



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 11, 2022 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



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 mother, Tina Preacher, by Patrick, Jonathan, and Grayson Preacher.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Philip Wessinger
Organist	Jim Parham
Lector	Calvin Harmon
Cantor	Missy Roberts
Prayers	Tara Miller
Greeters	Mark Allen Julie Brightwell Joanne Jones Brad Waters Sarah Weeks Melanie Wessinger
Ushers	Calvin Harmon Lani Ludian David Potts Franklin Sease
Refreshment Hosts	Sarah, Parker, and Tyla Sherwood
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

TEMPLE TALK

How I Experience God's Love at Trinity

Madelyn Fagala

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the path that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven ✚ and you are made whole.

God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness
vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the
blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who
yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the
bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven,
light years away, here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.**

**Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and
make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

THE GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, over and over again you choose to leave the safety and security of the fold, the insiders, the ones who have it all together, the ones who are strong and confident to search for and find the ones who are lost. Remind us that no one is expendable, that everyone is loved enough to warrant a long, hard, diligent search. Renew our call to search and find and love the lost, in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus.

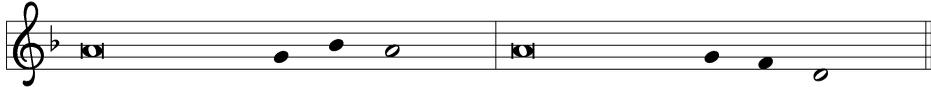
⁷ God said to Moses, “Go down, now! These people whom you led out of Egypt have corrupted themselves! ⁸ In such a short time, they have turned from the way that I have given them, and made themselves a molten calf. Then they worshipped it and sacrificed to it saying, ‘Israel, here is your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’ ⁹ God then said to Moses, “I look at these people how stubborn they are! ¹⁰ Now leave me to myself so that my anger may pour out on them, and destroy them! But you I’ll make into a great nation.” ¹¹ Then Moses soothed the face of God, his God. “But why, my God, should you let your wrath pour out on these people whom you delivered from Egypt with great might, with a strong hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘Their God intended to destroy them all along, to kill them in the mountains, to erase them from the earth?’ Turn your back on your rage; reconsider the disaster you intended for your people. ¹³ Do not forget Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob, your chosen ones, to whom you promised, ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; I will give to you all this land which I have promised I will give it to your descendants, and they will enjoy its inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴ So God relented, and the disaster that threatened the Israelites was forestalled.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

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

Have mer- cy on me, O God, ac- cord- ing to your stead- fast love.

Psalm
Tone

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me. R**

A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Savior, who has strengthened me, given me this work, and judged me faithful. ¹³ I used to be a blasphemer, a persecutor, a violent man; but because in my unbelief I didn't know what I was doing, I have been treated mercifully, ¹⁴ and the grace of our God has been granted to me in overflowing measure, as was the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Here's a saying that can be trusted and is worthy of your complete acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Of these I myself am the worst. ¹⁶ But I was dealt with mercifully for this reason: so that in me the worst case of all Jesus Christ might demonstrate perfect patience; and so that I might become an example to those who would later have faith in Christ and gain everlasting life. ¹⁷ To the Ruler of ages, the immortal, the invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen.

The Word of God for the people of God.

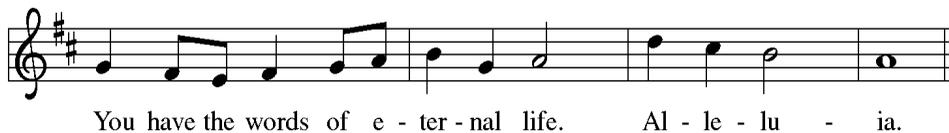
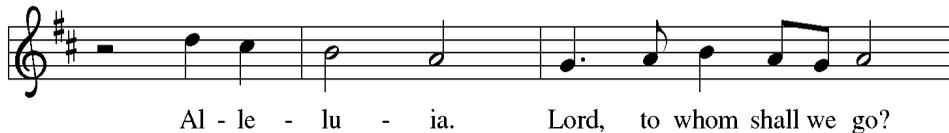
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Safe in the Shepherd's Arms

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the fifteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, ² at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars murmured, “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!” ³ Jesus then addressed this parable to them: ⁴ “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it’s found? ⁵ And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. ⁶ Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ ⁷ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent. ⁸ “What woman, who has ten silver pieces and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she had lost? ⁹ And when it is found, she calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver piece I lost!’ ¹⁰ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

On Being Lost

Please stand as able

**I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me.
Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.
When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,
singing glory, hallelujah! Jesus lifted me.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church and those in need, and all of God's good creation.

Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. Guide this congregation in doing her part to bring the peace, love, and justice of Christ to the world around us.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests and kindle within us an ever-growing desire to share our bounties with those who struggle with food insecurity.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ...

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your flock is incomplete when one sheep is missing, and your purse feels empty when one coin is lost. How many of your beloved children has your church lost due to the sins of racism, homophobia, transphobia, and sexism? Encourage and strengthen leaders and members of this congregation as we continue working to make Trinity a place of refuge and comfort for those brave enough to join the fold again..

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your Spirit weeps with those who mourn. On this, the 21st anniversary of the attacks our country faced on September 11, 2001, we pray for those whose lives were lost as well as those whose lives were forever changed by that day. Let this anniversary be a reminder of our world's great need for peace, understanding, and compassion. Bless your Muslim children this day as they continue to contend with the Islamophobia rooted in the events of that horrific day.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Please be seated

Commissioning Service for GOAL Team Leaders at Trinity

I invite Trinity's team leaders for GOAL (Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership) to come forward and gather around the baptismal font.

These persons have been lifted up to serve as team leaders at Trinity to help this congregation live out our baptismal call to work for peace and justice in the world. I invite each of you to step forward as your name is read:

Elizabeth Allen
Penny Bostain
Paige Dillon
Lane Lewis
Angie McCormack
Missy Roberts

Hear what is written in scripture about the call to work for justice in the world:

Learn to do good! Search for justice and help the oppressed! Protect those who are orphaned and plead the case of those who are widowed. Isaiah 1:17

Listen, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what good is, and what God needs from you: Simply do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8

What does it take to convince persons to willfully disadvantage themselves in order to help another? What does it take to persuade someone to risk comfort, security, convenience, and reputation in order to care for those who cannot possibly repay them? What does it take to move someone to engage in the potentially costly work of stepping into the gap, standing up to friends, family, neighbors, coworkers, entire systems of society for the sake of those suffering under the weight of oppression and injustice? What does it take to leverage one's time, resources, and power, not for one's benefit, but for the benefit of a stranger?

Justice is treating the problems of the oppressed and marginalized as our own. As Christians, we believe that there is no justice without Jesus. Through Jesus we have experienced the justice of God. God looked on us in our slavery to sin, and God provided for us by sending Jesus. We are empowered to do justice because we have received justice.

As a congregation, we have joined together with 19 other faith communities to form GOAL (Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership). GOAL is a new justice ministry that will work to build significant people power in Greenville so that we can live out our call to do justice by addressing systemic community problems.

Please stand as a sign of your support of these leaders and this new ministry.

Elizabeth, Penny, Paige, Lane, Angie, and Missy, will you work to build the power of this congregation's justice ministry by engaging people to participate in house meetings and become network members? Will you represent Trinity at GOAL organizational meetings? Will you shepherd and lead the network members in our congregation as we do justice together?

If so, answer, Yes, with the help of God.

Yes, with the help of God.

People of God, Will you support and join these leaders in the work of justice in our congregation and in our community?

If so, answer, Yes, with the help of God.

Yes, with the help of God.

I declare you installed as justice leaders at Trinity. May God surround and fill you with the Holy Spirit that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

Service continues with the sharing of the peace

PEACE

All are encouraged to remain at your seats and extend a sign of peace by waving, bowing, making the peace sign, placing your hand over your heart, or sending a text.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

Peace be with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
ar. by Mark Willberg

Adult Choir

Please stand as able

**As saints of old their first fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today first fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

Let us pray. Gracious God,
**in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.
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, Lord God of pow'r 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.

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.**

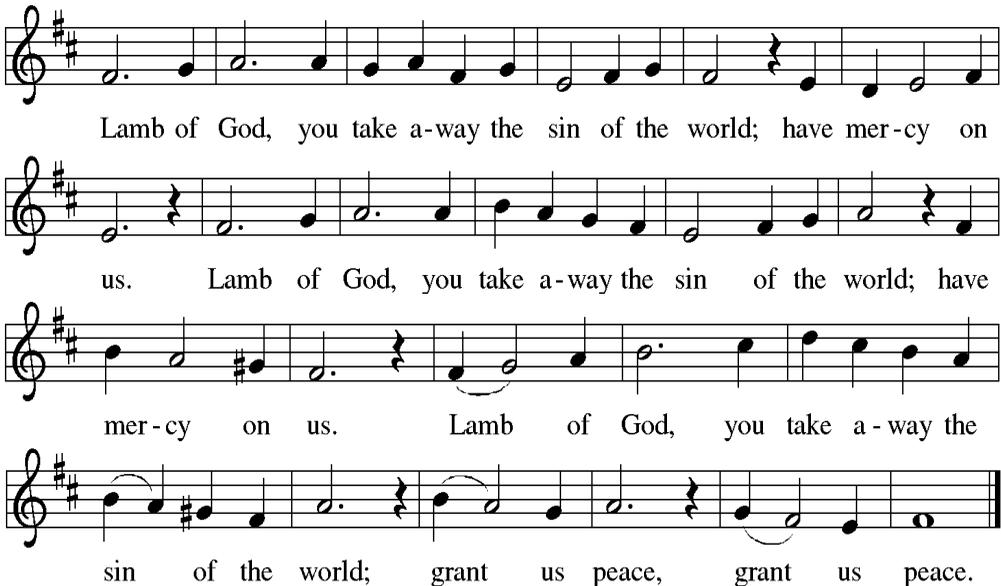
Please be seated

COMMUNION

*Worshipers will come forward to receive the bread and
wine and then return to their seats to consume the elements.*

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's love and grace.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



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, grant us peace.

Refrain

***Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.***

**Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice; giving
thanks, hungry ones, gather round. Eat, all of you, and be
satisfied; in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain***

**Seek not the food that will pass away; set your
hearts on the food that endures. Come, learn the true and the
living way, that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain***

**Love as the one who, in love for you, gave himself
for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
food for you, that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain***

**Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
home in the lifegiving Word. Know only Christ, Holy
One of God, and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain***

**Drink of this cup and declare his death; eat this
bread and believe Easter morn; trust his return and, with
ev'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are reborn. *Refrain***

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

#611

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that lifegiving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.**

Please stand as able

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.

Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace, give you the strength, courage, and desire to seek out the lost. And may the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light

#866

**Siyahamb' ekukhanygen' kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanygen' kwenkhos'
Siyahamb' ekukhanygen' kwenkhos', Siyahamb' ekukhanygen' kwenkhos'
Siyahamb' oo, Siyahamb' ekukhanygen' kwenkhos'
Siyahamb' oo, Siyahamb' ekukhanygen' kwenkhos'**

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, oo, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, oo, we are marching in the light of God.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Join God in the search for the lost.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back of the Gym
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

Gather Us In
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