



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 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 their infant son, Lee Richard Whitley, by Alton and Ann Whitley.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding & Preaching Minister

Assisting Minister

Organist

Susan J. Crowell

Mandi Whitley

Jim Parham

Cantor

Anna Wise

Russ Wise

Lectors

Kris Ballew

Mac Wannemacher

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

## GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Toccatà in D Minor (BWV 565) by J. S. Bach*

WELCOME

STEWARDSHIP VIDEO

*We are Trinity...I am Trinity*

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.**

**Dearest Jesus at your word we have come  
again to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you as the promises  
here given draw us wholly up to heaven.**

**All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest  
darkness shrouded till your Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and  
all good living come but by your gracious giving.**

**Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of Light from  
God proceeding, Jesus, send your blessed light:  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding, that our prayers and  
songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and  
adoration! Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation while we here on  
earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.**

## 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. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.  
Give us your grace to overcome them,  
keep us from those things that harm us,  
and guide us in the way of salvation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

- <sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- <sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- <sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness,  
O LORD.
- <sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>If our life in Christ means anything to you—if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy can persuade you at all—<sup>2</sup>then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. <sup>3</sup>There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble; value others over yourselves, <sup>4</sup>each of you thinking of the interest of others before your own. <sup>5</sup>Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Christ, though in the image of God,  
 didn't deem equality with God  
 something to be clung to—

<sup>7</sup>but instead became completely empty  
 and took on the image of oppressed humankind:  
 born into the human condition  
 found in the likeness of a human being.

<sup>8</sup>Jesus was humbled—  
 obediently accepting death, even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Because of this, God highly exalted Christ  
 and gave to Jesus the name above every other name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend  
 in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God:  
 Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my dear friends, you who are always obedient to my urging, work out your salvation with fear and trembling, not only when I happen to be with you, but all the more now that I'm absent. <sup>13</sup>It is God at work in you that creates the desire to do God's will.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

*In This Together*

*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.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty first chapter.

### **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*O God, My Faithful God*

#806

**O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing:  
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within  
a conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.**

**Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing  
whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling—  
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.**

**Keep me from saying words that later need recalling:  
guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling;  
but when, within my place, I must and ought to speak,  
then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.**

**When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless:  
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;  
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,  
and, by your Spirit's might, to live at peace with all.**

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in our homes and with the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need,

Throughout the globe is the church: many assemblies are postponed by the virus, our songs quieted, our leaders searching for new ways forward. That you will continue to inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ, we pray to you, faithful God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. That you will preserve and protect the earth, we pray to you, mighty God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. That you will save the people in all the nations of the world, we pray to you, compassionate God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

In our nation's courts, we see justice delayed and justice denied. Yet we thank you for the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and for her passion for equality under the law. That you will uphold honest judges and insightful juries throughout our criminal justice system, and that you will assist our nation in its task of filling the Supreme Court, we pray to you, righteous God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us are the sick: there is starvation, the virus continues, many persons receive no medical attention, our neighbors and dear ones are ill. That you will bless all ministries of care and will relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, we pray to you, merciful God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Nearby are needs of which we are unaware. That you will send your holy angels to uphold all who face personal troubles, we pray to you, benevolent God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Inside many hearts there is both joy and sorrow. We pray now for ourselves: That you will give us new hearts and a new spirit, we pray to you, loving God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness. That we may confess Jesus Christ as Lord through our life and at our death, we pray to you, eternal God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

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](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws).  
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

*Hearts and Hands Gathered in Praise  
Handbell Choir*

Music by Jim Parham

*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

*The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

#531

**The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin. The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside. Refrain**

**Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine. Refrain**

**The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise. Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. Refrain**

**Refrain**

**Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,  
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.  
Take your place at the table of the King.  
The feast is ready to begin:  
the feast is ready to begin.**

*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

*Fugue in D Minor (BWV 565)* by J. S. Bach

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

Words and Music © 1978 Lutheran book of Worship, Admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

*the Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

Text and Music © 1989 Make Way Music, Admin Music Services in the Western Hemisphere All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

*Go, My Children, With My Blessing*

Music © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

Arr. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

Reprinted from *Sundays and Seasons.com*, copyright © 2020. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #20559.

Reprinted from *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted from *The Inclusive Bible*, Copyright © 2007 Priests for Equality. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE # 735417-A.

## CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell  
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III  
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon  
Director of Youth  
and Children's Ministries

Kay M. Cook  
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and Social Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

---

Donna Potts  
Vice-President

Philip Wessinger  
Treasurer

Terry Batts

Susan Burton

Tom DiAntonio

Valerie Hollinger

Heather Kleckley

Ryan Koon

Amanda Mast  
Secretary

Mac Wannemacher  
Youth

Angie McCormack

Terry Morgan

Merry Mulcahy

Joe Rice

Franklin Sease

Stephen Troutman