfect keepers of the Law (God's Law and Moses' Laws) could expect God's love and only the outwardly and powerful religious said who was good and who wasn't. Jesus demolished this notion! By elevating any believer as one of Jesus' brothers or sisters, He's taking the religious leaders' birth certificates and tearing 'em up before their very eyes. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES includes Jew and Gentile, servant and banker and tax collector and sinner and low life and addicts and any person anywhere on the earth at any time!

ANY believer is a brother or sister or mother to Jesus. And many people He encountered did believe, even if it was only for the miracles He performed.

This is all part of God's plan of adopting all people into His gigantic Heavenly family. By water, word and spirit – Baptism. God designed His family tree

not according to birthplace but birthright in Jesus! Welcome news to outsiders. Imagine the good news to Gospel writer Mark's audience, many of whom would've been Greeks and Romans and various other people groups as well as Jewish converts! This ancient plan, this gift coming down from Adam and Eve to Noah to Abraham, Isaac, David BELONGS TO THEM & NOW TO YOU...SIMPLY BECAUSE OF GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN HIS SON!

Wow! How liberating this Gospel of Christ really is! This is how God restores the human family. Jesus comes and casts out Satan from the community.

He heals, teaches and overturns every bad idea anyone has about God.

Jesus is even accused of being demonic, which is so silly, but that's how difficult His good news is for them to comprehend. Although, there are times we have the same trouble. When things go so very wrong in our life and we expect God to pull us through faster than His wisdom dictates.

We're in love with control on so many levels, even wanting to escape control is wanting control in a different way. We're born and bred Lutherans and Christians and we feel we should be spared such aggravation in life.

Why don't the sinners out there suffer more than us in here?

We wind up missing the sin carried around in our own hearts, working to harden it toward God, His Word, and His Son. These are not to be harboured, God is in control,

we are not. We only follow as God leads us by His Spirit. And thankfully, Jesus says such sins and bad thoughts, words and actions are all FORGIVEN....REMOVED.... PAID IN FULL ---ALL. GONE...EXCEPT THAT ONE UNFORGIVEABLE SIN. There it is. We all wonder, is there anything God can't forgive? We probably think stealing or adultery or abortion or being gay or fraud or murder is all unforgiveable....which are noticeably easy outward things to pick apart in our own preconceived minds. Jesus' unforgiveable sin in an inward issue.... beginning with the heart and attitude --sinning against the HOLY SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is the direct divine avenue to faith in Jesus.

Serious people who believe and say they want nothing to do with Jesus Christ and sincerely mean this most likely committing the unforgiveable sin.

I've known so many atheists and agnostics and non-church goers Who aren't committing this kind of sin. Only those who condemn Jesus and honestly want nothing to do with Him. That's not us. That's not many of us. My hope is that it's no one. But that's God's business at the end of all things. And we're not given our daily life in this world to constantly worry that the next sin will be the unforgiveable one.

Stay connected to Christ Jesus. Get into the habit of confessing sins every day, trusting ever more in the forgiveness that's always there for you. Jesus willingly lived and died to pay for all sins, even that unforgiveable one. HE entered God's Holy City, Jerusalem, bound up the strong man, Satan, by getting His OWN BODY bound to a cross His saving death on the cross bridges the divide between nations, people, ideas and families. The whole world is welcomed into His bloody embrace.

And when His shed blood bleeds mysteriously into our Baptismal water, we're all adopted into God's Holy Family. A family going beyond human origins.

A family so amazing and heavenly For we're related to everyone all over the earth simply because we believe in God's Only Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

Even though families bicker and fight and are divided on so many issues, faith connects us to the most surprising people. You may find yourself closer to friends or co-workers or neighbours than members of your own family.

God surprises us at times letting us see faith from people we'd least expect.

Even though technology connects us through the internet, we're never closer to anyone than when on bended knees as we eat and drink the meal Jesus' HOLY COMMUNION meal. A true family of faith feast joining earth and Heaven. We dine with all brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers who died and all those still living.

[I ALWAYS TELL THAT TO FAMILIES GRIEVING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES AT FIUNERALS]

We share in the same promise of forgiveness and transformation of our lives and how we're inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve one another.

We learn to trust in our God residing deeply in our lives which are so often out of control. He makes our hearts His home. Trust doesn't give us better control, nor does faith. Trust and faith speaks loudly that God IS the one in control and His Spirit helps us live and make choices and serve our neighbour and worship our Lord and receive the treasures of His grace. Which means willingly forgiving and loving and welcoming all people as sisters and brothers of Jesus.

Living His Will.

Not by birthplace
but birthright as His Father's own.
Amen.

Jesus always stands before us as the image of unity, wholeness, integration. He is the stronger one. He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. He puts our lives and houses back in order. Jesus offers a different image of what life might look like. He does so by revealing the division in our lives, the houses that cannot stand, and the crumbling of our kingdoms.

Even when it is for our own good, with the offer of new life and intended for wholeness, that's a hard place to be. It means that one way or another change of some sort is coming. Most of us don't like that. It can be frightening.

He binds the forces that divide, heals the wounds that separate, and refashions pieces into a new whole. There is nothing about your life or my life that cannot be put back



Kids Lectionary Learning Holy Trinity

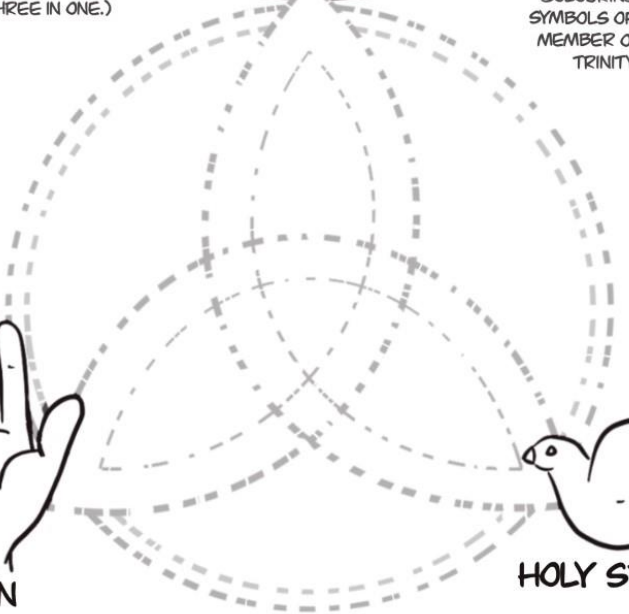
Isaiah 6:1-8
Acts 2:14a, 22-36
John 3:1-17



FATHER

(1. TRACE ALONG THE DOTTED LINES TO SEE HOW GOD IS THREE IN ONE.)

(2. THEN TRY COLOURING THE SYMBOLS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE TRINITY.)



SON



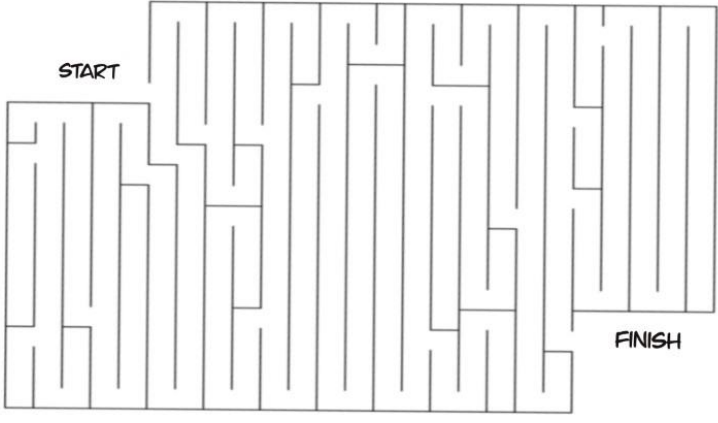
HOLY SPIRIT

Today we celebrate the Holy Trinity.
God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Holy Spirit.
Let's look together at this amazing truth
of God who is 3 in 1.

WITHOUT LOOKING CAN YOU SAY
OR WRITE JOHN 3:16?

- John 3:16 (ESV)

GOD HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO US AS FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS PRETTY TRICKY TO FULLY UNDERSTAND BUT WE KNOW AND BELIEVE THAT GOD COMES TO US AND BLESSES US WITH FORGIVENESS AND SALVATION.



"For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes
in him should not perish
but have eternal life." - John 3:16 (ESV)

THANK YOU GOD FOR
ALL THE BLESSINGS
THAT YOU GAVE TO US.
AMEN.



