



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 1, 2024 - 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 of their 60th anniversary by Dale and Sandra Hamann.

# SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Preaching	Jim Parham
Assisting Minister	Angie Hager
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Lisa Rehm
Prayers	David Foster
Communion Assistant	Emily Kerbuski
Cantor	Heather Kleckley
Acolyte	Charlie Fontecchio Lexi Thomas-Harewood
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Anne Fagala Zerle Hubbard Melissa Kolb
Nursery	Margaret Roth
Praying for Possibilities	Lani Wise
Greeters	Mark Allen Chris Barsody Duke Barsody Dani Caceres Jenn Jordan Brad Waters Sarah Weeks
Ushers	David Nichols Karen Nichols Bradley Suddeth
Fellowship Hosts	The Fagala Family
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

*Please stand as able*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider,

**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life,

you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer  
praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong  
need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place. Here in honesty  
of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants  
of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of  
change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's  
dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

## 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.**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that GOD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of GOD with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has gods so near to it as our GOD to whom we pray? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The Word of God for the people of God.

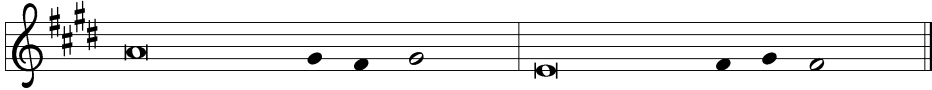
**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm  
Refrain*



LORD, who may dwell in your tab - er - na - cle?

*Psalm  
Tone*



- <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?
- <sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart;**
- <sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**
- <sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the  
innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

A reading from James.

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from Abba God, the Creator of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>God gave us birth by the word of truth in fulfillment of God's own purpose, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures. <sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*Created by love for 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, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the seventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

SERMON

*Monsters from the id!*

*Please stand as able*

**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**

**O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.**

**Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.**

**Three personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.**

### Apostles' CREED

God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Help us to experience your kin-dom here on earth while striving to serve neighbor and stranger for your sake. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate change, especially people in low-income and disadvantaged communities who suffer the most, yet are least able to protect themselves from the challenges brought on by the climate crisis. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Continue to be present with our neighbors at Towers East. Meet the needs of the vulnerable, bring hope to the sick and aging, and allow peace to reign in the hearts of all who call Towers East home. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. As prices for housing, food, and other essentials continue to increase, make a way for our government and employers to realize wages must increase as well, starting with those who work for minimum wage. Bring an end to discrimination in workplaces, especially for those who identify as queer, transgender, or gender non-conforming. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom and teaching, bless the seminaries of the ELCA as students and professors prepare for a new academic year. We pray especially for our Pastoral Intern, Patrick, as he is away this week to begin his third year of seminary at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Continue to form him and his family for your service. Guide seminaries to be more inclusive communities of learning and belonging, where those of diverse sexual and gender identities feel loved, valued, and celebrated. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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

*God Be in My Head*  
by K. Lee Scott  
Text: Sarum Primer, 1514

Adult Choir

God be in my head, and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.  
God be at my end, and in my departing. Amen

*Please stand as able*

OFFERING HYMN

*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

#674

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

*Refrain*

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

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

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

Let us pray, Jesus, Bread of life,  
**you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.  
Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.  
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, 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, ho - san - na, 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!**

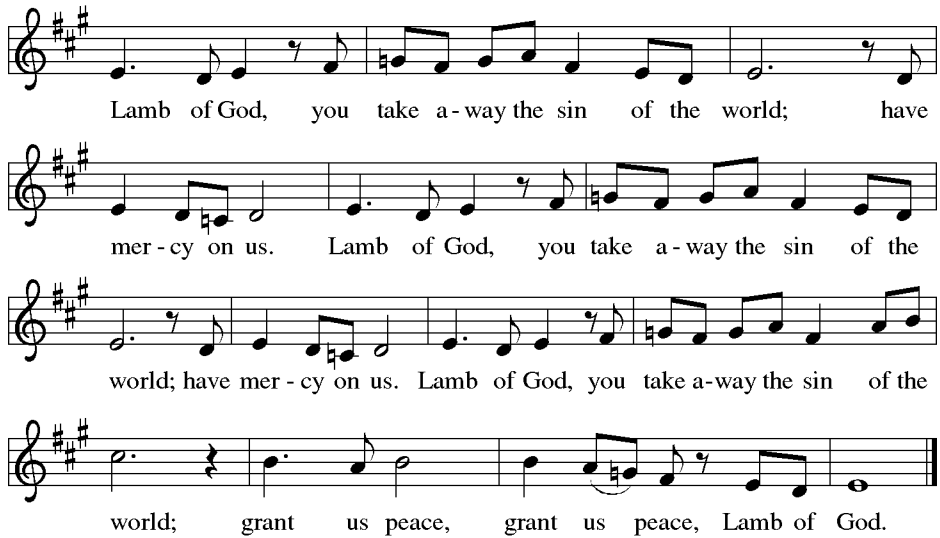
*Please be seated*

#### 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.*

*At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into 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, Lamb of God.

*Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*

#512

**Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

**Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again  
to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
and in glowing faith be near you as the promises  
here given draw us wholly up to heaven.**

**All our knowledge, sense and sight lie in deepest  
darkness shrouded till our Spirit breaks the night,  
filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and  
all good living come but by your gracious giving.**

**Radiance of God's glory bright, Light of Light from  
God proceeding, Jesus, send your blessed light;  
help our hearing, speaking, heeding, that our prayers and  
songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and  
adoration! Grant us what we need the most:  
all your gospel's consolation while we here on  
earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.**

*What Is This Place*

Adult Choir

What is this place where we are meeting? Only a house,  
the earth its floor. Walls and a roof sheltering people,  
windows for light, open door. Yet it becomes a body that lives  
when we are gathered here, and know our God is near.

Words from afar, stars that are falling, sparks that are sown in  
us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and wonders  
sent from the past are all we need. We in this place remember and speak  
again what we have heard: God's free redeeming word.

And we accept bread at this table, broken and shared,  
a living sign. Here in this world, dying and living,  
we are each other's bread and wine. This is the place where we can receive  
what we need to increase: our justice and God's peace.



**Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that holy things have taken; and let the ears that heard your word to falsehood never waken.**

**The tongues that sang your holy name now purge of all deception; keep bright the eyes that saw your love and sharpen their perception.**

**And may the feet that walked your courts be never lured to wander; but lead the faithful nourished here to journey on in splendor.**

*O Word of God Incarnate*

#514

**O word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.**

**The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quick sands guides, O Christ, to you.**

**Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.**

*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

Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon 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. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn  
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

*What Is This Place*

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*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

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*Strengthen for Service, Lord*

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*We Eat the Bread of Teaching*

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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  
Pastoral Intern

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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Calvin Harmon

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