



LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 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 of his parents and her mother, Doris and Heyward Wessinger and Janice Black and in memory of her father, Pat Black, by Philip and Melanie Wessinger.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding & Preaching Minister

Susan J. Crowell

Assisting Minister

Amy Brown

Pianist

Jim Parham

Cantor

Richard Moose

Lectors

Terri Sullivan

Steve Boguski

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Fantasia in C Major* by G. F. Handel

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**we confess that we are not awake for you.**

**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

**We are infected by sin**

**that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,**

**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**

**open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.  
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping.  
future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

#### 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. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples,  
and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom,  
and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

# WORD

## FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
and set apart those invited.

<sup>12</sup>When the time comes I will search Jerusalem with  
lamps, and punish those who are complacent in their  
sin, who say in their hearts, “the LORD has no power for  
good or for evil”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth will be plundered,  
and their households looted.

They will build houses and never live in them,  
plant vineyards but never drink their own wine.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
and coming fast!

How bitter the sound of the day of the LORD,  
the day of the warrior’s war cry!

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of cloud and fog,

<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet roar and battle cry  
against the fortified towns  
and high corner towers..

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress on the people  
that they will grope like the blind;  
because of their sins against the LORD,  
their blood will be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

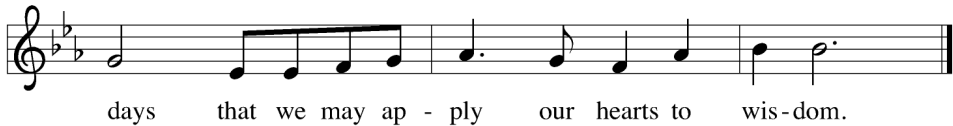
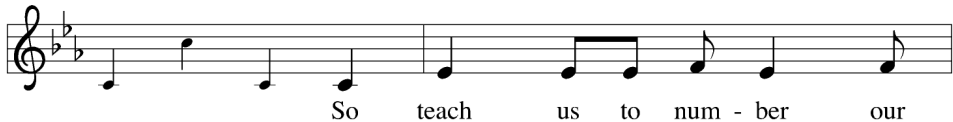
<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will save them  
on the day of the LORD’s wrath;  
in the fire of divine jealousy  
all the earth will be consumed;  
for the LORD intends to destroy – yes destroy –  
all who dwell in the land.

The Word of the Lord.

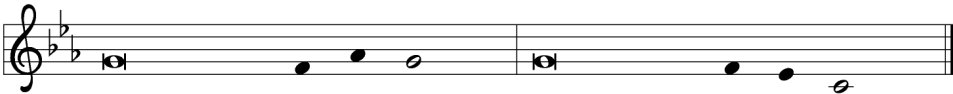
**Thanks be to God.**

Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

Psalm  
Refrain



Psalm  
Tone



- <sup>1</sup>Lord, you have | been our refuge  
from one generation | to another.
- <sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,  
from age to age | you are God.**
- <sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the | dust and say,  
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”
- <sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past  
and like a watch | in the night; R**
- <sup>5</sup>you sweep them away | like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
- <sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**
- <sup>7</sup>For we are consumed | by your anger;  
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
- <sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have | set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R**
- <sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our | days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
- <sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and  
we are gone.**
- <sup>11</sup>Who regards the power | of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
- <sup>12</sup>**So teach us to num- | ber our days  
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from First Thessalonians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, siblings, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Christ. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDRENS' SERMON

*Encourage One Another*

*Stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

SERMON

*When the Stakes are High*

*Stand as able*



**Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the  
heav'nly throng; and sing with hosts from ev'ry land the  
new celestial song, the new celestial song.**

**Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself  
as Lord, and thousands meet in their new home which  
Jesus has prepared, which Jesus has prepared.**

**Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and  
love and peace will roll down over us with good and  
blessedness and grace, and blessedness and grace.**

**O Lord, your grace is ev'rything; your love has  
made us free to stand among the saints and sing the  
glory that we see, the glory that we see.**

## 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**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we are gathered in our homes longing for Christ's reign to come among us, let us pray to see God's power in the church and in the world.

We pray, O God, for the church in our community and throughout the world. Raise up and sustain believers who will use their talents to assist with worship and to lead congregational ministries in this difficult time. Grant an extra measure of the Spirit to our Pastors. Protect your people with the armor of your Word. O God, you are the Temple of your people:

**Hear us and help us.**

For the earth we pray. During this autumn season, give to plants and wild animals a time of rest. Keep the coronavirus and other pathogens away from the animals that we farm.

O God, you are the Maker of the heavens and the earth:

**Hear us and help us.**

For all the nations we pray. Bring an end to war and terrorism. Cultivate a worldwide spirit of cooperation that will seek just international agreements and shared human rights.

Rescue humankind from the worship of wealth, and give a homeland to migrants.

O God, you are the Haven we seek:

**Hear us and help us.**

For the United States we pray. Quell attempts at violence, and restore national good will.

End prejudice of all kinds, and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future. Bless all newly elected officials, especially President-elect Biden, with a passion for justice and a commitment to honesty.

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress:

**Hear us and help us.**

We pray for all who are in need. Visit with health and good medical care all the sick, especially the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. Prepare a vaccine to save our world from COVID-19. Give food, employment, and housing to the countless who are struggling to live. We pray especially for. . . O God, you are our Physician, our Nurse:

**Hear us and help us.**

For many of us, what the ancient prophet said is now true: these are days of distress and anguish. We beg you to listen to the prayers of our hearts.

O God, you are Father, Mother, Lover, Master, Friend:

**Hear us and help us.**

We remember before you all the saints who have lived and died in the faith, especially Elizabeth of Hungary in her ministry to the sick, and those we name here now. . . . At the end of time, bring us all into your peace. O God, you are the Light perpetual:

**Hear us and help us.**

Receive these prayers, and in your gracious mercy grant your strength to our neediness, 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.*

*Allegro from Sonata in Bb Major for Oboe  
Continuo by G. F. Handel  
Patrick Preacher, Oboe*

OFFERTORY HYMN

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

#674

**Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard. Refrain**

**Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. Refrain**

**Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain**

*Refrain*

***Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

*Stand as able*

Let us pray. God of all goodness,  
**generations have turned to you,  
gathered around your table,  
and shared your abundant blessings.**

**Number us among them**

**that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,  
and give thanks for your rich blessings,  
we may feast upon your very self  
and care for all that you have made,  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.**

**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'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

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."*

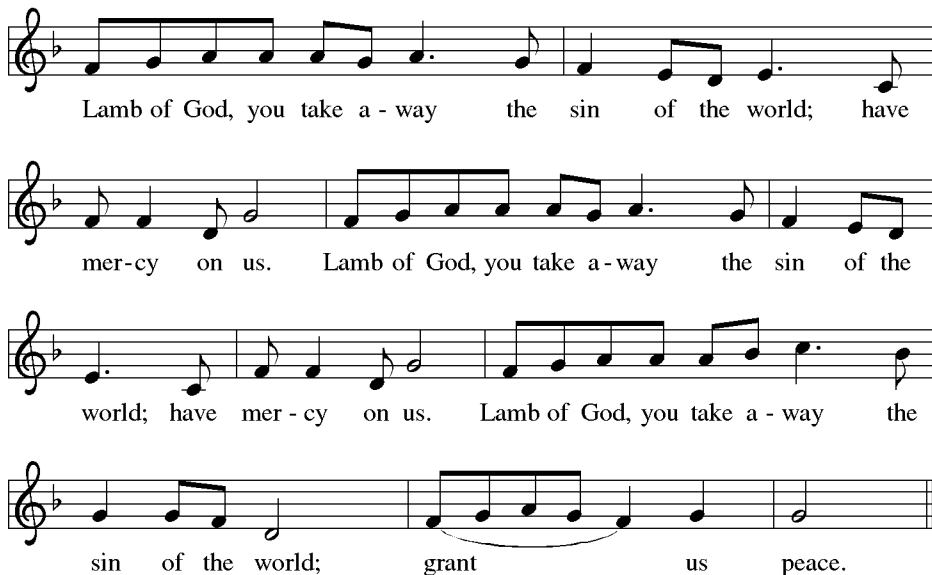
*Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes*

*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."*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Light Dawns on a Weary World*

#726

**Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to  
see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a  
weary world: the promised day of justice comes. Refrain**

**Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find  
bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
weary world; the promised feast of plenty comes. Refrain**

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a  
weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. Refrain**

*Refrain*

***The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.***

*Stand as able*

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

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Let Justice Flow like Streams*

#717

**Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.**

**Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,  
an ever flowing stream of faith translated into deed.**

**So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

### DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

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## CHURCH STAFF

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Karen M. Craig  
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Roy L. Cook  
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Beth C. Oswald  
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