



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Third Sunday in Creation

09.20.2026 | 10:00 am | trinitylutheran.ws

Welcome to Trinity!

A place of love, grace, and belonging, where all, without exception, are loved, honored, valued, affirmed, welcomed, and celebrated.

If we can make you feel more at home, please speak to an usher or greeter.

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.

ADULTS & CHILDREN

Worship Bags are available in the Narthex or the Gym for children. Bags for preschoolers are tied with a white ribbon. Bags for elementary age children have no ribbon. After worship, used bags may be placed in the baskets next to the stands.

A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff as well as a small group of rotating volunteers who have been trained in Trinity's Child Protection Policy is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 am to care for infants and toddlers who would prefer enjoying play time instead of attending 10:00 am worship. The nursery is located on the first floor of the Pence Building. Please reach out to a greeter or usher if you need assistance.

PRAYING WITH US

We encourage you to participate fully in our service, as you are comfortable. We invite you to read aloud the **bold text**. Wherever you see ✠, you are invited to cross yourself. Other actions are indicated during the service, but none are required.

LET'S GET CONNECTED

If you are new to Trinity, we are thrilled to have you here. If you would like to know more about this congregation and our ministry please share your contact information with us by filling out a Connection Card which can be obtained from the pew racks or baskets. Thank you for your presence among us.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of her father, Bill Kleckley, by Heather Kleckley.

Serving Today

Susan Crowell
Preaching

Patrick Preacher
Presiding Minister

Jim Parham
Pianist and Choir Director

Lector
Nick Nyhus

Prayers
Drake McFadyen

Cantor
Pat Morgan

Percussion
John Beckford

Guitar
Duke Barsody

Bass Guitar
Brian Goodlett

Communion Assistants
Jay Hilbourn, Sharron Goodlett

Acolyte
Lauren Whitworth

Children's Worship Opportunity
Suzanne Rudisill, Stefani Robinson

Nursery
Beth Oswald, Melissa Kolb

Greeters
Mark Allen, Cathy O'Neill,
Pat O'Neill, Lisa Rehm

Refreshment Hosts
JL Dykes, Clayton Dykes,
Dovie Dykes

Ushers
Clayton Dykes, David Nichols,
Karen Nichols, David Potts

LiveControl Coordinator
Kellie Fontecchio, Harper Roth

Audio
Gregg Alley



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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God Welcomes All

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

SUSTAINING MINISTRY VIDEO

Alive with Possibility! #2

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you're able.

We gather in the name of ☩ God who creates,
Christ who accompanies,
and the Spirit who breathes life into our weary bones,
who blesses us with resources,
who provides us with possibilities,
and strengthens us for the journey ahead.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of possibility and abundance,
**We confess our tendency to see scarcity where there is abundance,
to keep score instead of extending grace,
to respond to disappointment in relationships by calling it quits,
to hold our money and possessions with tight, closed fists, and
to place our trust in the things we have no power to control.
Free us from all that holds us captive:
especially our worries about not having enough and not being enough.
Release us from our fears for the future.
Liberate us from measuring our lives from a human perspective and
give us a wider vision so that, like the seeds of the dandelion being
blown into the wind, we see the world and our lives through an
ever- changing, ever-expanding lens of possibility and promise.
Amen.**

Beloved of God,
You are forgiven and freed, blessed to begin again.
God gives us everything we need to tend this community with open hands
and hopeful hearts and to become good soil from which something beautiful
will grow.
Together, ☩ with Source, Word, and Spirit,
we are alive with possibility.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

Njoo kwetu, Roho mwema

Njo - o kwe - tu, Ro - ho mwe - ma, M - fa - ri - ji we - tu.
 1 Gra - cious Spir - it, heed our plead - ing, fash - ion us all a - new.
 2 Come to teach us, come to nour - ish those who be - lieve in Christ.
 3 Guide our think - ing and our speak - ing done in your ho - ly name.

Tu - fu - ndi - she ya mbi - ngu - ni, tu - we wa - tu wa - pya.
 It's your lead - ing that we're need - ing, help us to fol - low you.
 Bless the faith - ful, may they flour - ish, strength - ened by grace un - priced.
 Mo - ti - vate all in their seek - ing, free - ing from guilt and shame.

Refrain
Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Njo - o, njo - o, njo - o, Ro - ho mwe - ma.
 Come, come, come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

4 Not mere knowledge, but discernment,
 nor rootless liberty;
 turn disquiet to contentment,
 doubt into certainty.

5 Keep us fervent in our witness,
 unswayed by earth's allure.
 Ever grant us zealous fitness,
 which you alone assure.

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

Music: NJOO KWETU, ROHO MWEMA, Wilson Niwagila; arr. Egil Hovland, b. 1924

English and Swahili text and tune © Lutheran Theological College, Makumira, Tanzania, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © Egil Hovland. Used by permission.

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.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

The prayer of the day covers the wide variety of human longing and responsibilities of the church and humanity and is specific to the scripture texts for the day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Gracious God, whose generosity cannot be measured and whose grace refuses to keep score, turn our hearts toward your upside-down economy. Teach us to trust that there is enough – enough grace, enough love, enough mercy, enough resources. Free us from the scarcity that makes us compare, compete, and wonder who deserves more or less. Make us people who rejoice in the gifts given to others as freely as we receive your gifts ourselves. And when your abundance surprises us, help us recognize it as your holy invitation to imagine a world shaped not by what we have earned, but by the extravagant love you pour out for all; through Jesus Christ, our teacher and companion and savior.

Amen.

Please be seated.

God Speaks to Us Through a Living Word

We follow a three year cycle of readings called a Lectionary. These are lessons being heard in congregations from many denominations throughout the world on this day.

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

The Psalm is a hymn or poem. The psalms cover the whole range of the relationship between God and God's people. The Book of Psalms, while a "book" of the Bible, consists of 150 hymns intended to be sung.

THE READING

Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that my return to you may deepen your joy and strengthen our shared life in Christ.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for Christ as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

Psalm
Refrain



The Lord is slow to an-ger and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

Psalm
Tone



¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

**²Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.**

³Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

**⁴One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power. R**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

**⁶They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

**⁸The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

That's Not Fair

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand as able. Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -

- le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

During worship,
there is always a
reading from a
Gospel. We stand
to indicate the
importance we place
on Jesus' words and
actions.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according Saint Matthew the twentieth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kin-dom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for her vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, she sent them into her vineyard. ³When she went out about nine o'clock, she saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and she said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When she went out again about noon and about three o'clock, she did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock she went out and found others standing around, and she said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to her, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ She said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to her manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But she replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

On Fairness and Justice in God's Kin-dom

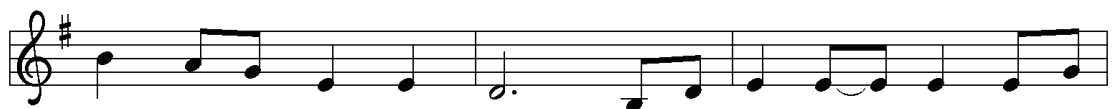
HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand as able.

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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APOSTLE'S 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,**

In the Apostles' Creed, we respond to the proclamation of God's Word by confessing the faith that has been handed down through generations of Christians. We "believe" (from the Latin credere, meaning "to put one's heart into") as an act of trust in the story of God's creating love, redeeming work in Jesus Christ, and life-giving presence through the Holy Spirit. We say "I believe" not as an isolated individual, but as one held within the faith of the whole church, the Body of Christ, which supports and strengthens us when our own faith feels fragile. When it is not capitalized, the word "catholic" means universal—affirming that this faith belongs to the whole people of God, in all times and places.

**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.**

The Prayers of Intercession are always responsive, because everyone gives voice to the supplications. We include prayers for others throughout the world, in our Synod, and those connected to our congregation.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, let us pray for the church, the world, and all whom God is drawing toward mercy.

A brief silence.

God of the vineyard, we confess our unwillingness to share your good news and our quiet resentment when your grace reaches someone we think hasn't earned it. Free your church — locally and through the witness of Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and South Carolina Synod Bishop Wade Roof — from the arithmetic of who deserves you. Make us glad, not grudging, at the wideness of your welcome, and let that welcome be plain and unmistakable to every Queer and Trans person who walks through our doors. God whose math is calculated in grace,
your generosity knows no bounds.

God of the vineyard, your whole creation labors under the heat of a changing climate the way the first-hired laborers worked under the noonday sun. Guide scientists and researchers whose long, unglamorous work tracks what is being lost and what might yet be saved. Give us here in the Upstate eyes to see it too, especially in the butterflies and the bees who grow more fragile every season. God whose math is calculated in grace,
your generosity knows no bounds.

God of the vineyard, you pay the same wage to the one hired at dawn and the one hired at five o'clock. Convict employers who cannot yet see that justice. Move them toward equal pay, toward ending disparities built on gender, race, and circumstance rather than on the work itself. Reconcile workplace conflict where it festers, and fill workplaces with the kind of camaraderie your vineyard was always meant to hold. God whose math is calculated in grace,
your generosity knows no bounds.

God of the vineyard, you don't measure worth by hours logged or tasks completed. Speak that truth to any who cannot work, or cannot work a full day, and whose worth the world keeps trying to price by their output. Bring an end to the LGBTQIA+ raids in Turkey. Grant safety, protection, and freedom to the Queer and Trans people there who have been unreasonably arrested for living as you have created them. We pray for all who are injured, ill, or in need, especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... that they would know themselves paid in full by your love long before evening comes. God whose math is calculated in grace,
your generosity knows no bounds.



God of the vineyard, strengthen all in this congregation whose daily labor — paid or unpaid, waged or volunteered — serves the needs of others, and inspire the rest of us to bring our own time and talents into the field alongside them. Strengthen single parents who feel their work never ends only to find they do not have enough to make ends meet each week. God whose math is calculated in grace,
your generosity knows no bounds.

God of the vineyard, we give thanks for all the saints who have claimed their baptismal promise, laborers called at every hour of their lives and now brought home at last. Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled, trusting they have received, as you always give, more than we could ever calculate. God whose math is calculated in grace,
your generosity knows no bounds.

Grant, generous God, the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need — paying out, as always, far past what we thought we'd earned. We ask this in Jesus' name. **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.

God Invites Us to the Table

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (#1089)

Music: Bob Moore; Text: Frederick W. Faber (1814 - 1863)

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

The Peace has been exchanged in worship since the time of the first Christians. It is a profound act to offer the miraculous peace of God to one another before we join in communion with God and each other.

The Offertory is when we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to God as our initial act of thanksgiving. This collection is a visible reminder that our whole lives are God's, and a part of what God has given us we give back in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to our website trinitylutheran.ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun-tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro-no_en él ten-drás. ten-drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da_en - te - ra_es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da_a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que_a mis ma - nos pue - da guar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

Refrain/Estribillo



pul - so de tu_a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God,

You are the earth that grounds us, the rain that nourishes us, and the warmth that calls new life from the earth. We worry that there will never be enough – not enough time, not enough resources, not enough faith, not enough love.

Remind us that life is not rooted in scarcity. Hold our abundance before us. Give us grace upon grace, bread enough to share, and love that keeps growing exponentially. Receive these gifts and our very lives that we may become a place where hope can take root, where welcome can grow, where justice can flourish, and where more and more people can discover welcome and belonging. Bless the gifts we bring today, not simply to sustain what has been, but to nurture what is becoming.

Make us a people alive with possibility, a people who trust in your grace, your generosity, and your constant provision. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

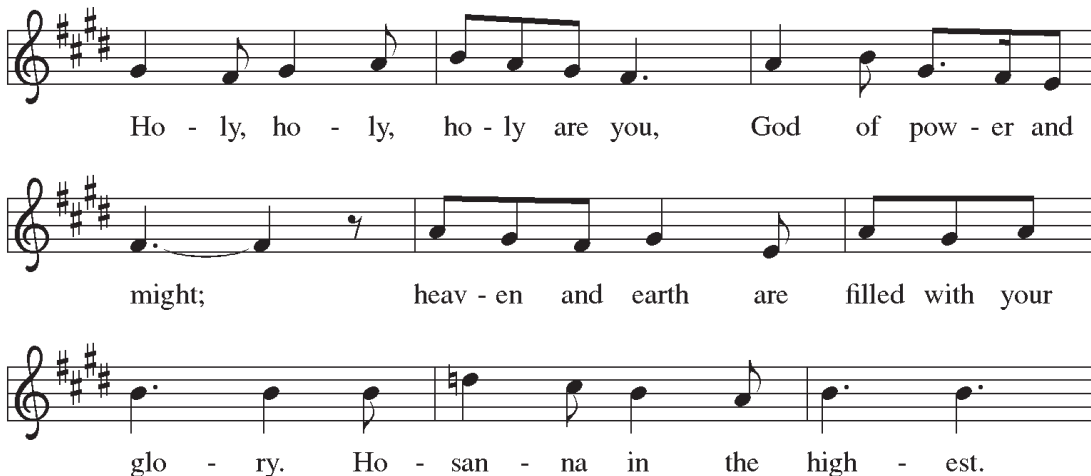
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

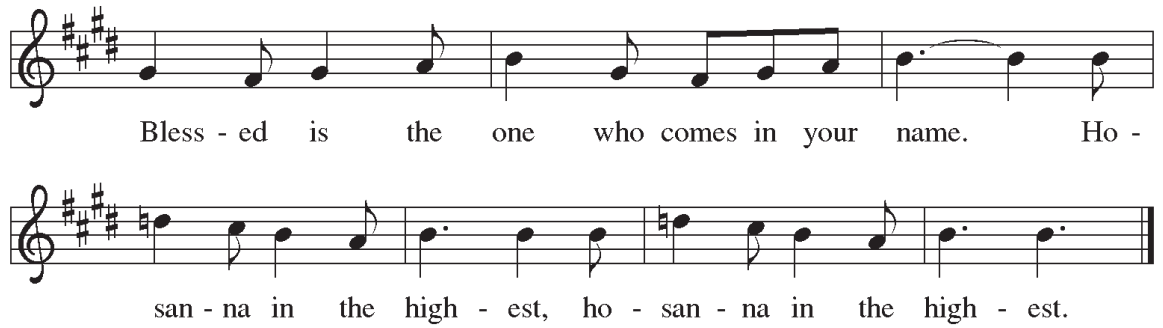
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed our right and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Holy Parent, Creator of all that is, seen and unseen.

In the beginning your Word called forth light from darkness, order from chaos, and life from dust. When creation groaned, longing for renewal, you sent that same Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together. In him you drew near to the lost, the outcast, and the forgotten, welcoming to your table those the world pushed to its edges. And so, with all your saints on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy) recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, overwhelmed by the presence of God in the sanctuary, and these words were sung by the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Sanctus reminds us that this is an offering of the whole creation, which joins in singing these praises.



In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup,
made from the wheat and grapes you have nurtured as your creation.
Let these simple elements be for us the true presence of Christ,
enlivening us to do our part in caring for this beautiful garden home.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Mother/Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, 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

The Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It links our daily bread to the spiritual food we receive in Communion.

When we pray Holy Parent, we name what has always been true: God is not bound by gender, yet holds us with the fierce, tender love of every parent who has ever cherished a child. When we pray kin-dom, we reach for God's deepest dream: not a reign of power and hierarchy, but a beloved community where all belong, all are welcomed, and none are left outside.

In an effort to further embrace Trinity's mission of welcome, affirmation, and hospitality, both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice.



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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Lamb of God

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.

One Bread, One Body

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Refrain

wom-an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath-ered to one for all.

A Place at the Table



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, for
 2 For wo - man and man, a place at the ta - ble and
 3 For gay, bi, and straight, a place at the ta - ble, in -
 4 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a
 5 For bod - ies di - verse, a place at the ta - ble, all
 6 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to



ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread, a shel - ter, a
 all those be - tween, be - yond, and be - sides; ex - pand - ing our
 vit - ed to wed, to bap - tize and preach, a rain - bow of
 voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a
 man - ner of speech and move - ment and minds; en - a - bled to
 live with - out fear, and simp - ly to be, to work, to speak



space, a safe place for grow - ing, for ev - ery - one born, a
 world, dis - man - tl - ing pow - er, each val - ued for what their
 race and gen - der and col - or, for queer, trans, and ace, God's
 child in hands that are wrin - kled, for young and for old, the
 lead and teach us new lan - guage, for bod - ies di - verse, a
 out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for ev - ery - one born, the



star o - ver - head. And God will de - light when
 voice can pro - vide.
 jus - tice in reach.
 right to be - long.
 church re - de - signed.
 right to be free.



we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, yes, God will de -



light when we are cre-a - tors of jus - tice,

jus - tice and joy!

6

Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing;
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Refrain



POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Gracious God,
Nourished by this table, make us good soil, a fertile place for your love to grow.
Free us from scarcity and fear.
Root us in abundance, so that what we have received may become sustenance, hope,
and welcome for others.
Keep us alive with possibility –
imagining a future that exceeds all our hopes, dreams, and desires. **Amen.**

After Communion,
we give thanks for
being part of the
communion of God's
life and for being fed
so that we may go
out to feed and serve
others in our world.

God Sends Us to Love and Serve the World

BLESSING

Nourished by this table, strengthened in this community, and rooted in the
abundance of God, may you be good soil where love takes root, hope grows, justice
thrives, welcome flourishes, and generosity is our calling. Trust that God is still
creating, still calling, still making all things new. Alive with possibility, may the
blessing of God – ☩ Creator, Christ, and Spirit – go with you to tend, cultivate, and
encourage all of God's beloveds. **Amen.**

We Are Marching in the Light of God



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



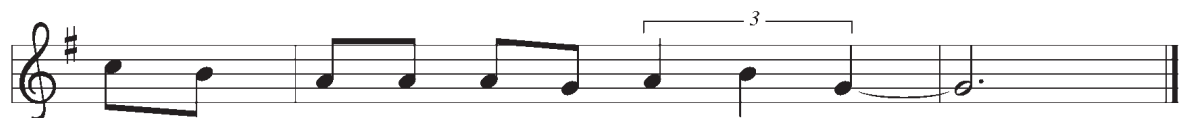
Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.



DISMISSAL

Beloved community, go in peace.

Leave behind the economy of scarcity, comparison, and keeping score.

Go into the world trusting in the abundance of God and not in the human notion of fairness.

Rejoice that there is enough, more than enough, enough for absolutely everyone.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

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Having heard the Gospel and having been fed at communion, the final act of our common worship is the Dismissal. It is not an afterthought, but an integral part of the service. Jesus' final action on earth was to send his followers into the world to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey all he had commanded. And so we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

Church Staff

Susan J. Crowell

Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III

Pastor for Worship and Music

Patrick D. Preacher

Pastor for Queer Ministry and Belonging

Angie H. McCormack

Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Jerry R. Wesley

Coordinator for Mental Health Wellness

Kay M. Cook

Office Manager

Frank Griffin

Coordinator for Finance and Sustaining Ministry

Karen M. Craig

Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook

Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald

Nursery Attendant



Congregation Council

Richard Moose, *Vice-President*

Mike Boliek, *Treasurer*

Margaret Roth, *Secretary*

Clayton Dykes, *Youth*

Lynn Andrews

Chris Barsody

Jessica Bigby

Carl Brune

William Bryant, Jr.

Danny Fagala

Jaime Fivecoat

Deirdre Hixson

Pat Morgan

Donna Potts

Jeff Rehm

Matthew Wessinger

Carl Witherspoon



Activities & Opportunities

Church Office Hours

Monday – Church Office Closed

Tuesday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wednesday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

This schedule notes when administrative staff are in the office to answer phones and welcome guests. Our pastors are frequently away from the office providing pastoral care, attending community meetings, and making ministry visits. Pastoral availability is more expansive than the Church Office schedule.

Adult Faith Exploration meets each Sunday morning at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13. Those interested in lively discussion around matters of faith and the current reality in which we live should give this class a try. Topics and discussion leaders change frequently to keep things interesting and engaging. Please reach out to Pastor Preacher with any questions or to inquire about serving as a Discussion Leader at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

New Member Class

- Are you interested in learning more about this beloved community of faith?
- More about what it means to be a part of an inclusive, diverse community that seeks to practice radical hospitality and extend belonging to more and more people?
- Are you considering becoming a member of this community of faith?

Pastor Crowell and Pastor Preacher will teach a class on two consecutive Sundays, TODAY and September 27 on Lutheran Faith and Theology, what it means to be a part of an inclusive community, and how this community was transformed to become a place of belonging. These gatherings will be held after worship on each of these Sundays and will include lunch together in the Multipurpose Room followed by an hour-long class for youth and adults in Rooms 12 and 13. Childcare for infants, preschoolers, and elementary-aged children will be provided. Reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws to register for these sessions and to share any food restrictions or preferences.

New Members Joining. Trinity will receive new members on Sunday, October 4 during worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. If interested in becoming a part of this beloved community, please reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws.

Candlelight Yoga. Feeling weary, anxious, or stressed by the demands of life? Join Pastor Crowell and yoga teacher Jill McBurney for a gentle, relaxing candlelight yoga experience in the Gym on Monday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. Yoga newcomers and all bodies and abilities are welcome. Bring a mat, pillow, and blanket; a few extra mats will be available. Participants may also enjoy the session from a chair. Childcare will be provided. Come stretch, breathe deeply, rest in the glow of candlelight, and enjoy an hour of restoration. Questions? Contact Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws

Grief Support Group. Trinity will host a grief support group on Monday, September 21 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Jerry Wesley, LMFTA, Trinity's Mental Health Wellness Advocate, will guide a safe and respectful discussion where participants can ask questions, share experiences, and find support and healing. Grief may result from the loss of a loved one, the end of a relationship, or major life changes. Come join the conversation and begin moving toward healing. Contact Jerry at jrwesley@trinitylutheran.ws for more information.

The Welcome Table. This monthly meal will be held on Wednesday, September 23 at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. With help from Project Host Soup Kitchen, guests enjoy a hot protein-based casserole along with healthy sides, bread, and dessert. New volunteers, especially in the kitchen, are always needed. Please reach out to Pastor Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws with interest in serving.

September 20, 2026

Foundation Grants. The Trinity Lutheran Church Foundation is receiving grant applications from September 1 to October 15. The purpose of the foundation is to enhance the outreach ministry of the congregation by making grants to community human service agencies to which the congregation relates, institutions and agencies of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA, and members of the congregation who attend an ELCA seminary or church-related educational, leadership, or service event. Grant applications may be obtained by calling the Church Office at 864-242-5702 or emailing Kay Cook at kmcook@trinitylutheran.ws.

Book Discussion Group. Please join Pastor Crowell for a discussion of the book *Yesteryear* by Caro Claire Burke on Thursday, October 22 at 10:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. Anyone who loves reading and discussing books and is eager to make connections and build community is encouraged to attend. Reach out to Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws with questions or to register for the event.

Happy Mail Gathering. Do you enjoy writing notes, fun stationery, gel pens, and sending love and care through the mail? If your answer is yes, make plans together with Renee Heiliger and Pastor Crowell on Thursday, September 24 at 2:00 pm in the Meeting Room across from the Parlor to write notes, send cards, and extend encouragement to members of the Trinity community who could benefit from some extra love and care. Reach out to Renee Heiliger at rch719@gmail.com or Pastor Crowell at sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws with questions or to register for the event.

Life Together this Week: Come and Connect with Us!

TODAY	MON, SEPT 21	WED, SEPT 23	THURS, SEPT. 24	SUN, SEPT 27
9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Gym and Live-stream; Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am New Member Lunch and Class 11:30 am Trinity Children 11:30 am History Reading Group 5:00 pm Trinity Youth	6:00 pm Grief Support Workshop	11:30 am The Welcome Table 1:00 pm Game Day (formerly Mahjong Group) 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	2:00 pm Happy Mail Gathering	9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Gym and Live-stream; Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am New Member Lunch and Class 11:30 am Music Moments for Children 2:00 pm Blessing of the Animals in the Columbarium Garden

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Our Shared Calling

We are a diverse faith community proclaiming the inclusive gospel of Christ by practicing love through hospitality, justice, and belonging.

Core Commitments

- Relevant Worship
- Radical Welcome
- Queer Affirmation
- Authentic Community
- Justice and Advocacy
- Faithful Giving
- Spaces of Belonging



Blessing of the Animals

The Fourth Sunday in Creation

Sunday, September 27
2:00 pm

Trinity's Columbarium Garden



God loves all creatures, as so do we!
For the safety of animals and humans alike,
please ensure your pet is leashed or safely in a
carrier.

Contact Pastor Preacher with questions.