

FOLLOWING IN FAITH

The organizational convention of the Florida-Georgia District took place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Orlando from Feb. 4-6, 1948. The convention theme was, "Following in Faith." On Sunday, Feb. 8, these words appeared in the bulletin of Trinity...

"The Florida-Georgia District has been organized, under God, with the approval of Synod. May the Kingdom of God be thereby strengthened. May the Board of Directors of the infant District have God's guidance and His blessings. May every member of every affiliated congregation remember the District in prayer and support its work generously in offerings.

"Following in Faith," we now gather for God's guidance and blessing as we join fellow congregations of our District for this anniversary worship celebration.

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME/THEME OF THE DAY

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

† *Sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the (†) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

On this anniversary Sunday for our District, we also remember the truth and unity we share with others in our church, as we hear the words of the Augsburg Confession.

A The Augsburg Confession, Article II: "It is also taught among us that since the fall of Adam all ... who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all ... are full of evil lust and inclinations from their mother's wombs and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this inborn sickness ... condemns

to the eternal wrath of God all those who are not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit.”

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

A The Augsburg Confession, Article IV: “It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sins are forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.”

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” LSB 790/LW 444

This hymn was sung at Trinity, Orlando also as part of that February 8, 1948 worship following the organizational convention of the Florida – Georgia District.

GREETING

P 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.

KYRIE

Suggestions for the Kyrie include the Kyrie from Divine Service Setting Four, LSB, Kyrie – I, LSB, 943; or from the Orthodox tradition, Kyrie – II, LSB 944.

Because we will be in the season of Lent, the Hymn of Praise, or Gloria in Excelsis, is generally omitted.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, You have promised to be with your church forever. We praise you for your presence in this place of worship and ask your ongoing blessing upon those who gather throughout our District. Dwell continually among us with your holy Word and Sacraments, strengthen our fellowship in the bonds of love and peace, and increase our faithful witness to your salvation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

P Amen.

Our focus turns to God’s Word and how it guides our lives.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-9

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 4: 1-8, 13-17

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able.

GOSPEL

John 3: 1-17

The gospel is announced:

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel is proclaimed. The reading is concluded:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Suggested Hymn: “Find us Faithful”

Copyright for this hymn is through CCLI. Each congregation is responsible for securing their own copyright to use this hymn. The composer is Jon Mohr. It can be found on the SongSelect feature of CCLI’s website with membership package.

OR

“God of the Ages” (see attached, copyright permission already secured)

SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

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

And in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition is based on and follows a core value of our District.

P As we reflect on the values that serve as our guide in the ministries God has given us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A We value that all people matter to God and therefore to us.

P God of grace, you sent your Son into the world that all might have life. Fill us and inspire us so that our words and actions might serve others and bring them to faith in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We value the gathered fellowship of believers.

P God of love, be with us as we gather in worship and praise. Open our hearts that we might gladly give you ourselves even as we receive your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We value the gifts of God’s people as they offer them in service, both individually and corporately, to the church and to the world.

P Giver of all good gifts, you created us with different gifts and abilities. May each of us use the gifts you have given us to your glory and for the welfare of others. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We value servant leadership.

P Raise up among us, O God, pastors and teachers, who will lead us in wisdom, compassion, and understanding. Bless the president of our District, Gerhard, and the pastor of this church, (name of pastor or pastors) as they faithfully lead your people. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We value integrity.

P God of strength, guide us in your ways and your truth, that our lives might be a reflection of your goodness and love. Use us as instruments of that goodness and love to the sick, grieving, dying, and all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A We value a trust in God and His people which frees us for responsible risk-taking.

P God of hope, give us both faith and discernment, that we might know when to move forward and when to wait on your timing. Help us to take risks in showing extravagant love and faithful witnessing. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Therefore we are committed to carry on this God-given, Spirit-driven ministry of Word and Sacrament through which He shares His love for us and empowers us to share His love with others.

P Gracious and almighty God, keep us strong and empowered, faithful and committed, as we reach the lost, share your Gospel, witness to your truth and follow in faith all who have led the way into the world you so loved that you gave your one and only Son. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregational intercessions may be included here.

*Our focus turns to the table Christ prepares
in the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Doxology

LW 461 / LSB 805

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

See LSB, Divine Setting Four, pages 208 – 212, for the recommended order for Holy Communion.

Hymn suggestions for communion include the following:

“Built on the Rock” LSB645/LW291

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” LSB 680

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

“Now Thank We All Our God” LW 443 / LSB 895

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” LSB 702/ LW 378

“God of the Ages” written by Rev. Vern Oestmann for the 60th Anniversary service of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mission, Kansas (see attached)

The following are contemporary pieces that may be found through CCLI ‘s website on the SongSelect feature. Again, each congregation is responsible for paid membership to CCLI in order to access these hymns.

“Offering” by Paul Baloche

“Power of Your Love” by Geoff Bullock

“Above All” by Lenny LeBlanc

“Step by Step” by David Strasser

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Rise, O Church Like Christ Arisen”

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God!

“God of the Ages”

God of the ages past, Your Word has been proclaimed
To tell of many times you loved and cared for those you named:
Like Adam, Eve, and Cain; from Noah on to Paul
Through sin and flood and persecution You have loved them all.

God of the present age, Your Word remains the same.
The gift of faith is firmly giv'n by grace through Jesus' name.
Your Spirit shows the way to all who look to You
And in adverse and peaceful times Your love sustains us too.

God of the age to come, Your Word shows us the way
To live our life and serve the Lord and shows us how to pray.
You grant eternal life; amazing grace, how sweet!
Through Jesus' blood and righteousness we'll live eternally.

God, through these sixty years, Your Word has been proclaimed.
Your spirit guided us to come and call on Jesus' name.
With water and the Word; with both the wine and bread;
You gave forgiveness, joy and peace and promised life o'er death.

Faith, Hope, and Love abound with care and kindness shown
Through joys and sorrows, marked with the Cross; we know we
are Your own.
Our mission is to go, invite, inspire, include,
Instruct, involve, equip, and love. Lord, guide us now to do.

*Text by Rev. Vern Oestmann for the 60th Anniversary service of Trinity
Lutheran Church in Mission, Kansas. Used by permission
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“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”

Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia:
God the wonder of our days.

Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia:
Christ, our present, past, and goal.

Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.
Alleluia, Alleluia:
Spirit, grace by whom we live.

Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.
Alleluia, alleluia:
Rise, O church, a living faith.

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