



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 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 their 56th Anniversary by Dale and Sandra Hamann.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister

Susan J. Crowell

Preaching

David Coffman

Organist/Choir Director

James C. Parham, III

Cantors

Amanda Cook

Kay Cook

Roy Cook

Lectors

Lisa Rehm

Andrew Weiner

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Ciacona in C minor (Bx 159) by Dietrich Buxtehude

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.

**Oh, praise the gracious pow'r that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near: *Refrain***

**Oh, praise persistent truth that opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that blinds: *Refrain***

**Oh, praise inclusive love, encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place: *Refrain***

**Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth, the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source, praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain***

Refrain

We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy.
Without your help, we mortals will fail;
remove far from us everything that is harmful,
and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand.

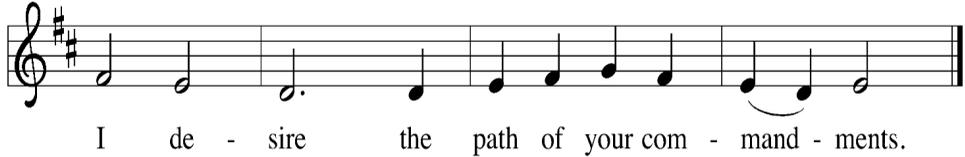
⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?”

¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

A reading from Romans.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS’ SERMON

The Rev. David Coffman

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 18:15-20

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by God in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

The Rev. David Coffman

Stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

God When Human Bonds Are Broken

#603

**God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**

**Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress,
for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**

**You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**

**Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**

**Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true,
give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

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 by the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Unite your church, O God. Give to all the baptized the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships and interracial cooperation among the churches. Guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

O God, Leader of the church, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways to live that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Give to the animals the habitat they need for life. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution.

O God, Creator of the earth, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Bless the nations, O God. Frustrate the designs of dictators. Give to the military a clear and moral purpose. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward the well-being of all. Infuse the coming election season with honesty and integrity.

O God, Governor of the world, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give employment to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. O God, Guardian of all peoples, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

Guide our civil discourse, O God. Alert us to social evils and show our nation how to end the patterns of racial injustice. Accompany all who are endeavoring to bring about a renewed society. Curb the violence in our cities. O God, Haven of righteousness, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

Tend to all in need, O God. Assist all friends and family members who are seeking restored relationships. Give community to the lonely and welcome to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit, especially those we name here before you.

O God, Physician of the sick, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

Receive once again, O God, our plea for the end of the coronavirus. Comfort those afflicted with COVID-19 and uphold our medical workers. Give youth a sense of responsibility for others and provide the world a vaccine. O God, Healer in times of plague, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

Hear each one of us, O God, as we pray now for ourselves.

O God, Lover of us all, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation.

O God, Eternal One, in your mercy,

hear us and help us.

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.
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Words by Percy Dearmer

Music by Harold Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly
in your name two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giver
break the bread and bless the cup, Alleluia!
Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments
of you, that by caring, helping, giving,
we may be disciples true. Alleluia!
Alleluia! We will serve with faith a new.

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

In the Singing

#466

**In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking, in your presence at this table, *Refrain***

**In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people, *Refrain***

Refrain

***Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.***

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

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. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

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