



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2020 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Judy Williams on her birthday by Heather Kleckley.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching  
Assisting Minister  
Organist/Choir Director

Susan J. Crowell  
Philip Wessinger  
James C. Parham, III

Cantor

Ann Coon

Lectors

Elizabeth Allen  
Chaz Haines

Pianist

Jenna Mast

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Canon in D* by Johann Pachelbel  
arranged for piano by Nancy and Randal Faber  
Jenna Mast, Piano

WELCOME

*Stand*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us;  
and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

**Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through ✠ Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**

**Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see. *Refrain***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**

**Longing for hope, many despair.**

**Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.**

**Longing for water, many still thirst.**

**Your word alone broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.**

**Longing for warmth, many are cold.**

**Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

**Many the gifts, many the people,**

**many the hearts that yearn to belong.**

**Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

*Refrain*

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

#### GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God,  
with all your faithful followers of every age,  
we praise you, the rock of our life.

Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son,  
that we may gladly minister to all the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,

and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;

for they were but one couple when I called them,

but I blessed them and made them many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; comfort all her waste places,

and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD;

joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation;

for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,

my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples;

the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.

<sup>6</sup>Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;

for the heavens will vanish like smoke,

the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats;

but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.**Psalm  
Refrain*

O Lord, your stead - fast love en - dures for - ev - er.

*Psalm  
Tone*

- <sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;  
before the gods I will | sing your praise.
- <sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**
- <sup>3</sup>When I called, you | answered me;  
you increased my | strength within me.
- <sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words | of your mouth. ℞**
- <sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,  
that great is the glory | of the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**
- <sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right | hand shall save me.
- <sup>8</sup>**You will make good your pur- | pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;  
do not abandon the works | of your hands. ℞**

A reading from Romans.

<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

*God Is Our Rock*

*Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but God in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*A Come to Jesus Moment*

*Stand as able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

#669

**Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;  
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.**

**Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;  
as heir to God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.**

**Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;  
redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.**

**Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;  
stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.**

**Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;  
and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r rise up, O saints of God!**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gathered in our homes and held together in one body by the Spirit of Christ, let us pray for the church and the world.

Bless the church, that despite the hardships experienced during this pandemic, Christians around the globe will stand firm on the rock, who is Christ. Support pastors, deacons, and congregational committees during this difficult time. Give wisdom to churches that are considering when and how to resume their communal worship schedule.

Unfailing God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless the earth, that it be saved from ecological harm. Restore all lands and seas to the beauty and vigor that you intend. Protect animals whose habitat is endangered. Train us to be gardeners of your creation. We pray for those suffering the effects of destructive summer storms and scorching heat. Creator God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless the leaders of nations, that they govern their people with integrity and attend to the needs of the poor. Guard the United States from violence. Give clear purpose to protestors and to police. Inspire our political parties to conduct the election season with honesty and respect for all. God of justice, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless our various means of communication, our phones, the internet, our postal service, and delivery businesses, that our communities be sustained for fruitful life together.

Merciful God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless students, that whether in class or at home they be kept safe and able to learn. Uphold faculty and families and protect all who will be affected by the opening of schools. Form college students to conduct themselves with maturity. Benevolent God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

Bless all who are in need; all who have tested positive for the virus; the sick and the dying. We pray for the unemployed; for medical workers; for those seeking a vaccine; for those who are overwhelmed with anxiety about the future. We pray for those we name here:

Compassionate God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

Finally, we pray also for ourselves, that with Christ as our rock, we can stand firm.

Merciful God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

We praise you for the lives of all your faithful people. We mourn the death of those we have loved. Bring us at the end, we pray, into the joy and gladness of life together in you.

Eternal God, hear our prayer:

**your steadfast love endures forever.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Each year on the Sunday before the start of school, it is our practice to invite all students and teachers, preschool to graduate school, and anyone who works in public or private education in our community to gather at the baptismal font to receive a special blessing.

While we cannot huddle close together around the font, my colleagues and I believe that, if ever there was a time when you needed some extra love, strength, encouragement, and blessing, it is this year. Because of the global pandemic, everything, even school, is very different. Many of you were typically nervous and excited about the start of school, but this year there is an even wider range of emotions. In addition to feeling nervous and excited, you might also be experiencing anxiety, fear, anticipation, worry, curiosity, and doubt.

As you start back to school, know that our Trinity family loves you, cares about you, and is praying for your safety and well-being. In spite of all the challenges, it is our hope that this year will be a year of growth, learning, strength, and blessing.

As you prepare to begin a new school year, be mindful of these words of Scripture:

From Psalm 56: *When I am afraid, I put my trust in God.* Psalm 56:3

From the Prophet Isaiah: *Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.* Isaiah 43:1b

From the Gospel of Matthew: *Jesus says, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall also love your neighbor as yourself.* Matthew 22:37-39

From Psalm 91: *God will give the angels charge over you to accompany you, defend you, and preserve you in all your ways.* Psalm 91:11-12

From First Peter: *Cast all your worry on God, because God cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:7

In holy baptism our Lord Jesus named you and claimed you, made you a part of God's family. Each of you is God's beloved, precious, baptized child. Find comfort, hope, strength, wisdom, and comfort in this identity. You are not alone as you return to school. God goes with you.

To remind you of God's constant provision for you, we have a holding cross for you. Some of you were able to get these from church last week and everyone else is welcome to come this week. We invite you to keep this cross in your backpack, pocket, purse, or on your desk as a reminder that God is with you and that God will never leave you or forsake you. When you feel anxious or worried, we encourage you to hold the cross in your hands and be soothed and comforted.

Let us pray. Dear God, thank you for school, for opportunities to learn and grow, for students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Send your Holy Spirit to watch over each of your beloved children. Wrap a bubble of love and protection around each of them. Keep them safe from any harm and inspire them to be strong and brave. Bless them with kindness, faith, compassion, and peace.

**Amen**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

☞ **Peace be with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today  
to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,  
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, [www.trinitylutheran.ws](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws).  
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

### *Amazing Grace*

by Marianne Foreman, edited by Dan Forrest

Ann Coon, soprano

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shinning as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

*Stand as able*

**Let the vineyards be fruitful Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth,  
**all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,  
that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.  
Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Sit

## Communion

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.*

*Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

*Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words, "The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."*

COMMUNION HYMN

*Will You Come and Follow Me*

# 798

**"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you let the blinded see if I but call you name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you love the you you hide if I but call you name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"**

**Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

*Stand as able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

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.  
God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

#538

**The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a better place to live. Repeat**

**The angels are not sent into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.**

**Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. Repeat**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Christ, Be Our Light*

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*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

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*Will you Come and Follow Me?*

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*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

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*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

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*Amazing Grace*

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## CHURCH STAFF

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## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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