



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Fourth Sunday in Creation

09.27.2026 | 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 honor of his mother, Doris Wessinger, by Philip and Melanie Wessinger.

Serving Today

Susan Crowell
Preaching

Patrick Preacher
Presiding Minister

Jim Parham
Pianist and Choir Director

Lector
Carl Brune

Prayers
Renee Heiliger

Cantor
Russ and Lani Wise

Percussion
John Beckford

Guitar
Duke Barsody

Bass Guitar
Brian Goodlett

Communion Assistants
Jaime Fivecoat, Sharron Goodlett

Acolytes
Bonnie Whitworth,
Samuel Whitworth

Children's Worship Opportunity
Jess Bigby, Stefani Robinson

Nursery
Beth Oswald, JL Dykes

Greeters
Mark Allen, Ella Matson,
Wesley Matson, Sonny Patrick,
Valerie Foote Patrick

Ushers
Carol Elliott, Danny Fagala,
Lani Ludian, Jeff Roth

LiveControl Coordinator
Kellie Fontecchio,
Jeff Waddell-Londono

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! #3

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

GATHERING

531

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing *The Feast Is Ready*



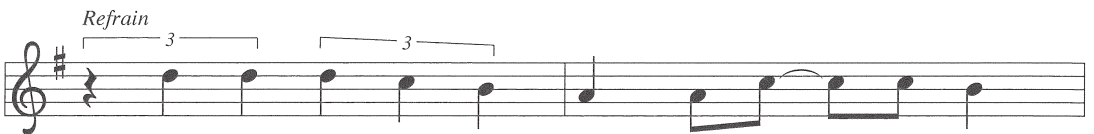
1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



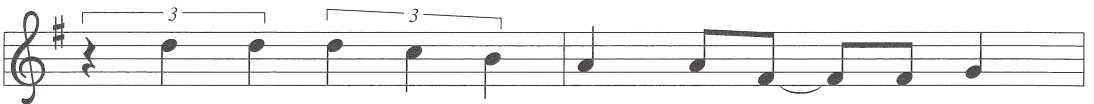
read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

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.

Let us pray.

Holy One, you call us to question the powers that shape our lives and to examine the authority we ourselves hold. Save us from the temptation to grasp power, to confuse authority with control, or to believe that leadership means having the last word. Teach us that our calling is not to create a community without authority, but a community where authority is generously shared, humbly exercised, lightly held, and always, always accountable to love. Shape us into a people whose authority looks like Jesus: rooted in compassion, open to questions, willingness to listen, and always focused on the flourishing of others; through Christ, who came to serve and not to be served.

Amen.

Please be seated.

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.

God Speaks to Us Through a Living Word

THE READING

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God most High.



¹² So, my beloved, continue to live into the salvation you have already received, discovering together ¹³ what it means to embody Christ's love with humility, wonder, and awe.

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

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

Psalm
Refrain



Psalm
Tone



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.

- ¹ To | you, O Lord,
I lift | up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths. R**
- ⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. R

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Everybody Matters

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

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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 21:23-27

The Holy Gospel according Saint Matthew the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.



SERMON

Leadership, Authority, and the Way of Jesus

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand as able.

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your
prais - ses. — I'm so glad you're in — my life;
I'm so glad you came to save us. You came from heav - en to earth
— to show the way, — from the earth — to the cross,
— my debt to pay, — from the cross — to the grave,
— from the grave — to the sky; — Lord, I lift your name on high.

Music and Text: Rick Founds
Text and Music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

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,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

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.

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.

**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

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Emptying God, you took the form of a servant and refused the grasp of power. Center your church in that same humility. Help us listen to the cries of those unfairly hurt by the church's own claims to authority and give us courage to name difficult truths rather than dodge them as the chief priests dodged Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator of the wood thrush and every creature of the Blue Ridge foothills, you call us to care for your creation with the same self-giving love Christ showed us. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and reverence for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who questions leaders, inspire all in positions of authority — including Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and Bishop Wade Roof of our South Carolina Synod — to act with the humble mind of Christ rather than the self-protective evasions of those who feared the crowd more than the truth. Give them courage to respond to the marginalized through the depths of your love, even when it costs them ground. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God who meets us in fear and trembling, comfort those who come before you uncertain and afraid. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Grant us your peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the kin-dom wide enough for every authentic self, change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Continually renew our welcome to our Queer and Trans siblings who so often meet the same refusals and evasions the religious authorities offered Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.



Steadfast God, we give you thanks for the great cloud of witnesses who surround us — saints of every age, gender, and expression of love. We remember especially Saint Michael and all your angels, sent to guard the vulnerable and to cross every boundary with news of your welcome. Make us bold messengers too, ready to stand against whatever threatens your beloved children, and to love without condition as the saints before us have taught us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you know that we need. 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

Show Me Thy Ways

Music: Walter Pelz; Text: Psalm 25:4, 5

*Show me thy ways O Lord, teach me thy paths;
Lead me in thy truth and teach me:
For thou art the God of my salvation.
And on thee do I wait all the day.
Show me thy ways O Lord, teach me thy paths;
Lead me in thy truth.*

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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, 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 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 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.

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.

Room at the Table

Piano introduction

Music and Lyrics: Carrie Newcomer



1 Let our
2 Too
3 No



hearts not be hard-ened to those liv - ing on the mar - gins. There is
long we have wan-dered bur-dened and un - done, but there is
mat-ter who you are, no mat - ter where you've been, there is



room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one. This is
room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one. This is
room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one. Here and



where it all be-gins, this is how we ga - ther in. There is
how it all be-gins. Let us sing the new world in. There is
now we can be the be - loved com-mun - i - ty. There is



room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one.
room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one.
room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one.

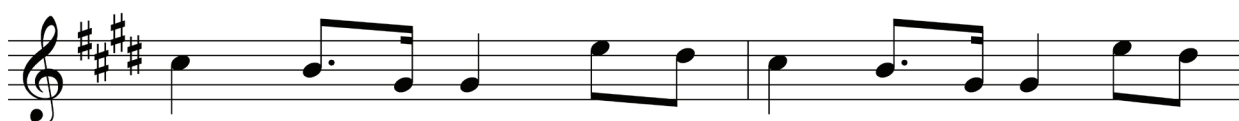
Chorus



There is room for us all, and no gift is too small. There is



room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one. There's e -



nough if we share. Come on pull up a chair. There is



room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry - one.

1, 2

Finale ending

ev - 'ry-one. There is room at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry-one, for

ev - 'ry - one.

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!



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 ...



DISMISSAL

Beloved Community,
Go now into the world not to grasp for power, but to share it.
Not to stand above one another,
but to walk beside each other.
May our lives become places
where no one is diminished,
where every voice matters,
and where power is always bent
toward the flourishing of all people.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Following worship, everyone is invited to gather at the back of the Gym
for refreshments and fellowship in honor of Roy Cook as he retires from
his position on staff as Facilities Manager.*

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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

Jerry R. Wesley

Coordinator for Mental Health
Wellness

James C. Parham, III

Pastor for Worship and Music

Kay M. Cook

Office Manager

Patrick D. Preacher

Pastor for Queer Ministry and
Belonging

Drake McFadyen

Coordinator for Congregational Life
and Engagement

Angie H. McCormack

Youth and Children's Ministry
Coordinator

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*

Jessica Bigby

Pat Morgan

Mike Boliek, *Treasurer*

Carl Brune

Donna Potts

Margaret Roth, *Secretary*

William Bryant, Jr.

Jeff Rehm

Clayton Dykes, *Youth*

Danny Fagala

Matthew Wessinger

Lynn Andrews

Jaime Fivecoat

Carl Witherspoon

Chris Barsody

Deirdre Hixson



Activities & Opportunities

Our love and care is extended to Steven Barrett and his family at the death of his mother.

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.



Sustaining Ministry “Alive with Possibility”

Celebration Worship and Lunch. Make plans to gather with the beloved community at Trinity next Sunday, October 4 for worship in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am that will include guest preacher Dexter Brecht, an opportunity to present your financial commitment to Trinity's ministry in 2027, and the chance to share the ways that you want to show up and serve in the coming year. Please bring your Investment Card, your Show Up and Serve Sheet, and your generous heart to worship next Sunday and boldly say YES to Trinity and to our ministry of radical welcome, hospitality, and belonging for all, no

exceptions. After worship, we will gather in the Gym for a lunch of Baked Ziti, a large salad bar, and homemade brownies. Keto, gluten-free, and vegetarian options will be available. Come and celebrate our life together and our future that is “Alive with Possibility”!

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 TODAY on what it means to be a part of an inclusive community and how this community was transformed to become a place of belonging. This gathering will be held after worship 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.

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.

September 27, 2026

New Members Joining. Trinity will receive new members on **Sunday, October 18** 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.

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.

Life Together this Week: Come and Connect with Us!

TODAY	MON, SEPT 28	WED, SEPT 30	SUN, OCT 4
9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Gym and Live-stream; Refreshments and Fellowship to follow in honor of Roy Cook's retirement 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	6:30 pm Candlelight Yoga 7:30 pm Faith Exploration Team Meeting	1:00 pm Game Day (formerly Mahjong Group) 6:00 pm Handbell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	9:00 am Faith Exploration for Adults 10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary and Live-stream; Refreshments and Fellowship to follow 11:30 am Celebration Lunch 12:30 pm Mercy and Justice Team Meeting

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



CELEBRATION *Sunday*

Sunday, October 4

10:00 am
in the Sanctuary

♡ Luncheon to follow in the Gym. ♡

Blessing of the Animals

The Fourth Sunday in Creation

TODAY!
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.