



“People coming together to be The Church,
not just attend one.”

Trinity Lutheran Church is an open and inclusive
church, welcoming all who seek God.

69 Griswold Street • Hillsdale, Michigan
517-437-2647 • tlchillsdale.org

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020



**Service of the Word
9:30 a.m. Outdoor Worship**

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING! We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of longstanding, we celebrate your gifts and your ministry among us. Our order of worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin.

MISSION STATEMENT - The Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture faith through proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by word, sacrament, deeds and loving relationships, to ALL people.

VISION STATEMENT - As proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to maximize our gifts and resources to reach out with God's love and serve the global community.

COMMUNION PROCEDURE - The communion table of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is open to all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the forms of bread and wine. Please follow the ushers' instructions at the time of distribution. Children who have not yet received first communion instruction are welcome to come forward with their families to receive a blessing.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly throughout the year. No one is ever required to participate in the sacrament, but it is offered to nourish and sustain God's people. This is in accordance with Lutheran teaching:

Background 35A: The Church celebrates the Holy Communion frequently because the Church needs the sacrament, the means by which the Church's fellowship is established and its mission as the baptized people of God is nourished and sustained. This practice was reaffirmed in 1989 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We continue to need "consistent pastoral encouragement and instruction relating to Holy Communion...pointing up Christ's command, his promise, and our deep need." For a variety of historical reasons, Lutherans in various places moved away from the weekly celebration of the sacrament.

Application 35C: Participation in the sacramental meal is by invitation, not demand. The members of the church are encouraged to make the sacrament a frequent rather than occasional part of their lives.

(Excerpts from: The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 35)

OFFERING

FOURTH SUNDAY: Barnyard Boxes for ELCA World Hunger

The offering is collected at the beginning or end of worship using the offering box provided near the bulletins. Each week, our congregation collects a general offering for the church and our ministries. Additionally, we collect an offering for special projects. If you would like to make a regular gift to the church, please place it in the offering box. If you are looking to support our special project (noted above), please place your offering in the barnyard boxes or noisy offering buckets.

Sunday, July 26, 2020

INTRODUCTION

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

When participating in unison speaking or singing in worship, please speak in a quiet voice.

If you are unable to stand easily, please know that it is also permissible to remain seated.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW #771

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new;



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc-tion or our most tri - um-phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

A A reading from 1 Kings.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

- ¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- ¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
- ¹³¹I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
- ¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
- ¹³³Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

A A reading from Romans.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia.

**C Alleluia. Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.


⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

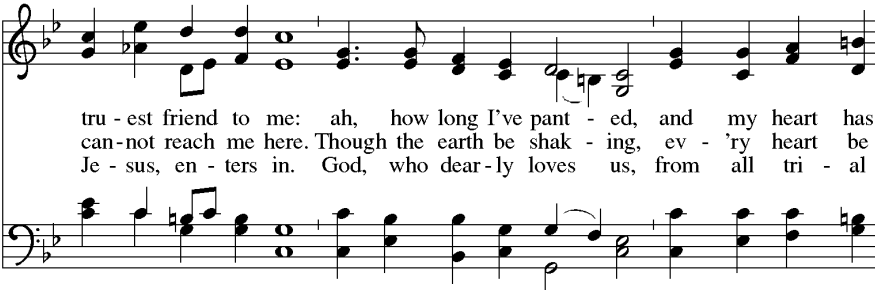
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON



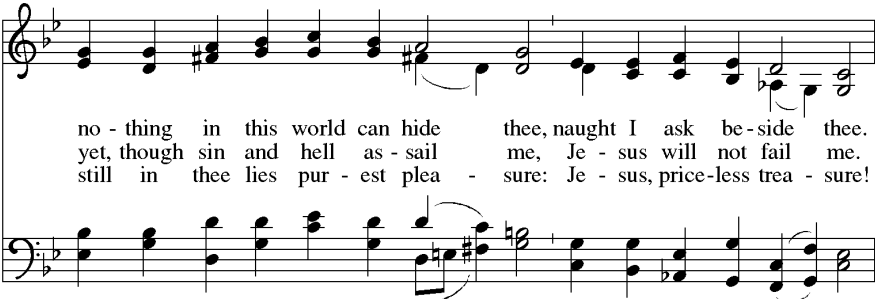
1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
 2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
 3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
 can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
 Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;
 saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be - side thee.
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

APOSTLES' CREED

The creed is spoken in a quiet voice by the congregation.

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

A Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

A You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND SANCTUS

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The ushers will distribute the bread and wine to the congregation as they remain in their seats. Gluten-free communion wafers and grape juice are available upon request. Simply tell the usher as communion is distributed.

Once the elements have been distributed, the presiding minister continues.

P The body of Christ, given for you.

C ***All those receiving communion may remove their masks and are invited to consume the bread.***

P The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C ***All those receiving communion are invited to consume the wine or grape juice.***

After you have received communion, please put your mask back on.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #547

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave,
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race,

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorp, 1916–1997, all.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
 Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SERVING AT TRINITY

Ministers: Every member of the congregation **Council President:** Carol Knoch
Pastor: Rev. Jessica Hahn **Vice-President:** Suzanne Langston
Piano/Keyboard: Paul Lucas **Treasurer:** Kristin Lucas
Parish Secretary: Lizabeth Taylor **Secretary:** Amy Otterbein

Council Members: Diane Draper, Norma Ludlow, Chris McNamara, Brad Otterbein, Gene Stockford-Shively, and Tom Walworth.

SERVING TODAY:

9:30 AM

Assisting Minister: Kristin Lucas

Ushers: Chris McNamara & Tom Stockford-Shively

BOTH SERVICES

Altar Guild: Tom Stockford-Shively, Carol Knoch

Offering Counters: Gene Stocford-Shively, Patti Weber

FLOWERS –The flowers today are given by Myrna Bailey in memory of Thomas Stout.

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FROM THE ELCA WORSHIP BLOG:

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. For those that cannot yet join us in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

DEVOTIONAL MUSIC LINKS:

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress, [“The Plans I have for You;”](#) [“God’s Plan;”](#) [“Be Thou My Vision.”](#)