



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ working for peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and embrace all people, without exception, into the fullness of God's love. We advocate for racial, gender, queer, and economic equity. We celebrate people of all cultures, ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this community. All are invited to join us as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their Anniversary by Joe and Merry Mulcahy.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Jess Thommas-Harewood
Prayers	Shane Smithman
Cantor	Melanie Helling
Guitar	Duke Barsody
Communion Assistant	Gene Lynch
Acolyte	Ella Matson
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Lynn Andrews Anne Fagala
Nursery	Karen Craig
Praying for Possibilities	Maggie Downen
Greeters	Mark Allen Ann Berlam Jane Mortensen Lyle Mortensen Lisa Rehm
Ushers	Carol Elliott Danny Fagala Pattimarie Janssen Lani Ludian
Fellowship Hosts	Fagala Family
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

TEMPLE TALK

2025 Stewardship Invitation

Mark Allen

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Creator,
and the + Redeemer,
and the Sanctifier.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,**

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

**Heal us, free us from all that enslaves,
and show us the path of life.**

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of + Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

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. *Refrain***

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

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u-ni-ty of all; for
hun-gry and the poor; that
friends and fam-i-ly; for
wa-ter and the word; that you



this ho-ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus-tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod-y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. God of radical welcome and profound inclusion, today, in the story of Zacchaeus, you remind us of your power to open doors, destroy barriers, tear down the walls that separate us one from another. Today, you breathe new life into our old, outdated, archaic ways of determining value and worth, of discerning who is in and who is out. In an extravagant show of grace, the boundaries are extended. The love is expanded. The community grows and grows and grows...until absolutely no one is left behind, until absolutely all are resting safe and secure...and on equal footing...in your loving care and in the kin-dom of your magnificent grace. Comfort us with your promise of connection, belonging, and home; through Jesus, our radical and revolutionary Savior.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

A reading from Habakkuk.

- ¹The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.
- ²O GOD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?
- ³Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
- ⁴So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.
- ^{2:1}I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what God will say to me,
what God will answer concerning my complaint.
- ²Then GOD answered me and said:
"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
- ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.
- ⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness."

The Word of God for the people of God.

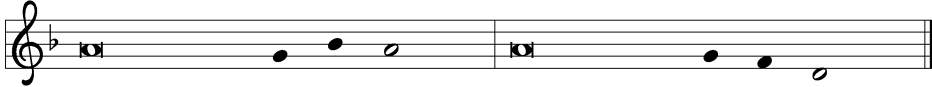
Thanks be to God.

*Psalm
Refrain*



They are like trees plant - ed by streams of wa - ter.

*Psalm
Tone*



- ¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!
- ²**Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R**
- ³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.
- ⁴**It is not so | with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**
- ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.
- ⁶**For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R**

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

A reading from Thessalonians.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God and the Lord Jesus Christ:

²Grace to you and peace from Abba God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We must always give thanks to God for you, my siblings, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.

⁴Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

¹¹To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of God's call and will fulfill by God's power every good resolve and work of faith, ¹²so that the name of Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and you in Christ, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Seen and Loved by Jesus

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 Luke the nineteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it.² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus, who was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So Zacchaeus hurried down and was happy to welcome Jesus. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "This Jesus has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to Jesus, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because Zacchaeus, too, is a child of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Finally Found: Zacchaeus and Our Search for Belonging

Please stand as able

**Softly and tenderly, Christ is embracing,
Calling the lost, shamed, and scarred;
See on the doorsteps, the outcast is waiting.
Jesus says, "Come as you are."**

Refrain

**Come home, come home.
God's tender love bears you home.
Rest, weary one, in the arms of your Savior.
Jesus will carry you home.**

**Gently Christ gathers the ones who've been silenced,
Honors their voices, their truth.
No one forgotten, and none are forsaken,
Christ has a place set for you. *Refrain***

**Joyfully singing, the Spirit is moving,
Breaking down walls built by fear.
Tables are turning, the circle is growing.
Everyone has a place here. *Refrain***

**Patient and tender, Christ walks with the seeker,
Wounded and full of desire.
Still we are holy, beloved, becoming,
Kindled with God's holy fire. *Refrain***

**Here at the table, no label, no border,
Everyone's welcome to dine;
Bread for the hungry, a feast for the faithful.
All are God's children divine. *Refrain***

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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God who became human in Jesus, challenge the church to recognize Christ in all our neighbors. Give church leaders endurance in times of weakness and affliction. Grant wisdom and understanding in conflict while sustaining joy in service. Ground us in communal worship of you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who preserves us in times of trouble, guide us to properly care for the earth's resources. Heal waters, land, and air to sustain future generations. Nourish Sycamore, Elm, Birch, and Oak trees growing around us. As local apples come into season, let each crunchy and sweet bite be a delicious reminder of your love for this earth. Bless the hands of those who bake and fry these fruits of your creation into heart and stomach warming treats. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who turns our weapons into plowshares, we pray for world leaders. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. Give world leaders hearts for peace and hands for the work of justice. Safeguard the innocent in the war-torn regions of Gaza, Ukraine, Myanmar, and so many others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who brings grace and peace, we pray for those who are unhoused and in need of shelter, suffering and in need of comfort, and sick and in need of relief, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who knows us by name, bless our lay leaders with wisdom and give them a faithful vision for your church. Guide us in supporting Trinity's children and youth as they grow and are nourished in the faith. Instill in us a spirit of communal belonging where every person taking their place in this community will change us, more fully transform us into the community of belonging you are calling us to be. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who sees all people as beloved, we pray for those on the margins. Make a way for those who have been crowded out by the powerful in church and society. Continue to transform this community of faith into a place where no one must scale a tree to see you and your love coming their way. Break open hearts that have turned to stone so that we might all be warmed by your love and the presence of you in each other. Stop the world from trampling your beloved little ones in their rush and hurry to be near power.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who provides and does so in abundance, we pray for the beginning of Trinity's 2025 Stewardship Invitation. As this community gathers Friday evening for a time of fun and fellowship at the Las Vegas Game Night Stewardship kickoff, guide us in nurturing longtime as well as newly blossoming relationships. Fill rooms with laughter, fun, and a deep sense of belonging, allowing each attendee an opportunity to go away energized to begin a time of prayer and discerning as to how you are calling each of us to support your dream through the mission and ministry of Trinity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Take Up Your Cross

Adult Choir

Music: W. Hauser, from the *Hesperian Harp* (1848),
arranged by Howard Helvey; Text: Charles W. Everest

"Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciple be;
forsake the past, and come this day,
and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight
pervade your soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
sustain your heart, and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish heart rebel;
for you the Lord endured the cross
to save your soul from death and hell.

Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for those who humbly bear the cross
one day will wear the glorious crown.

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, Creator God,
**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**
**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,**
**that we may work for the good of all;
through 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 for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is in common time and features a simple, hymn-like melody.

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!

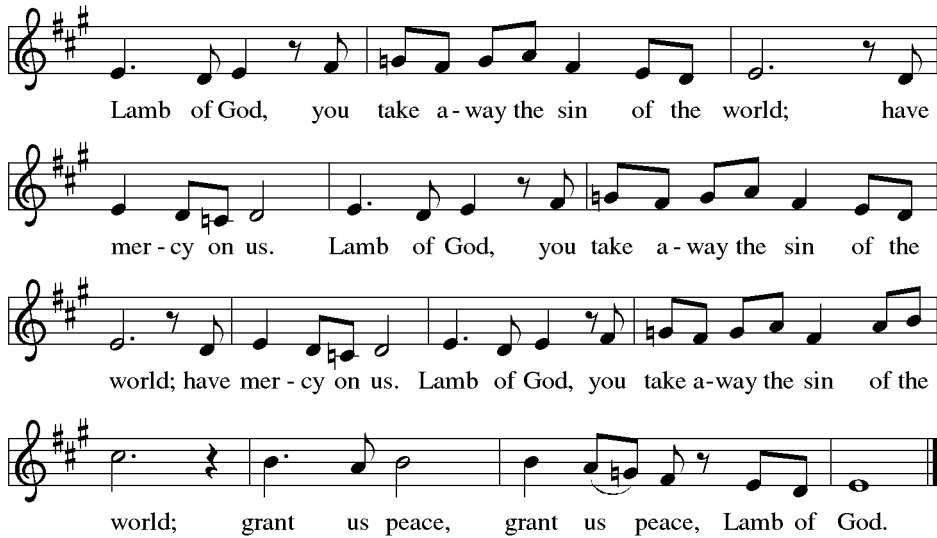
Please be seated

COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice— wine in the larger section and grape juice in the smaller section. Christ's grace and forgiveness is found in the bread, wine, and grape juice.
Gluten free wafers are available.*

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the wafer into the chalice 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.

Change My Heart, O God

#801

Refrain

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. *Refrain*

As the Grains of Wheat

#465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of the earth be gathered into one in you.

**As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain***

**Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when
all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain***

O God, You Call for Justice

**Oh God, you call for justice – for goodness, never greed!
You seek a world of fairness where all have what they need —
Where all have food and water and homes in which to thrive,
Where all have hope and laughter and joy to be alive!**

**Oh God, you call for kindness, instead of keeping score;
You seek a world that welcomes the hungry and the poor.
Lord, where there is injustice, may we work to protect —
The struggling ones, the voiceless that others would reject.**

**You call us to walk humbly, for we are not our own;
We all are poor and needy; we need the grace you've shown.
May we respond to others reflecting what you give —
Compassion, kindness, justice — so all may gladly live.**

**Oh God, may our great nation seek justice, as we should,
And work with dedication to seek the common good.
We're blessed to be a blessing; may we live out your call
With justice and compassion that reaches out to all.**

You Are Holy

#525

Sing twice

**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!**

**“I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?”**

Refrain

***Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

**“I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?”** *Refrain*

**“I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?”** *Refrain*

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

**“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”**

**“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”**

**“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Jesus sees you, honors you, welcomes you, makes a place for you.

There is no judgment, no fear of being cast out.

You are safe and secure.

You are loved.

You are whole.

You belong.

You are home.

Thanks be to God.

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

Change My Heart, O God
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CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor

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

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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Patrick Morgan

Jeff Rehm

Margaret Roth

Kerry Sease

Chris Sorenson

Chris Wannemacher