

## characters: When our past is questionable at best

Our past is not what defines us.

We all have things in our history that we regret: things we've said and done; things we have sadly left unsaid and undone; things that hurt others, ourselves, or both; things we'd love the chance to do over again. We wonder if God could possibly love and work through someone like us, warts and all. We wonder if we come from the right background or are worthy of God's attention.

There isn't a pastor anywhere who doesn't have a story about those who question their relationship with God because of what they believe is an unforgiveable past.

Hopefully, you're beginning to gain a sense of the real human beings in Scripture that God loves and works through in spite of their warts and blemishes. The Bible offers account after account of God's dealing with God's people, even and especially those with troubling pasts. Yet God can and does choose to work through them all-the-same.

Of all Jesus' followers, Mary Magdalene is held in especially high regard, and ultimately proves the one most loyal. Rather than abandoning him in the garden like all his other disciples, she is present both at his crucifixion and at the empty tomb, and becomes the first witness to his resurrection.

We don't know much about her background other than Jesus healed her of demon possession (not just one demon, mind you, but seven—see Luke 8). There's been speculation in some camps that she was a prostitute, and others try and establish a romantic link with Jesus (i.e. his wife). Most scholars agree there's little proof of either. **And yet, her reputation as a "dissolute woman" (as language of a previous era would describe her) clings to her character.**

**Nonetheless, what we DO know from Scripture is that Jesus had a habit of choosing all kinds of questionable folks to be his followers.** So even in the face of her regretful reputation, Mary Magdalene is remembered in John's Gospel as the first to proclaim the Good News: "I have seen the Lord!"

### INVITE

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**NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE & HOLY COMMUNION:** *Today we will begin a step back toward normalcy with the return of the Lord's Supper. There will be **2 ways** to receive this morning:*

- **Drive Up**—*Immediately following this morning's broadcast, both Pastor Mike & Pastor Kari will be out on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to distribute communion. You can come from either the north or the south.*

*Only Pastor Mike & Pastor Kari have handled the preparations for the meal with sanitized hands and masks on.*

*The elements of bread and wine will be handed to you at an arm's length, with our masks on, and having sanitized our hands immediately prior to distribution.*

*We will sanitize our hands again in between each vehicle.*

*Please keep and dispose properly of the communion cup you will be handed.*

*We will remain curbside for Holy Communion until right before the 10:30 am service.*



- **At Home**—If you are unable to join us for the Drive Up Communion, please make sure you have bread and wine at home or wherever you are.

The bread can be bread of any kind—plain old “store bread,” homemade, even crackers or anything that’s bread-like.

Likewise, the wine can be either red or white, or, grapejuice.

**Please set aside a plate and cup—again, of any kind, from grandma’s fine china to your regular, everyday dinnerware—and plan on using those and only those for the duration that we have to Holy Communion this way.**

Immediately following the Words of Institution at the end of the service, please serve the people with whom you living with the bread and wine, “The Body of Christ broken for you... the Blood of Christ shed for you.”

If you are by yourself, receive in faith the presence of Christ in these extraordinary circumstances, who gathers us all together by God’s grace: “The Body of Christ broken for you... the Blood of Christ shed for you.

## PRELUDE –

Judy Peterson

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

**\* BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**—FOR THOSE OF YOU WORSHIPING AT HOME, WE INVITE YOU TO SET ASIDE SMALL BOWL OF WATER TO SERVE AS YOUR BAPTISMAL FOUNT DURING THIS TIME. CHOOSE A BOWL THAT WILL “REMAIN” YOUR BOWL.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Word of God tells us that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We pause in silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most Merciful God,

**C We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. But for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us. Renew us. And lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by the authority Jesus has given his Church to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

\* OPENING HYMN | #676 "LORD, SPEAK TO US, THAT WE MAY SPEAK"

1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in  
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the  
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the  
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so  
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that  
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that  
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and

let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.  
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.  
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y\_a heart.  
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

## \* GREETING

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

**C And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray. *(Silence is kept to gather all for prayer.)*

**C Lord, we come to you in the dark, when tears fall freely to the ground, when the stain of sin haunts our prayers, when we do not understand the significance of an empty tomb. Draw us into the light so that we can see you are the one we have been looking for, and feel the transformative power of your redeeming love, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## EQUIP

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### THE WORD—John 20:1-18

R The reading comes from John the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. <sup>2</sup>She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup>Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. <sup>8</sup>Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— <sup>9</sup>for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then they went home.

<sup>11</sup>Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. <sup>12</sup>She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. <sup>13</sup>"Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her.

"Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him."

<sup>14</sup>She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. <sup>15</sup>"Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"

She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me

where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

16 “Mary!” Jesus said.

She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”).

17 “Don’t cling to me,” Jesus said, “for I haven’t yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

18 Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, “I have seen the Lord!” Then she gave them his message.

### C Thanks be to God.

KIDS’ TIME—PASTOR MIKE

SERMON—PASTOR MIKE

\* HYMN OF THE DAY | #592 “JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA”

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH—PLEASE ADD YOUR PRAYERS TO OUR LIVEFEED COMMENTS.**

*AFTER EACH PETITION, ALL ARE INVITED TO SING THE REFRAIN INCLUDED HERE:*

*Refrain*  
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from  
death in - to life. *to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5* *to stanza 4*

L Let us pray for the Church, for the world, and each whom we know and love, according to their needs.

*The prayers of the Church are offered.*

*The prayers are concluded with these or similar words:*

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

**OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC |**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves; our time; and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\* THE LORD'S SUPPER—Please see the notes at the beginning of this service for instruction for receiving communion this morning.**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it, and gave to all to eat saying, "Take and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same manner after the supper, Jesus took the cup and gave thanks. He gave for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

With this bread and cup... and the bread and cups and you have assembled at home... we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the foundation of our faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

P For those of you who are at home: may this the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ's grace, from now to life everlasting.

**C Amen.**

**\* INVITATION**

P These are the gifts of God, for you the people of God. Come, for all is ready!

**C Thanks be to God!**

*Those communing at home are invited to serve one another: "The Body of Christ broken for you... the Blood of Christ shed for you."*

*If you are planning on communing this morning, please start making your way to the Church!*

**\* SENDING BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\* CLOSING HYMN | #422 "FOR ALL THE SAINTS" VS 1, 2, 6 & 7**



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who  
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,  
*Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.*  
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the  
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy  
 Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .  
 saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the  
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.  
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.  
 King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.  
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**\* DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C** Thanks be to God!





## **A REMINDER ABOUT GENEROSITY IN THE SUMMER:**

Our gratitude to God is extended to the people and leadership that has been offered during these extraordinary times. Eldon Johnson, Collin Miller, Bob Minks, and Pam Ross have been GODSENDS over this time in keeping an eye on the finances of our congregation, especially in filling out and submitting the application for the Payroll Protection Plan monies made available through the Federal government. Those proceeds have been

applied in the areas we were required to use them (mainly payroll), which helped us keep a healthy, positive cash flow up to this point.

**But we are now entering what have been for us traditionally lean months of giving.** And our faithfulness to God's calling, even in this time, is to be responsible for our financial commitments, not least of which include our ministry partners (like the Synod and Camp Onomia); our buildings (including, of course, our mortgage on Trinity Crossing); and of course, our staff! **But we cannot be faithful to that calling without your trust and faithfulness in your generosity.**

There are still any number of ways to give:

- **By Mail**—we have a reliable process for making sure that all offerings are out of the building every single day and deposited right way. It is safe, even with our mostly shuttered building.
- **By Drop Off**—Just to the right of the front doors of the church is a secure mail slot that is only accessible by lock and key on the inside of the church building. *If you must be out and about, you can drop your gifts off in the church mail slot.*
- **On-line**—You can [CLICK HERE](#) to give RIGHT NOW, if you want, and that gift can also be set-up to come in a recurring way. (This is the link you would follow from our website by clicking on the offering plate image there.) This is THE most efficient way of signing up for Simply Giving, which is administered by Vanco, one of the most secure e-commerce companies in the industry.
- **Automatic Withdrawal**—Contact your bank.
- **By App**—Both the Apple and Google Play app stores have a free app called "GivePlus." Once downloaded to your device, simply search for "Trinity Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN"; follow the directions for registering; and set-up your giving in whatever way works for your faithful generosity, one time, recurring, or whatever.

Thank you again for supporting God's mission for us, even in these times of separation and uncertainty.

## **Live Stream Fundraiser**

As life gradually starts to move to our new normal, one thing that will not be changing any time soon is the need for Trinity to continue its live broadcast ministry. The Reentry Team has been busy working to create a plan for having in-person worship in the near future. However, full in person attendance is not likely for some time. As



we start allowing people to attend worship in person, the current live broadcast setup will not be manageable and a more permanent solution will be needed. When the budget for this year was being put together no one had even heard of the coronavirus. Since this is not something that was planned for, we are creating a special fundraiser specifically for raising funds for the equipment needed for a permanent live stream broadcast. We have created a two phase plan, and the details of each phase are listed below. If you want to be part of making this happen, please give online or mail your gift to the Church office at 111 6th ave N. Princeton, MN 55371. Be sure to mark your gift for LiveStream. Thank you.

**Phase 1** consists of what is needed in order to broadcast the live stream on a permanent basis. The goal is to implement this phase as soon as possible, meaning when funds are available they will be used. Any funds not used for Phase 1 will be moved to Phase 2.

### **Phase 1 Goal: \$10,000**

Equipment Needed:

- 2x computers (one for the live stream, one for the projection software)
- 2x 24" monitors for the computers
- 2x Cameras (one main view, one side area views)
- Projection software
- Network Equipment
- Cabinetry for an AV Station

**Phase 2** is our long term vision for adding visual elements into worship. This will allow us to move away from printed materials and move toward pre-recorded announcements, preaching illustrations, adding seasonal color and art, music, etc. The goal for this phase is to have it available for the Christmas season.

### **Phase2 Goal: \$15,000**

Equipment Needed:

- 2x 98" Television screens
- 1 65" Leaders monitor
- Mounting poles
- Hardware and cabling

THANKS!!

## **THE RETURN OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION—3 OPTIONS**

### **1. AT-BUT-NOT-IN YOUR HOME:**

- Pastors Mike & Kari will be in touch with you to see about your receptivity to figuring out a way to bring you Holy Communion in a safe, physically distant way from at least 6 feet away.
- We will be masked, for sure, and would be traveling both with cloth masks that you can have if you need as well as disposables that would be used during our time of Communion.



- We will be travelling with sanitary, pre-filled cups of wine and wafers.
- For your safety, we would not be entering your house. But can we meet you on your front step? How about in a shady spot in your yard? We'll be traveling with a collapsible TV tray where we can place the bread and wine and step back while you receive those signs of God's loving presence with you through Jesus.
- Liz will be helping the pastors by phoning you to see if she can arrange an appointment. **Or, you may call ahead to arrange an appointment:** Office: 763-389-2671 Pastor Mike: 763-333-4499 Pastor Kari: 701-509-3005

## 2. DURING OUR LIVESTREAM WORSHIP: SUNDAY, AUG. 23.

- **We want to approach this way of receiving communion under these extraordinary circumstances in a reverential and worshipful manner.** We suggest that you use a plate and cup that you would set aside for this particular purpose throughout the current situation of the pandemic.
- Similarly, you will need to gather your own bread and wine or grape juice. Regular bread or crackers are just fine. The color of the wine or grape juice doesn't matter.
- At the end of our livestream broadcast on **Sunday, Aug. 23**, the Pastors will gather us through the Words of Institution that remind us of this great gift for our lives of faith, "*In the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and broke it...*".
- Further instruction will take place during the service. **But 'Holy Communion' becomes Holy Communion with the words you see and hear proclaimed to you, "The body and blood of Christ, broken FOR YOU."** At that point, share the bread and wine with the others in your household. Or, receive it by yourself in the faith that the Word says what it truly IS: the presence of God's love in Jesus FOR YOU.

## 3. DRIVE-UP COMMUNION AFTER OUR LIVESTREAM WORSHIP: SUNDAY, AUGUST 23.

- At the end of our livestream broadcast on **Sunday, August 23**, the Pastors will gather us through the Words of Institution that remind us of this great gift for our lives of faith, "*In the night in which He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and broke it...*".
- **As the service concludes, you are invited to drive to the church where the pastors will meet you on 6th Avenue.** The elements will either be the sanitary pre-packed units or traditional wafers and cups prepared by the Pastors while masked and gloved.
- The pastors will remain curbside until about 10:30am.
- The elements will be handed to you in your car from an arm's-length distance. If there are others from your household with you in the vehicle, you will need to commune them by handing them their bread and wine.
- The pastors will offer a blessing for each vehicle.
- Please keep the cup and dispose of it on your own.
- The pastors will be masked and will use hand sani between each vehicle.

# Prayer List

## Members

Dorothy Bergstrom  
Florence Botzek  
Jeri Ann Bredemus  
Jim Dery  
Susan Deyle  
Katey Donais  
Dale Dunham  
Marlene Foss  
Adolph Hamann  
Marlys Hanson  
Phil Knapp  
Bruce Lacher  
Tad Larsen  
Del Liestman  
Donna Liestman  
Jamie Lundberg  
Chellis Matz  
Sharon Matz  
Anikka Miller  
Jean Miller  
Emily Nelson  
Ed Peterson  
Bev Reed  
Warren Reed  
Dina Scandinato  
Cindy Schmatz  
Loren Schroeder  
Carol Skare  
Matt Skarohlid  
Brenda Smith  
Anne Stevenson  
Eric Strandberg  
Joyce Tessmer  
Prudence Tessmer & family  
Ardy Tourville  
Carol Warner  
Chuck Warner  
Barb Wicktor  
Russ Wicktor  
Dean Winslow  
Ginny Winslow

## Family Members & Friends

Peter Berry (Mary Berry's son)  
Isabella Borunda (Roger & Jan Gale's grand daughter)  
Diane Boser (Friend of Dan & Jean Anderson)  
Gene Brown (Pastor Mike's uncle)  
Jean Carlson (Chuck Warner's sister)  
Virg Carlson (Chuck & Carol Warner's brother in-law)  
Caitlin Christenson (Kenny & Joy Christenson's daughter in-law)  
Mike & Monica Clark (Helen Lundgren's brother & sister in-law)  
David Doerfler (Pastor Mike's uncle)  
Rachel Fadden (friend of Ron & Judy Peterson/Jim & Jan Dery)  
Jan Gale's daughter Jamie  
Joan Gessar (Courtney Hoppe's mother in-law)  
Marian Grow (LaDonna Olson's sister)  
Shirley Heyns (Chellis Matz sister)  
Dale Kannegiesser (Elaine Storck's friend)  
Evelyn Kingma (June Kunkel's sister in-law)  
Carol Kint (Ron Peterson/Jan Dery's sister)  
Janet Kruetter (Joy Christenson's sister)  
Randall Lundgren (Debi's Pederson's nephew)  
Bryce Murphy (friend of Marlowe Miller)  
Esther Neussendorfer (Danette Scepurek's grandmother)

Janice Omtvedt (Ingrid Bavier's mother)  
Elliott Pancoast (Pastor Mike's dad)  
Tracy Pidde (Princeton 3rd grade teacher)  
Justin Poorker (Jim & Jan Dery grandson)  
Amanda Ridout (friend of the Pancoast Family)  
Rob Savage (Friend of the Keller family)  
Robin Schmidt (Jan Gerth's daughter)  
Andy Struthers (Maria Barlage's brother)  
Patty Thul's Sister Sheri  
Stacy Turner (Marlowe & Jean Miller's daughter)  
Scott Wallin (Char Kramersmeier's son)  
Eric Webster (friend of the Morisset family)  
Ronda Wetzel (daughter of Andrea & Ron Sandusky)

## Serving in the Military

Andrew Anderson  
Andrew Barthel  
Claire Barthel  
Jacob Benver  
Brady Beauchamp  
Eden Betzler  
Hunter Lestrud  
David McCarney  
John McCarney  
Ronald Duresky  
Riley Forland  
Derek Hanson  
Anthony Mandt  
Zachary Morisset  
Ben Noard  
Parker Pedersen  
Jaden Thimmesch