



“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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 27, 2020



**Service of Holy Communion
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. 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

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, September 27, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Sit

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW #557 v. 1 & 4

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

Hymns are sung by a cantor. Please refrain from singing, due to increased risk of virus transmission.

- 1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun
thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.
- 4 Direct, control, suggest, this day,
all I design or do or say,
that all my pow'rs, with all their might,
in thy sole glory may unite.

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.
God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

A A reading from Ezekiel.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?” ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 25:1-9

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

¹To 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.**

³Let 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.**

⁵Lead 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 compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

A A reading from Philippians.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

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

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

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

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

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

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P Alleluia.

C **Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [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?” ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #806 v. 1 & 2

O God, My Faithful God

Hymns are sung by a cantor. Please refrain from singing, due to increased risk of virus transmission.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O God, my faithful God,
true fountain ever flowing,
without whom nothing is,
all perfect gifts bestowing:
give me a healthy frame,
and may I have within
a conscience free from blame,
a soul unstained by sin. | 2 Give me the strength to do
with ready heart and willing
whatever you command,
my calling here fulfilling--
to do it when I ought,
with all my might--and bless
whatever I have wrought,
for you must give success. |
|--|---|

Stand

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 Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

A Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (*especially*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (8:30 a.m.)

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**

LORD'S PRAYER (11:00 a.m.)

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

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin
against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and
the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS

Ushers will distribute communion elements to each individual as they remain in their seats. Please hold out a flat, open hand to receive the cups. Gluten-free communion wafers and grape juice are available upon request. Simply tell the usher as communion is distributed.

Please do not consume the elements until instructed to do so after the elements have been distributed to the entire congregation.

Those receiving communion may remove their masks.

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.

BLESSING ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT RECEIVE COMMUNION

Parents or family members may choose to make the sign of the cross on the foreheads of children or individuals in their family group that do not receive communion.

P The Lord bless you and keep you as beloved children of God. Jesus loves you.

C **Amen.**

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

P Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, 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.**

Sit

SENDING HYMN

ELW #845 v. 1 & 4

Voices Raised to You

Hymns are sung by a cantor. Please refrain from singing, due to increased risk of virus transmission.

- 1 Voices raised to you we offer;
tune them, God, for songs of praise.
Hearts and hands we bring in tribute
for your gifts through all our days.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Triune God, to you we sing!

- 4 Spirit, flaming through creation,
kindle faith within each heart.
Lift our voices high in chorus;
through our hands your love impart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Spirit, helper, breath of life!

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated. An usher will dismiss the congregation by row.

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:

8:30 AM

Assisting Minister: Amy Otterbein
Cantor: Amy Otterbein
Ushers: Tom Stockford-Shively & Keith Otterbein

11:00 AM

Assisting Minister: Kristin Lucas
Cantor: Chris McNamara
Ushers: Suzanne & Jay Sponsler

BOTH SERVICES

Altar Guild: Tom Stockford-Shively
Offering Counters: Chris McNamara, Norma Ludlow

FLOWERS -- The flowers today are given by Warren & Robin Bartels in honor of their anniversary.

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