



December 15, 2024
8:30 Service

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service, we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: Jesus comes with divine joy for his people. Our worship follows *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

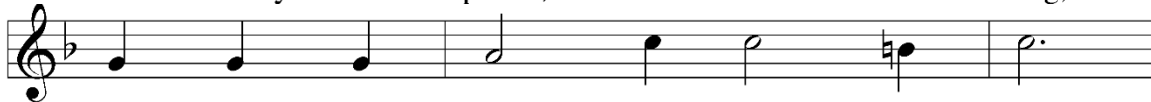
MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 194, Oh, that I had a Thousand Voices, verses 1-4



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es
2 Dear Fa - ther, end - less praise I ren - der
3 I praise you, Sav - ior, whose com - pas - sion
4 Glo - ry and praise, still on - ward reach - ing,



To praise my God with thou - sand tongues!
For soul and bod - y, no - bly joined;
Has brought you down to ran - som me.
Be yours, O Spir - it of all grace,



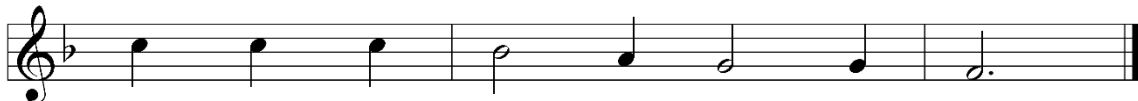
My heart, which in the Lord re - joic - es,
I praise you, Guard - ian kind and ten - der,
Your pit - ying heart sought my sal - va - tion;
Whose ho - ly pow'r and faith - ful teach - ing



Would then pro - claim in grate - ful songs
For all the dai - ly joys I find
You bore the cross tri - um - phant - ly,
Give me a - mong your saints a place.



To all, wher - ev - er I might be,
So rich - ly spread on ev - 'ry side
Brought me from bond - age full re - lease,
What - ev - er good by me is done



What great things God has done for me.
And free - ly for my use sup - plied.
Made me your own, and gave me peace.
Is worked by grace di - vine a - lone.

Stand

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD OF MERCY

KYRIE

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (F).

(Continued on Next Page)

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Zephaniah 3:14-17

“Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵ The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel’s king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶ In that day Jerusalem will be told, “Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.”

PSALM OF THE DAY: 146

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

C: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

M: Do not put your trust in princes,

C: in mortal men who cannot save.

M: Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

M: The LORD gives food to the hungry,

C: the LORD sets prisoners free.

M: The LORD gives sight to the blind,

C: the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

M: The LORD watches over the outcast

C: and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

M: The LORD remains faithful forever.

C: He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

The Lord supplies constant joy, regardless of surrounding circumstance.

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia!
(Matthew 11:10)

Stand

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

Those who believe the gospel look for ways to express its joy in good works.

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 3.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. ⁹ Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?"

¹¹ He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same."

¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?"

¹³ To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to."

¹⁴ Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?"

He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Joy Starts and Ends with Jesus

HYMN OF THE DAY: 12, Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.
Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

SERMON

Text: Zephaniah 3:14-17

Theme: Rejoice Always!

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

(Continued on Next Page)

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Special prayers

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

The musical score consists of five staves of music in C major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men." The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: 311, Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther cost nor
4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, Filled with joy most
5 Hu - man rea - son, though it pon - ders, Can - not fath - om



gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
pain will mea - sure, But the price - less gifts of heav - en
deep and ho - ly, As with trem - bling awe and won - der
these great won - ders, That Christ's bod - y must be bound - less



There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
God to us has free - ly giv - en. Though the
On your might - y work I pon - der, How by that
Since the souls it feeds are count - less, And that



him whose grace un - bound - ed Has this won - drous
wide the gates be - fore him, Say - ing, as you
wealth of earth were prof - fered, Naught would buy the
mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, Depths that no one
he his blood is giv - ing With the wine we



sup - er found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -
are re - ceiv - ing. These great mys - ter - ies un -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.
riv - en, And his blood, for you once giv - en.
bid - den Se - crets that with you are hid - den.
sound - ed Are by God a - lone ex - pound - ed.

(Continued on Next Page)

6 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You have left your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
To forgo all joy and gladness
 And to shed your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
 Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of me desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
At your feet I cry, my Maker:
 Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven
 For our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
 Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited;
 Be your love with love requited.
By this supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me
 As your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3, 5-6, alt.

Tune: SCHMÜCKE DICH (LM D Trochaic) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

Stand

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that they eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

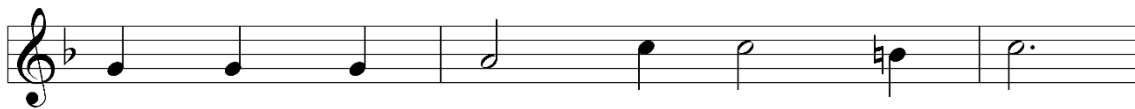
C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn: 194, Oh, that I had a Thousand Voices, verse 5



5 Shall I not then be filled with glad - ness?



Shall I not praise you ev - er - more



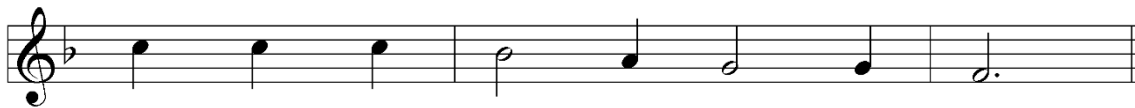
And tri - umph o - ver fear and sad - ness,



Al - though my cup of woe runs o'er?



Though heav'n and earth shall dis - ap - pear,



Your end - less love is ev - er near.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Pastor Paul Jenkins: revpauljenkins@yahoo.com, (309) 433-5807

Dawn Knox Administrative Assistant: Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org, (703) 615-9320

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Advent and Christmas Worship Information

A brief devotion will follow our remaining midweek Advent supper this Wednesday, December 18. The potluck supper starts at 6, with doors opening around 5:30. Please bring something to share if you can; beverages and tableware are provided.

The Children's Christmas Worship Service is during the 11:00 service today. No one will be barred from attending both this service and that one.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:00 and 7:00; Christmas Day worship with Communion is at 10:00.

Women's Bible Study - January 11

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will not meet during the month of December. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll be discussing chapter four of "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com.

Wine and Word Bible Study – on Break until January 16

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

November Attendance

3rd: Worship: 41+38=79; Bible class: 38

10th: 42+41=83; 39

17th: 30+38=68; 30

24th: 45+31=76; 28

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



Rejoice

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20240228/>

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings.

Romans 5:3

“Yippee! I get to go to the doctor today and get a shot!”

“Yes! I’m so excited. I get to go to the dentist and have a tooth pulled out.”

“Woohoo! Our teacher is going to give us a surprise test!”

All of those things sound silly, don’t they? Who would ever be happy about getting a painful shot? Who would celebrate going to the dentist? Who wants to take a surprise test?

In our reading for today, the apostle Paul said something that sounds just about as silly. “We... rejoice in our sufferings.” That doesn’t make sense. Why would we be happy about the things we suffer?

Paul explains. God promises to use the painful things in our lives for our good. Sometimes things that hurt are actually good for us. When the doctor gives you a shot, it’s to help you be healthy. When the dentist pulls a tooth, it’s so that your teeth will be straight. When your teacher gives you a test, it’s to help you learn.

At the time, it’s hard. It’s not fun. It can be painful, but in the end, it’s good for us.

God promises that if he allows something painful in our lives, he will make sure that it is for our good in one way or another. Like Paul says here, the painful things in our lives often teach us lessons. They teach us patience. They build character. They teach us to trust in God.

Because we know that they are good for us, Paul says that we can rejoice in our sufferings. That doesn’t mean you have to jump up and down shouting, “Yippee! Woohoo!” when you are sick or hurting. It’s okay to be sad. It’s okay to cry because it hurts.

(Continued on Next Page)

Rejoicing in your sufferings means that you can be happy even in the hard times because you know that it will all work out for your good. It means you can have peace, even in the middle of the storm. It means you can thank God even for the hard times because you know they are hidden blessings.

But that's hard to do. Pray that God helps you to trust that all the painful and hard things in your life will work out for your good. Ask him to help you rejoice, even in your sufferings.

Questions to Consider

- To rejoice means to be happy and celebrate. What are some of the good things God gives you that you can rejoice about?
- What painful thing did Jesus have to go through, but God worked it out for the good of all people?
- The word justify is used a lot in these verses. Discuss with your family what that means. How does that impact you?
- What does it mean in verse 10 that we have been reconciled to God? How does that word impact you?
- Agree or disagree. Because Jesus won for us a place in heaven and God promises to make everything in our lives work out for our good, we have nothing to be sad about.
- Apply today's devotion. The next time you find yourself struggling, why should you remember to rejoice in your sufferings?

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.