

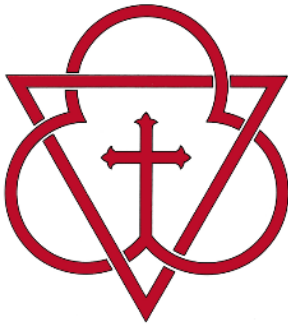


**An Order for the Closing of
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Mt. Oliver, PA**

and

**Welcome of the Members of Trinity by
Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Dormont, PA**

**August 1, 2020
7:00 PM (via Zoom)**



PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

God, our Creator and Redeemer, as we gather this night with an emotional mixture of sadness and joy, we express our gratitude to you who has nourished and sustained us at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church through your Holy Word and Holy Sacraments. We are grateful for all the members who have contributed to the life and ministry of this congregation for over 100 years. We have arrived at a time in our history when we are concluding our ministry in Mt. Oliver and we will be moving on to live out our faith as your people in a new place. We

don't know exactly what the future holds but we are confident that you go with us and that you will sustain us as you have in the past. With you, O Lord, all things are possible. Bless us now and in the years to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

HYMN: "Borning Cry"

VIDEO PRESENTATION, PART I

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 43:1b-3a*

It is God who formed you O Israel
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers; they shall not overwhelm you;
When you walk through the fire you shall not be burned,
And the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

PSALM 80:1-3, 14-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine forth**
Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!
Restore us, O God,
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.
Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven, and see;
Have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.
**They have burned it with fire,
they have cut it down;**
May they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.
But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
The one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
Give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 15:1, 12-17*

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

REFLECTION:

PASTOR JOHN GROPP & MEMBERS OF TRINITY

HYMN MEDLEY

VIDEO PRESENTATION, PART II

DECLARATION OF CLOSING AND TRANSITION

With thanks to God for the work accomplished here, I declare this congregation to be closed. May the witness of its people continue undiminished together with the members of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the witness of its people continue undiminished, empowered by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church. **AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God, you have nourished and sustained your people at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 601 Brownsville Rd., Mt. Oliver, Pennsylvania, through your Holy Word and Holy Sacraments. Continue to be present among us, as we move to Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3104 West Liberty Ave., Dormont, Pennsylvania. Help us together with the members of Bethany to serve you, to love our neighbors, and to spread the Gospel of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

WORD OF WELCOME

With thanks to God for this opportunity, we, at Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church extend a warm welcome to the member of Trinity, Mt Oliver, and pray that our witness and life together will be richly blessed by the power of God's Word and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

[Additional words of welcome may be given by members of Bethany at this time.]

HYMN My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

*1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

Refrain

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil.* Refrain

*3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay.* Refrain

*4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne!* Refrain

BLESSING

May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son (+), and the Holy Spirit continue with you now and forever. **AMEN.**

POSTLUDE: "Be Thou My Vision"

*Transformed by the love of Christ,
we serve God by serving others.*