



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 12, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



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 grandson, Alford Lloyd White, IV, on his Baptism by Corrine and Gary Hoerning.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Philip Wessinger
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Andrew Weiner
Cantor	Patrick Morgan
Acolyte	Jenna Mast Peyton Roth
Prayers	Donna Potts
Greeters	Mark Allen Chris Nix Dean Nix Chris Sullivan Terri Sullivan Dora Welch
Ushers	Richard Delap Bonnie Farmer Calvin Harmon David Potts
Refreshment Hosts	Bob and Sheryl Schirmer
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

HOLY BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In baptism our gracious heavenly parent frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Presentation

We present Alford Lloyd for baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have this child baptized into Christ?

Response:

We do.

As you bring Al to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Al grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Al and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

We do.

Please stand as able

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. Christ sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your children, no longer slave and free, no longer lonely and isolated, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Water is poured on the child's head, as the presiding minister says:

Alford Lloyd,

I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BAPTISMAL ACCLAMATION

You be - long to Christ, in whom you have been bap - tized.

al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Al with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Alford Lloyd White, IV, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Let us welcome Al into our church family.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

Those gathered at the font share the peace before returning to their seats.

**We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently, in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more. Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing and wholeness and more.**

**We are fed and we're nourished, filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and again we are blessed.
For whatever the need, God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper than all of our need.**

**We are nourished by water, all living things,
and by life that the Spirit abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home, may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing, now carry us home.**

**Now with praise and thanksgiving, we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free! From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water, baptized and set free!**

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

Cantor



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, with the help of your Holy Spirit you call and empower us to build and nurture your beloved community, a community of grace and love where all are equally held, sustained, nourished, and sent forth to shine the light of your Son into the world. Help us to set aside the rules and expectations of the world so that we can take up the hopes and dreams of the Kingdom of God. Guide us always with your radical love for this burdened and broken world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in God's ways, and observing the commandments, decrees, and ordinances of God, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving, obeying and holding fast to the LORD your God; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Sarah and Abraham, to Rebecca and Isaac, and to Leah, Rachael and Jacob.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

*The refrain is introduced by the cantor.
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.*

Psalm Refrain

Hap - py are they who fol - low the teach - ing of the LORD.

Psalm Tone

- ¹Happy are they whose | way is blameless,
who follow the teaching | of the LORD!
- ²**Happy are they who observe | your decrees
and seek you with | all their hearts,**
- ³who never do | any wrong,
but always walk | in your ways.
- ⁴**You laid down | your commandments,
that we should | fully keep them. R**
- ⁵Oh, that my ways were made | so direct
that I might | keep your statutes!
- ⁶**Then I should not be | put to shame,
when I regard all | your commandments.**
- ⁷I will thank you with | a true heart,
when I have learned your | righteous judgments.
- ⁸**I will | keep your statutes;
do not utter- | ly forsake me. R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

A reading from first Corinthians.

¹Brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? ⁴For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? ⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as God assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. ⁹For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

So Much Love

Please 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 fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you both are on the way to court, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. ²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸But I say to you that everyone who looks with lust at another person has already committed adultery in their heart. ²⁹If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. ³¹“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ ³²But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery ³³“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ ³⁴But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, ³⁵or by the earth, for it is God’s footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great Ruler. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. ³⁷Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand as able

Creating the Beloved Community

Refrain

**Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your
peace and gladness; Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.** *Refrain*

**In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is
still unfolding, give us all your vision, God of love.** *Refrain*

**Give us strength to love each other, ev'ry sister,
ev'ry brother; Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.** *Refrain*

**You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your
way of healing; Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.** *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, inspire your church that it may be a sign of life throughout the world. From the exploration of faith with children and new believers to leaders and bishops, shape lives of faithfulness, so that all find abundant life in your ways. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, nourish your creation. Accompany all who plant and water. Bless the work of farmers; and provide subsistence for farmers facing impacts of climate change. Guide the work of agricultural scientists toward sustainable ways to feed the world. Forgive your church when we so often fall short in our efforts to steward your beautiful and bountiful creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, save those in times of trial. We cry out to you on behalf of the people in Syria and Turkey facing utter devastation in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. Bring favorable weather as rescuers continue searching for the living and the dead. Grant resolve and stamina to aid workers doing the hard work of searching, assessing, and rescuing. Comfort and console grieving family members in the wake of over 11,000 lives lost. O God, bring them peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, nurture all in need. Bring healing to all who experience trauma caused by systems of injustice, oppression, and destructive relationships. Give courage to members of the LGBTQIA+ community who seek to reconcile their faith. Lift up the voice of our black and brown siblings, the differently abled, those facing mental health challenges, the poor and unemployed, as well as those who are incarcerated. Help us to celebrate people of privilege who use their voices and resources to uplift the lowly. We pray for all who suffer in any way and those who face death, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, bless the newly baptized. We give you thanks for the baptism of Alford Lloyd White IV. Having passed through your waters, he begins his lifelong journey as a follower of Jesus. We pray that he may never go a day without feeling the power of your radical love. As you have clothed him in Christ, so clothe him in abundant grace to share with the world. Strengthen those who strive to raise Alford in the faith. Bless and strengthen Samantha Hoerning and Trey White so that their family might be a witness of your love to the world around them. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, encourage this congregation. Call us to a common purpose and keep us from quarrelling. Turn our hearts toward you and guide our leaders, so that our choices may be life-giving for all. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, bring justice and equity to all. As our country celebrates Black History Month, this congregation prays for civil rights leaders active in our society today. Today we pray for Rev. J.M. Flemming who serves as President of Greenville's chapter of the NAACP. Continue to use Rev. Flemming and the NAACP to ensure political, educational, social, and economic equity of rights for all people, especially people of color. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Thanks be to you for the lives of all who have died in Christ. Teach us to follow them in your ways and gather us with them into the promise of eternal life with you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

OFFERING

Now Let Us from this Table Rise
John Henderson

Adult Choir

Please stand as able

OFFERING HYMN

As with Gladness Men of Old
(verses 2 & 3)

#302

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**

Let us pray, Liberating God,
**you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is 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 for 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.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated

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. Gluten free wafers are available.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four lines of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence at the end of the fourth line.

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.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
arr. Kevin McChesney

Handbell Choir

**“I am the Bread of Life. You who
come to me shall not hunger, and who
believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
me unless the Father beckons,”**

Refrain

**“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day.”**

**“The bread that I will give is my
flesh for the life of the world, and if you
eat of this bread, you shall live
forever, you shall live forever. *Refrain***

**“Unless you eat of the flesh
of the Son of Man and
drink of his blood, and drink of his
blood, you shall not have life within you.” *Refrain***

**“I am the resurrection, I am the life.
If you believe in me, even though you die,
you shall live forever.” *Refrain***

**Yes, Lord, I believe that
you are the Christ, the Son of God,
who have come into the world. *Refrain***

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!**

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

#314

**Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Go the extra mile.
Practice radical love and hospitality.
Be Christ's beloved community in the world.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather on the Front Lawn
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

Baptized and Set Free

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Healer of Our Every Ill

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