



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 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 memory of her son, Charles Wood, by Joe & Merry Mulcahy.

SERVING TODAY

Preaching & Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Organist

Susan J. Crowell
Amy Brown
Jon Moyer

Cantor

Melanie Helling

Lectors

Chip Bettler
Ryann Roth

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Voluntary in C - Anonymous
(English 18th C.)

WELCOME

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through Christ's death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

**God is Here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds, and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive,
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

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 Lord God, merciful judge,
you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.
Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you,
that we may delight in doing your will,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your parents." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your attendants." ¹⁹Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid; is it for me to put myself in God's place? ²⁰You planned evil for me, but God planned it for good, as it has come to pass this day—to bring about survival for many people. ²¹So you need not be afraid. I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this manner he assured them with words that touched their hearts.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Lord, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

*Psalm
Tone*

- ¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—R**
- ³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed. R**

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS' SERMON

Learning to Say Sorry

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 eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and asked Jesus, “When a sister or brother wrongs me, how many times must I forgive? Seven times? ²²”No,” Jesus replied, “not seven times, I tell you seventy times seven. ²³And here’s why. The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who decided to settle accounts with royal officials. ²⁴When the audit was begun, one was brought who owed tens of millions of dollars. ²⁵As the debtor had no way of paying, the ruler offered this official to be sold, along with family and property in payment of the debt. ²⁶At this, the official bowed down in homage and said, “I beg you, your highness, be patient with me and I will pay you back in full. ²⁷Moved with pity, the ruler let the official go and wrote off the debt. ²⁸Then the same official went out and met a colleague who owed the official twenty dollars. The official seized and throttled this debtor with the demand ‘Pay back what you owe me!’²⁹The debtor dropped to the ground and began to plead, “Just give me time and I will pay you back in full.³⁰But the official would hear none of it, and instead had the colleague put in debtor’s prison until the money was paid. ³¹When the other officials saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and went to the ruler, reporting the entire incident.³²Thr ruler sent for the official and said, ‘You worthless wretch! I cancelled your entire debt when you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have dealt mercifully with your colleague, as I dealt with you?’³⁴Then in anger, the ruler handed the official over to be tortured until the debt had been paid in full. ³⁵”My Abba in heaven will treat you exactly the same way unless you truly forgive your sisters and brothers from your hearts.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Developing a Habit of Forgiveness

Stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rise, Shine, You People!

#665

Rise, Shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

See how he sends the pow’rs of evil reeling; he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of Jesus’ glory.

Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us. Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us. Tell how the Spirit calls from ev’ry nation God’s new creation.

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 to the dead.
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**

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Gathered in our homes and drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of open arms, make Christians into signs of your gracious welcome, to both members and newcomers, whether meeting physically or digitally. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries, and nurture new ventures for education and growth. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons for their work in this unprecedented time. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of lands and seas, continue your care for your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we ask you to heal and renew your earth. Preserve the lands from fire and storm. Protect the sources of food that your creatures need for life. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of justice, lead the nations away from the ways of violence. Guide the United Nations and other organizations that seek reconciliation across national borders. Show families, neighborhoods, and nations how to welcome diversity while sharing common ground. Preserve our election season from abuse and rancor. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of our homeland, visit the American cities that are addressing local racism. Stand with both protesters and police, that civil society may be preserved and improved. Bring both healing and justice to our land. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God in the margins, protect, strengthen, and bless all who have experienced hate, misunderstanding, and intolerance at the hands of those who confess faith in Christ. We pray for our black and brown siblings, for our sisters and brothers struggling with poverty, hunger and homelessness, our queer siblings, all who struggle with mental illness, and all who have suffered at the hands of the church. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of the sufferers, visit prisons and care homes with health and hope. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor. Deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger and provide safety to migrants. Protect firefighters and first responders. Heal the sick, especially those we name here before you: O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of goodness, once more we beg for a way through the pandemic. Comfort the afflicted. Support medical workers. Prepare a vaccine. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

God of tender power, we live to you. Hear now, we pray, the desires of our hearts. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have led us in the faith, especially those we commemorate this week: John Chrysostom, Bishop Cyprian, Hildegard of Bingen, and Dag Hammarskjöld. Hold us with them in your everlasting love. O God, you are full of compassion;
receive our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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.
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

I Come with Joy

Words by Brian A. Wren

Music by W. Walker

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

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. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.

Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,

nourish us with this rich food and drink,

and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,

through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

Where Charity and Love Prevail

#359

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.**

**Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.**

**Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.**

Stand as able

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Mothering God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

#543

**“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God is Here!

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