

RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Radisson, SK

THE HOLY TRINITY

June 7, 2020

St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
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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.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Reflection - Pastor Melissa

In Genesis 1, God speaks into being something new and wonderful each day. And then, on the sixth day, God speaks us alive-creatures carrying the image of God.

God doesn't just pick some humans to bear His image based on traits or geography. Instead, every single human who enters this life has been designed to reflect our loving triune creator

with our own loving hearts, connection in community, and the ability to bring new things into being.

But we chose power and pride over honouring God. In sin, we seek to deny the divinity of our neighbours, to place ourselves above them, to use them for our own ends, to prioritize our desires over their needs. Even nature suffers with illness and pollution and decay. And yet, though obscured by the sin we chose, we still bear God's image into the world. Even if we forget, God has made us who we are.

And God continues to speak. The Word comes to our broken world again, this time as a Middle-Eastern Rabbi who teaches us radical love, who fulfills God's laws with compassion and takes the burden of our sin onto his own body at the cross. The powers of evil can't win against him. He creates humanity anew and invites us to trust in him, to be joined to his resurrected life, and to enjoy the friendship we gave up so long ago.

And now we've received the Spirit to keep speaking that Word into the world: the one that creates, transforms brokenness, and forges relationship. We'll know when the good Word is being spoken because around us we will see hungry people fed. We'll see poor and troubled people uplifted and honoured. We'll see repentance and forgiveness and new relationships started in good faith. We will see the Kingdom of God. And it will be very good. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession:

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A Brief Silence

God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to see waterways, plant life, birds, fish, insects, and mammals and call them good. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work toward justice in often ignored communities. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

God of care, you created us in your image. Help us to see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need (especially...). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of companionship, you accompany this body of faith. As the rhythms of summer begin, protect all who travel, renew all who will enjoy a time of sabbath, and shelter all who will not be protected from the sun's heat. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Blessing: The Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

The Holy Trinity: Though the word *trinity* is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament, as we profess the creed, and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

Let us remember in our prayers: Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, David Friesen, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Ida Muller, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp and to everyone affected by COVID 19

Pastor Melissa's worship video can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/aacq0Nn604I>

For other worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Livestreams are available at:

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

- There is a resource available through the ELCIC for in-home worship each Sunday:
<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/2248/>

- Pastor Randy Fiege at 11:00a on Facebook, as well as YouTube.

Thank you to those who stay connected and in touch with our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community by a phone call or sharing online worship services with those who do not have internet.

Worship from home to continue:

In response to some loosening of COVID-19 regulations from Saskatchewan Health Authority, St. Paul and First Saskatchewan councils held meetings this past week to assess the advisability of re-opening our churches for worship services. Three words: **can, should, and risk** featured consistently in our discussions: yes, we **can** re-open, but considering the risk, **should** we?

After careful and heartfelt discussion, and with a sense of faithful sadness, both councils determined that no, we should not re-open at this time. That decision will be re-visited at the first regular meetings of the two councils in September.

The fundamental reason behind this decision was that we must not put the health of our members and their communities in jeopardy by rushing back to a "normal" that truly doesn't yet exist. The faithfulness of our congregations is remarkable, and speaks well to our future. We

have maintained friendships, continued to worship "virtually together" with our own Pastor Melissa and her colleagues (notably Pastor Fiege as well as our provincial and national Bishops). As Christians and as neighbours, we continue to reach out together, which is truly marvellous. May God bless us all: today, tomorrow, and into the future! Peter Kingsmill, Parish Chair

News from First Sask:

Tuesday, June 23 & Wednesday, June 24: 9:00a-5:00p - Spring Cleaning Session. Pack a lunch and come prepared to work!

New Locks have been installed at First Sask, so new keys are now required.

A letter on racism from the six Synodical Bishops of the ELCIC references the recent ELCIC / Anglican Church of Canada / United Church of Canada letter which can be found as follows:

<https://www.elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=569>

<https://www.elcic.ca/documents/ELCIC-ACC-UCCletter-Racism.pdf>

And the letter from Eastern Synod Racial Justice Advisory Committee:

<https://easternsynod.org/story/june-02-2020-letter-racial-justice-advisory-committee>

A Note from Miriam, St. Paul Canada Lutheran Rep:

The April/May 2020 issue had several articles that caught my eye:

1 - Page 6: Cindy Hoppe, the Biggar, SK Fabric Artist. After you read this, look at the Wall Hanging she made for our church.

2 - Page 10: Parish Nursing in Saskatoon as well as other places.

3 - Page 14: Florence Nightingale - there is an interesting connection to the Lutheran Deaconess Institution in Germany.

4 - Page 24: Sask Synod Bishop Sid Haugen has a page in each issue.

Read and discover more about how God works through people and churches in our country.

"Synod News" is available to anyone who may be interested in what is happening in the Saskatchewan Synod. The Synod News may be information about an event that is coming up, or a story about an event that has happened. It

might be a letter from the national bishop, or a post from the Sask Synod bishop. Check it out at <https://sasksynod.ca/news/synod-news/>

Donations to your church can still be given:

First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.

St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

Happy Birthday this week: Brexley Brown, Collin Keet, Janelle Kahovec, Augustus Beaver, Chloe Chappell, Cathy Flath, Alicia Westad

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

6 And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

9 And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs

and for seasons and for days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so.²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very

good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

² Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.² And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 28:16-20

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”