



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 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 Bill Kleckley and in honor of Heather Kleckley by Darlene Kleckley.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding & Preaching Minister

Assisting Minister

Organist

Jim Parham

Kay Cook

Jon Moyer

Cantor

Megan Finnern

Lectors

Sue Boeker

John Otten

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

“The Peace may be exchanged.” from *Rubrics*  
by Dan Locklair

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.**

**Lord of light, your name out shining all the stars and  
suns of space, use our talents in your kingdom  
as the servants of your grace; use us to fulfill  
your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son. Refrain**

**By the toil of faithful workers in some far out  
lying field, by the courage where the radiance  
of the cross is still revealed, by the victories  
of meekness, through reproach and suffering won: Refrain**

**Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may  
lowly kneel; with your grace our triumphs hallow,  
with your charity our zeal; lift the nations  
from the shadows to the gladness of the sun: Refrain**

**By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent  
day or night; by the cross of Jesus, bringing  
peace to all and healing light; by the love that  
passes knowledge, making all your children one: Refrain**

*Refrain*

**Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.**

#### 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. Almighty and eternal God,  
you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.  
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities,  
grant us your merciful judgment,  
and train us to embody the generosity of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10 - 4:11

A reading from Jonah.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God relented by not inflicting on them the disaster that threatened them. <sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

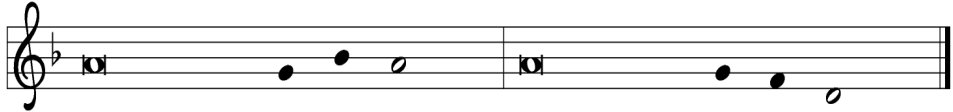
<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

The Lord is slow to an-ger and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

*Psalm  
Tone*

- <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my | God and king,  
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!  
There is no end | to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works | to another  
and shall de- | clare your power. R**
- <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty  
and all your | marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,  
and I will re- | count your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

*Why is Jonah so mad at God?*

*Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of an estate who went out at dawn to hire workers for the vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After reaching an agreement with them for the usual daily wage, the owner sent them out to the vineyard. <sup>3</sup>“About mid-morning, the owner came out and saw others standing around the marketplace without work, <sup>4</sup>and said to them, ‘You go along to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is fair.’ <sup>5</sup>At that they left. “Around noon and again in the mid-afternoon, the owner came out and did the same. <sup>6</sup>Finally, going out in the late afternoon, the owner found still others standing around and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup> “ ‘No one has hired us,’ they replied. “The owner said, ‘You go to my vineyard, too.’ <sup>8</sup>“When evening came, the owner said to the overseer, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay, but begin with the last group and end with the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired late in the afternoon came up, they received a full day’s pay, <sup>10</sup>and when the first group appeared they assumed they would get more. Yet they all received the same daily wage. <sup>11</sup>“Thereupon they complained to the owner, <sup>12</sup>This last group did only an hour’s work, but you’ve put them on the same basis as those who worked a full day in the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>” ‘My friends,’ said the owner to those who voiced this complaint, ‘I do you no injustice. You agreed on the usual wage, didn’t you? <sup>14</sup>Take your pay and go home. I intend to give this worker who was hired last the same pay as you. <sup>15</sup>I’m free to do as I please with my money, aren’t I? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>”Thus the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*The Scandal of Grace*

*Stand as able*



**Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for  
love were made. Your living likeness still we bear,  
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed. We come, with all our  
heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.**

**We come with self inflicted pains of broken trust and  
chosen wrong, half free, half bound by inner chains,  
by social forces swept along, by pow'rs and systems  
close confined, yet seeking hope for human kind.**

**Great God, in Christ you call our name and then receive us  
as your own, not through some merit, right, or claim,  
but by your gracious love alone. We strain to glimpse your  
mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.**

**Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and  
call us friends. Suffer and serve till all are fed,  
and show how grandly love intends to work till all creation  
sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

**Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your  
joy to share. Give us your Spirit's liberty  
to turn from guilt and dull despair, and offer all that  
faith can do while love is making all things new.**

#### 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.

O God, you make the last first, and the first last. Give resources and courage to the churches around the globe that have few resources. When ministry in this time is so difficult, inspire bishops, pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders in their service.

O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

Continue your care for your whole creation: sun and wind, bushes and worms, cities and farms, and all your many animals. Make us into extensions of your care. Preserve the food sources of the world. O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

To places of conflict and violence, bring peace, especially to the cities of our nation. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers. Preserve protesters, and guide police. Enlighten our nation, the nations we call friends, and the nations that are deemed our enemies. Keep our election season from dishonesty.

O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

Give your blessing to the Jewish people at this time of their new year. Bring an end to anti-Semitism around the globe and strengthen peace efforts in the Middle East.

O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

To all who are suffering or marginalized, show your mercy. We pray for firefighters, for communities devastated by fire, for all who suffer racial injustice, for our queer siblings, for migrants who seek safety, for all who are imprisoned, for victims of crime, for the unemployed, for students and faculty during the pandemic, for medical workers, for all who are hungry: O God, the list of the needy is so long. O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

Give health and wholeness to all who are sick, to all who are suffering from the coronavirus, and to those we name before you here: O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

You show mercy beyond our expectations, far beyond our deserving. Hear now our personal prayers. O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

We praise you for all the saints, especially this week for the apostle Matthew and for the gift of his gospel that speaks to us of your goodness. Give us grace to live for Christ, until we join with all the faithful in your eternal life. O God, you are full of compassion:

**graciously hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Jesus 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](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws).  
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

*Communion Prayer*

Words by M.F.C. Wilson

Music by Allen Pote

We place upon your table, Lord, the food of life, the bread and wine,  
as symbols of our daily work, according to your grand design.

Within these simple things there lie the height and depth of human life;  
our pain and tears, our thoughts and toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.

Accept them, Lord, they come from you. We take them humbly from your hand.

These gifts for higher use offer, we offer, we offer up as you command.

*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

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

#765

**Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**

**Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
be there at our labors, and give, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**

**Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
be there at our homing and give, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**

**Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

*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

#### *Lord of Light*

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#### *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us!*

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#### *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

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#### *Lord of All Hopefulness*

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Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon  
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and Children's Ministries

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Roy L. Cook  
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