

# GRAPPLING

WITH

*Evil*

*Psalms of*  
**HARDSHIP** &  
**HOPE**



**PSALM 73:1-3, 16-28**



**TRINITY**  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, May 14, 2023

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.*

*Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.*

### SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

When My Heart is Torn Asunder

### CALL TO WORSHIP | Romans 8:28, 31-35, 37-39 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ... What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Romans 5:1-5 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

God is Love

### PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Rest

Goodness of God

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

**Q. 20.** Who is the Redeemer?

**A.** The only Redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, in whom God became man and bore the penalty for sin himself.

## KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS' DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Grade)

*Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.*

## GREETING

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | Tim Rice, *Lead Pastor and Director of Church Planting*

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

*Abide*

## BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,  
both now and forevermore. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

### Proclamation of God's Word

**Text:** Psalm 73:1-3, 16-28 (ESV)

**Title:** Grappling With Evil

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ... 16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, 17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. 18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! 20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms. 21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, 22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. 28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

**INTRO:** Why is the apparent success of the wicked so vexing?

### A PROBLEM WITH TENSION

What tension do we live with because many suffer and yet apparently some do not suffer (even the wicked)?

## AN ETERNAL VANTAGE POINT

How can we gain perspective?

## A VERY PRESENT, PERSONAL HOPE

What does it mean for God to be your “portion forever?”

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His surpassing worth and beauty! Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for how His glorious love exceeds all competing offers or allegiances.
2. How have you lived as if Jesus is not worth having compared with the things, experiences or people of this world? Confess your foolish pride to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and heal your heart by His holy love.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His amazing work to remove your guilt (*by His atoning death*) and fill your heart (*by His indwelling Spirit*). Thank Him for taking away everything wrong about you and giving you His own Person.
4. Who do you know who lives envying the success of the wicked or the unbelieving? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see things from His perspective and to seek instead the LORD and His righteousness.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love, joy and patience. Pray for His work to so secure you in Christ that you can view the temporary things of this world appropriately and set your heart on heaven.

Welcome to Trinity!  
Tell us about yourself.  
Please scan on the QR code to stay connected  
And let us know of prayer requests.



### Follow Us!



@TrinityLakeland



@TrinityLakeland



@TrinityLakeland



TrinityLakeland

### Communication

Visit [trinitylakeland.org/events](http://trinitylakeland.org/events) to register.



#### 4th Sunday Prayer Gathering

May 28, 4p.

Contact the church office for information.



#### High School Summer Kick-off Party

May 31, 4p.

Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for information.



#### Middle School Summer Kick-off Party

June 1, 12p.

Contact [Brown Peterson](#) for information.

### Community Bible Reading

[communitybiblereading.org](http://communitybiblereading.org)

May 15-20, 2023

(3-year plan: read blue passages | 1-year plan: read all)

Monday	2 Corinthians 12 1 Chronicles 18	Leviticus 6 Jeremiah 21
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 13 1 Chronicles 19	Leviticus 7 Jeremiah 22
Wednesday	Galatians 1 1 Chronicles 20	Leviticus 8 Jeremiah 23
Thursday	Galatians 2 1 Chronicles 21	Leviticus 9 Jeremiah 24
Friday	Galatians 3 1 Chronicles 22	Leviticus 10 Jeremiah 25
Saturday	Psalms 73	Psalms 21 Psalm 119:144-168

### Scripture Memory for the Week:

#### Psalm 73:26 (ESV)

26 My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever.

### Office Hours:

Mon - Fri | 8:30a - 5:00p

Sunday Worship | 8:45a & 10:30a

301 N Florida Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801

863-603-7777 | [trinitylakeland.org](http://trinitylakeland.org)

### Mission

A city transformed: Loved by God the Father, saved by Jesus His Son,  
empowered by His Spirit, called by God to reach our city with His love.