



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LOYALTY SUNDAY

October 4, 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 his wife, Shirley, by Wayne Mangels.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding & Preaching Minister

Susan J. Crowell

Assisting Minister

Amy Brown

Pianist

Jim Parham

Cantor

Jeff Rehm

Lectors

Peggy Schotsch

Bob Kressler

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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.

**Open your ears, O faithful people,
open your ears and hear God's word.
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,
God has come to you. *Refrain***

**They who have ears to hear the message,
they who have ears, now let them hear;
they who would learn the way of wisdom,
let them hear God's word. *Refrain***

Refrain

***God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!***

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. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good.
Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right,
and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Let me now sing for my friend -
it is a love song about a vineyard:

My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hill.

²My friend dug the soil, cleared the stones,
and planted the choicest vines;
then within it built a watchtower,
and constructed a winepress.

My friend anticipated the crop of grapes
but what it yielded was rotten grapes.

³Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah -
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more could I have done for my vineyard
that I haven't done?

Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes
did it bring forth bad fruit?

⁵Now I will let you know
what I mean to do to my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it over to grazing,
break through the wall, let it be trampled!

⁶I will let it go to wilderness;
it will not be pruned or hoed,
but overgrown with briars and thorns;

I command the clouds
not to send rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are God's cherished vine.

God looked for justice, but found bloodshed;
for righteousness, but found only a cry of suffering.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Look down from heav'n, O God; be - hold and tend this vine.

Psalm
Tone

- ⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
- ⁸**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;
you cast out the nations and | planted it.**
- ⁹You cleared the | ground for it;
it took root and | filled the land.
- ¹⁰**The mountains were covered | by its shadow
and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs. R**
- ¹¹You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea
and its branches | to the river.
- ¹²**Why have you broken | down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**
- ¹³The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.
- ¹⁴**Turn now, O | God of hosts,
look | down from heaven;**
- ¹⁵behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted. **R**

A reading from Philippians.

^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷But those things I used to consider gain, I now count as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss in light of the surpassing knowledge of my Savior Jesus Christ for whose sake I have forfeited everything. I count everything else as garbage, so that Christ may be my wealth – ⁹indeed, that I may be found in Christ, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the Law. The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. ¹⁰All I want is to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection, and how to share in Christ's sufferings by being formed into the pattern of Jesus' death – ¹¹perhaps even to arrive at the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS' SERMON

Looking for Justice

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 twenty first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the chief priests and elders:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then the landowner leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. ³⁵But the tenants seized aides and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. ³⁷Finally the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my heir.’ ³⁸“When the tenants saw the heir, they said to themselves, ‘Here is the one who stands in the way of our having everything. With a single act of murder we could seize the inheritance.’ ³⁹With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. ⁴⁰What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They replied, “The owner will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. ⁴⁶Although they sought to arrest him, they feared the crowds, who regarded Jesus as a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Tending to the Kingdom of God

Stand as able

**The church of Christ, in every age beset by
change but Spirit led, must claim and test its
heritage and keep on rising from the dead.**

**Across the world, across the street, the victims
of injustice cry for shelter and for
bread to eat, and never live before they die.**

**Then let the servant church arise a caring
church that longs to be a partner in Christ's
sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.**

**For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
fever in our blood, and teach us how to
share our bread and feed the starving multitude.**

**We have no mission but to serve in full
obedience to our Lord; to care for all,
without reserve, and spread his liberating word.**

PRESENTATION OF COMMITMENTS

*Worshipers are asked to prayerfully consider making a commitment
of their time, talent and treasure to Trinity's Ministry in 2021.
For those worshiping from home, commitments can be made
in the following ways:*

- 1. Instructions to make a pledge via Realm.
You may make your pledge online by signing into realm.
Select the "Giving" tab. Once in giving select the "pledge" tab.
Follow the prompts to make your pledge on line.*
- 2. Scan materials and email to Kay Cook at kmcook@trinitylutheran.ws.*
- 3. Bring materials to church on Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:00
for the drive through Loyalty Sunday event.*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Today is St. Francis' Day. Francis cared fervently for the church, the earth and its animals, peace, and the poor. Let us now pray for these concerns, responding to each petition with the words "in mercy, receive our prayers."

God most high, we pray for the church: for our bishop, our pastors and deacons, and our own congregation; for the ministry of Pope Francis; for the work of Franciscan friars and sisters; and for churches that are struggling with few resources. That all the baptized may produce good fruit, sowing faith where there is doubt, we pray to you,

O God our Redeemer:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for the earth and its animals: for farmlands; for animals whose habitat is threatened; for livestock; for all the animals that we raise for human use; for service animals; and for our dear pets. That the earth may be sustained with your care, and that we will sow joy where there is sadness, we pray to you, O God our Creator:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for peace: between nations; in our cities; among political rivals; throughout our coming election; between generations; between long-time citizens and new immigrants; in our churches and in our homes. That we may become instruments of your peace, sowing union where there is discord, we pray to you, O God, our Peacemaker:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for those who are poor: for those who are unemployed; for migrants; for those who are marginalized by prejudice; for orphans; for school children with no digital access. That we may give assistance where there is poverty and need, we pray to you,

O God our Provider:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for all who are suffering: for those laid low by the coronavirus; for those living with anxiety; for those whose sorrow is known only to you; for those who will die this day; and for those whose names we call out to you here: . . . That we may sow hope where there is despair, we pray to you, O God our Comforter:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray for our life together at Trinity, for all the ways you bless us so that we can bless the world. For the commitments of time, talent, and treasure that are being pledged today and in the coming weeks to support this ministry in 2021, we give thanks. Continue to use this congregation to bring hope, healing, and wholeness to our broken, hurting world. Help us who have power and influence to use our power and influence to bear fruit in the lives of those on the margins, we pray to you, O God, our Repairer of the Breach:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We pray, finally for ourselves. Strengthen our faith in Christ, and hear our personal petitions. That we may sow pardon where there is injury and love where there has been hatred, we pray to you, O God our Healer:

in mercy, receive our prayers.

We praise you, God most high, for all the faithful who have gone before us into the fullness of your life, especially this week the Lutheran pastors Theodor Fliedner and Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg. That at our end, where there is darkness, we will join in your light forever, we pray to you, O God, Eternal One:

in your mercy, receive our prayers.

Enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, as we trust in your salvation 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.*

*Consecration by Frederick Chatfield
(Sung by members of the Adult Choir)*

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use every power as thou shall choose.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Stand as able

Refrain

**Let us go now to the banquet, to the feast of the universe.
The table's set and a place is waiting; come ev'ryone, with your gifts to share**

**God invites all the poor and hungry to the
banquet of justice and good where the harvest will not be
hoarded so that no one will lack for food. *Refrain***

**May we build such a place among us where all
people are equal in love. God has called us to work
together and to share ev'rything we have.**

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

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

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The Church of Christ in Every Age

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