



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 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 honor of Heather Kleckley on her birthday and in memory of Bill Kleckley by Darlene Kleckley.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Cantor	Patrick Morgan
Lector	Lindsay Hawkins
Prayers	Jerry Salley
Acolytes	Bethany Hybl Nate Hybl Lexie Thomas-Harewood
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Heather Fanning Amanda Cook Zerle Hubbard
Praying for Possibilities	Teresa Harrington
Greeters	Mark Allen Wayne Landreth Linda Morgan Lisa Rehm Mary Beth Ridenhour Chris Sorenson Sarah Weeks
Ushers	Richard Delap Calvin Harmon Teresa Harrington David Potts
New Member Welcome Team	Tara Miller Vicki Rubenstein
Fellowship Hosts	Parish Life Committee
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

TEMPLE TALK

Consecration Sunday

Lindsay Hawkins

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.

Refrain

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

I will rise in the early morning; the community's waiting for me. With a spring in my step I'm walking with my friends and my family. *Refrain*

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

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

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

Refrain



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 compassion and grace, limitless and bountiful and abundant forgiveness flows from the heart of your son, Jesus. We embrace that gift of forgiveness and we strive to share that same forgiveness with those who have hurt us, dismissed us, belittled us, and told lies about us. Help us to forgive them...if not for their sake, then for your sake and for our sake. Use forgiveness to transform our lives and the life of this community so that healing, reconciliation, mercy, and justice will reign, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm
 Refrain

Lord, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
 of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

Psalm
 Tone

- ¹Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
 and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
 and forget not | all God's benefits—**
- ³who forgives | all your sins
 and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave
 and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R**
- ⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
 so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide | vindication
 and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
 and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
- ⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
 slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R**
- ⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
 nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
 nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
- ¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
 so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- ¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
 so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
- ¹³As a father and mother have compassion | for their children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

A reading from Romans.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before the master of their own household that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for Christ is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of God. Also those who eat, eat in honor of God, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of God and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to Christ Jesus, and if we die, we die to Christ Jesus; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to Christ. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says our God, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

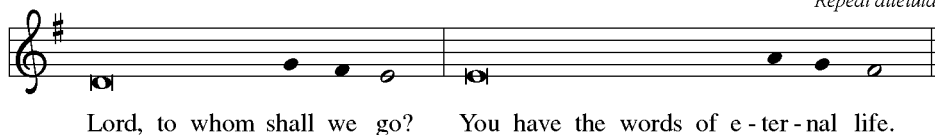
A Way to Peace

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Repeat alleluia



The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, “If another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a ruler who wished to settle accounts with the slaves of the royal household. ²⁴When the reckoning began, one who owed the ruler ten thousand talents was brought forward; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his ruler ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the ruler of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their ruler all that had taken place. ³²Then his ruler summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his ruler handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my Abba God will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Unpacking Forgiveness

Please stand as able

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Leader

1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
 2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
 3. You are a seed of the word, O peo - ple:
 4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:

All Leader

salt for the king-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
 light for the cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
 bring forth the king-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
 bound for the king-dom of God! Love our jour - ney and

All

life, O peo - ple: life in the king-dom of God!
 bright, O peo - ple: shine for the king-dom of God!
 seeds of jus - tice, grow in the king-dom of God!
 love our home - land: love is the king-dom of God!

Refrain All

Bring forth the king-dom of mer-cy, bring forth the king-dom of peace; bring forth the

king-dom of jus - tice, bring forth the cit-y of God!

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.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. We give you thanks for the churches who gathered as members of The Lutheran World Federation this past week. May you bless and guide our work together as a global Lutheran community seeking a just, peaceful, and reconciled world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Comfort your people facing the immense grief of natural disasters and their devastation: flooding in Libya, the earthquake in Morocco, floods in Massachusetts, the typhoon in southern China, and those in the path of Hurricanes Lee and Margot. Lead your people to safety and still the waters surrounding them. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Bring about swift and effective legislation regarding the gun violence this country faces. We pray for recent victims of gun violence in Sacramento, Chicago, Colorado Springs, Choctaw, Minneapolis, Kansas City, and Pittsburgh. Bring comfort and healing to families overwhelmed with grief. Remind this world of your desire for peace, non-violence, and well-being. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially, for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation and inclusion. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all those this congregation receives and welcomes as new members this day. Be with Bob, Ann, Mary, Kellie, Charlie, David, Brian, Myrie, Del, Jess, Lexie, Dan, Cesar, Niko, Jay, Tori, Andrew, Drake, Mia, Hattie, Lyle, Jane, Jessica, Jack, and Pat as they continue along their faith journeys. We give you thanks for their Christian witness and the unique gifts they each bring to this community of faith. Continue to make Trinity a place where their faith is nurtured and lived out, where deep belonging is felt, and where the limitlessness of your abiding love is experienced. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the LGBTQIA+ community. As the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland has recently instituted a new policy against LGBTQIA+ expression within their over eighty private schools, help us find new and creative ways to support and care for the queer community. Bring hope to families raising queer children. Bring peace to the minds and hearts of LGBTQIA+ youth who continually face attack and discrimination. Bring reconciliation to your church, O God, so that hearts will soften and the boundless love of Christ will prevail. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. 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

Please be seated

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Reception into Membership

I invite those who are being received today as members of Trinity Lutheran Church by baptism, affirmation of baptism, from other denominations, and by transfer from other Lutheran congregations to come forward at this time and stand facing the Congregation.

Bob and Ann Berlam

Mary Brown

Kellie Fontecchio

Charlie

David Goldstein

Brian Goodlett

Myrie

Del Harewood and

Jess Thomas-Harewood

Lexie, Dan, Cesar, and Niko

Jay and Tori Hilbourn

Andrew McFadyen and Drake Powell

Mia Purcell

Hattie Morris

Lyle and Jane Mortensen

Jessica Red

Jack and Pat Wolff

Siblings in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of the Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from the Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at God's holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Please stand as able

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: 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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation is addressed.

You have heard these believers declare their intention to participate in the life and mission of this congregation as we strive to extend grace, mercy, hospitality, and radical welcome to all. Welcome them now as members of this family of faith.

We welcome you as members of Trinity Lutheran Church. We rejoice to receive you into this community of faith as we embrace and share the good news of God's love in Christ for all people.

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

Bless the Lord, My Soul
by Dan R. Edwards

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!

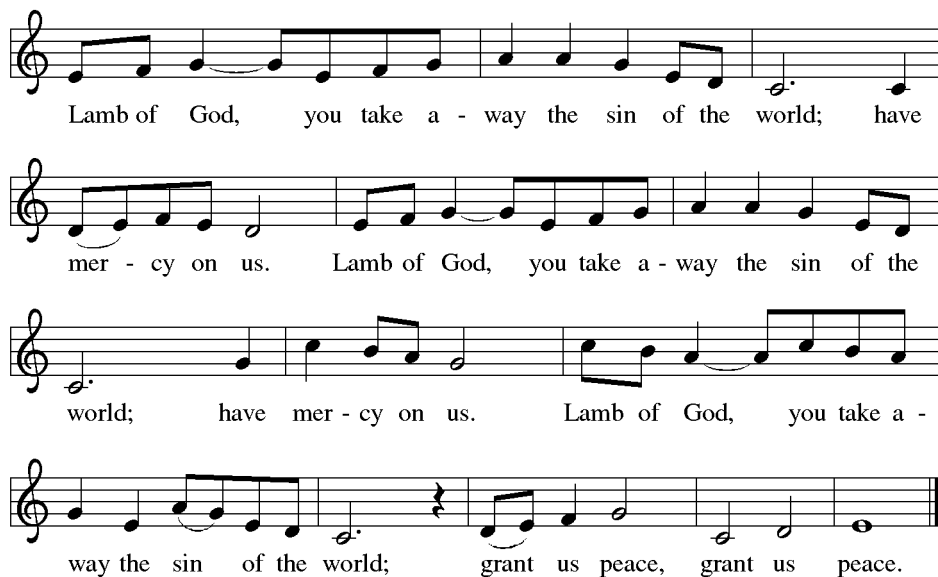
Please be seated

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.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

#605

**“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;
how trifling others’ debts to us; how great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease;
then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

You Are Holy
(sing twice)

#525

**You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.**

**You are holy, you are wholeness,
you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!**

O Day of Peace

Adult Choir

Music: *Jerusalem* by Hubert H. Perry
Text: Carl P. Daw

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,
till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;
as beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

#359

**Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.**

**With grateful joy and holy fear, God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in return.**

**Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined, in him we are made one.**

**Let strife among us be unknown; let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek; be his our only peace.**

**Let us forgive each other's faults as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well in Christian gentleness.**

**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.

**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.

Be free. Be whole. Be grounded.

Forgive and forgive some more...for your own healing and for the healing of community.
 Forgive so that together we can rise with mercy, justice, and power.

Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back corner of the Gym
 for refreshments and fellowship in honor of
 Trinity's newest members.*

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

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Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen

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Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
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James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

Angie H. McCormack
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

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