



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023 - 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 her son, Charles Wood, by Joe and Merry Mulcahy.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Cantor	Donna Potts
Lector	Mary Mueller
Prayers	Mark Allen
Acolytes	Madelyn Fagala Harper Roth
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Debbie Farstad Zerle Hubbard Terry Morgan
Praying for Possibilities	Deirdre Hixson
Greeters	Mark Allen Pattimarie Janssen Tara Miller Cathy O'Neill Pat O'Neill Vicki Rubenstein Chris Sorenson
Ushers	Calvin Harmon David Nichols Karen Nichols David Potts
Fellowship Hosts	Bob and Sheryl Schirmer
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

**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

***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.***

**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.**

**The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the
poor his paradise. Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud
the amazing goodness of the Lord.**

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of healing and hope, we live in a broken world where pain, trauma, abuse, illness, grief, oppression, and marginalization seem to rule the day. Remind us of the power each of us has in Christ to confront the powers that be, to challenge systems that continue to threaten and destroy, to shine love and light into our own spheres of influence so that Christ's beloved community might be whole and well, reconciled and redeemed for the sake of the healing of our lives and the life of the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

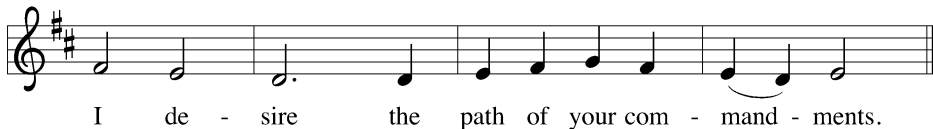
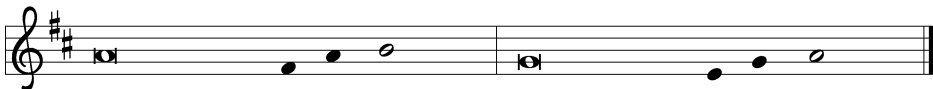
Ezekiel 33:7-11

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 our 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 God for the people of God.

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 God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Mending Relationships

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

Repeat alleluia

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

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 my Abba 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.

Please be seated

SERMON

We Need to Talk

Please stand as able

**God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost
descend! Drive us out from sheltered comfort;
past these walls your people send! Sweep us into costly service,
there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your
purpose purge! Through your church, Christ's living Body,
let your flaming Spirit surge! Where deceit conceals injustice,
kindle us to speak your truth, kindle us to speak your truth!**

**God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from
lethargy! Break the chains of sin asunder,
for earth's healing set us free! Crumble walls that still divide us;
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!**

**God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's
restlessness! Where the people cry in anguish,
may we share your heart's distress. Rouse us from content with evil;
claim us for your kingdom's work, claim us for your kingdom's work!**

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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths and with those to whom we are connected by blood and DNA. When we struggle to find our way, remind us that together we are the church for the sake of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Guide us in making more environmentally sustainable choices each day, turning us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another, helping us to operate in the world with love as the foundation. With love as the fuel, strengthen us in your pursuit of justice and equity so that we may never tire of advocating for our black and brown siblings, the LGBTQIA+ community, women, migrants, the impoverished, and all others forced to the margins of society. When these causes feel distant, open our hearts to see someone we know and love as a member of these oppressed communities. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all of us who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Guard our waking and our sleeping. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bring hope and healing to Christ's beloved community in this place and time. Open our hearts to the pain and suffering of others and help us to be honest and truthful about our role in that suffering. Give us the boldness and bravery to have the conversations that hold the power to make whole that which is broken. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Motivate us to care for ourselves so that we can care for our neighbors, O God. Where our mental health waivers, give us not only treatments and practices, but the courage to seek and implement them. In populations whose mental wellbeing is often overlooked, bring a fresh awareness of the importance of self-care and professional care for all people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. When our work feels mundane or fruitless, help us to see you in the smallest of things and in the briefest of encounters with your people. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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

ANTHEM

An Instrument of Thy Peace
by Debora Scroggins

Adult Choir

Please stand as able.

OFFERING HYMN

As Saints of Old
(verse 1)

#695

**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. God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.

**We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.**

**Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, 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:

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed 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.**

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.

*Worshippers will come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive a wafer
and dip it in the wine to receive communion by Intinction.*

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.

I Come with Joy

#482

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and
free, the life of Jesus to recall in
love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are
fed, the new community of love in
Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division
ends. The love that made us makes us one, and
strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever
near, is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here, alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound by all that God has
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**

Lord of all nations, grant me grace to love all people, ev'ry race;
and in each person may I see my kindred, loved, redeemed by thee.

Break down the wall that would divide thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue; let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do will crucify my Lord anew.

Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be, help me forgive, rememb'ring thee.

With thine own love may I be filled and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, where'er I be, may be divinely touched by thee.

As We Gather at Your Table

#522

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive us you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

**Rise, O church, like Christ arisen,
from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision
whose we are, and whose, our praise.**

Alleluia, alleluia;

God, the wonder of our days.

**Rise, transformed, and choose to follow
after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed
to release and to console.**

Alleluia, alleluia;

Christ, our present, past, and goal.

**Rise, remember well the future
God has called us to receive;
present by God's loving nurture,
Spirited then let us live.**

Alleluia, alleluia;

Spirit, grace by whom we live.

**Service be our sure vocation;
courage be our daily breath;
mercy be our destination
from this day and unto death.**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Rise, O church, a living faith.

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

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#547

**Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls
reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.**

**With your feast you feed us, with your light now
lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Shine light on sin, brokenness, and trauma.
Acknowledge your part in the pain and suffering of others.
Work for justice and healing.
Restore relationships, strive for reconciliation. . .
all for the sake of Christ's beloved community.

Thanks be to God.

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

As We Gather at Your Table

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Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

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Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
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Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

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