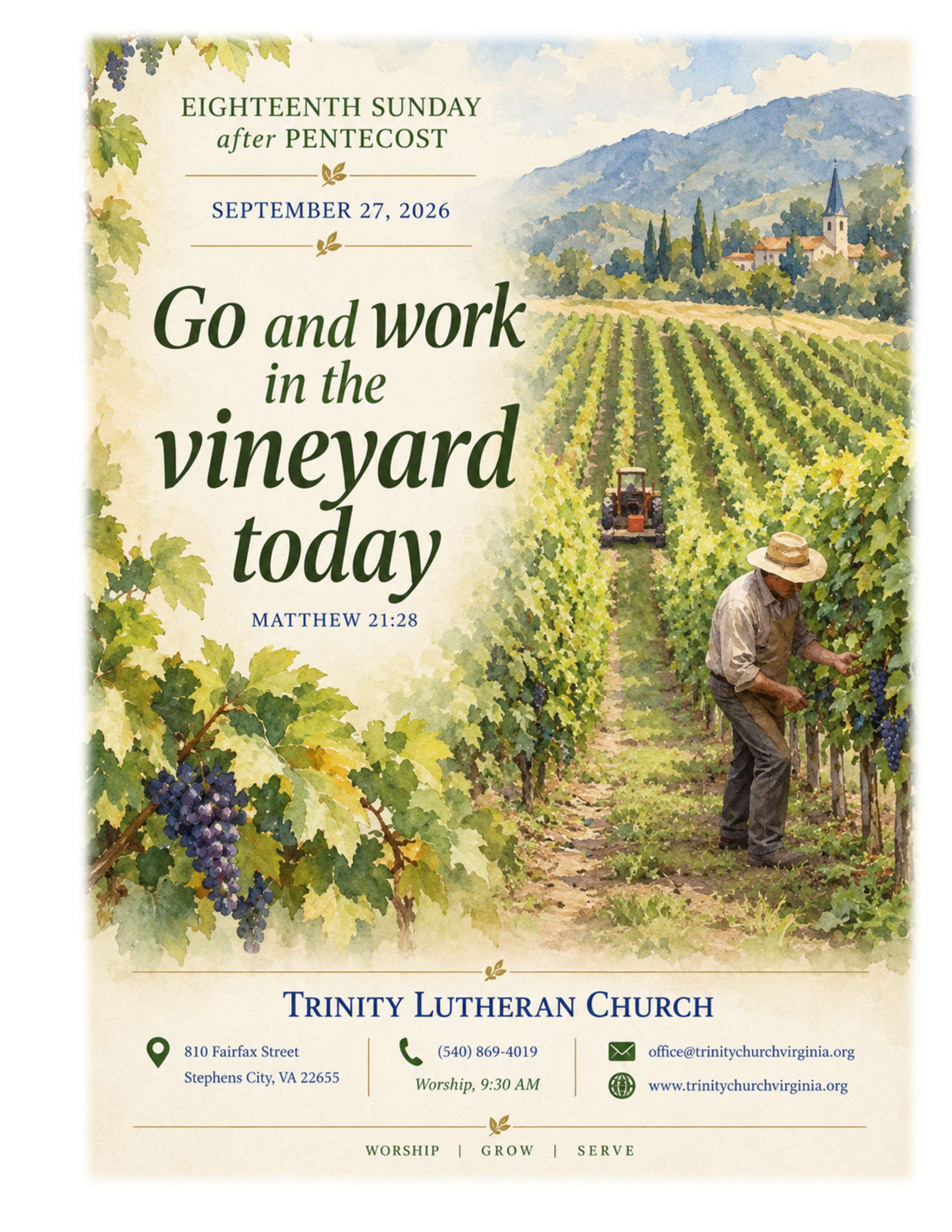




EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

*Go and work
in the
vineyard
today*

MATTHEW 21:28

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA 22655



(540) 869-4019

Worship, 9:30 AM



office@trinitychurchvirginia.org



www.trinitychurchvirginia.org

WORSHIP | GROW | SERVE

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PRELUDE

CONFESSION OF SINS

Please stand. (All may make the sign of the cross)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ on God, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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 sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence for reflection

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer, this is your world
and we are your people.

Come among us and save us.

We have willfully misused your gifts of creation.

We have seen others being ill-treated and have not gone to their aid.

We turn a blind eye to evil and dishonesty while failing to strive for justice.

We have heard the good news of Christ, but fail to share it with others.

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves.

Lord, we plead for your mercy, forgive us our sins.

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and the resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ I therefore declare to you all your sins have been forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit by the sacrifice of our dear Lord.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

HE IS LORD (TFF 95)

Sing Twice



Text: Philippians 2:10–11, adapt.
Music: HE IS LORD, traditional

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (UMH 99)

To God be the glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry,
to God be the glo - ry for the things he has done.
With his blood he has saved me; with his power he has raised me;
to God be the glo - ry for the things he has done.

WORDS: Andraé Crouch, 1971
MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1971

© 1971 Communiqué Music, Inc.

MY TRIBUTE
Irr.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants.
Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and
train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel.

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 who shall die.

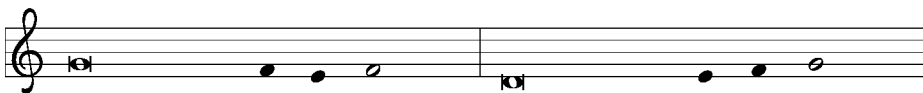
²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9



¹To ¹you, O LORD,
I lift ¹up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹over me.

³Let none who look to you be ¹put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ¹ways, O LORD,
and teach ¹me your paths. R

⁵Lead me in your ¹truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ¹ the day long.
⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- ¹ sion and love,
 for they are from ¹ everlasting.**
⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
 remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- ¹
 ness, O LORD.
⁸ **You are gracious and up- ¹ right, O LORD;
 therefore you teach sinners ¹ in your way.**
⁹ You lead the low- ¹ ly in justice
 and teach the low- ¹ ly your way. **R**

SECOND 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 slave,
 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 the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear

and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

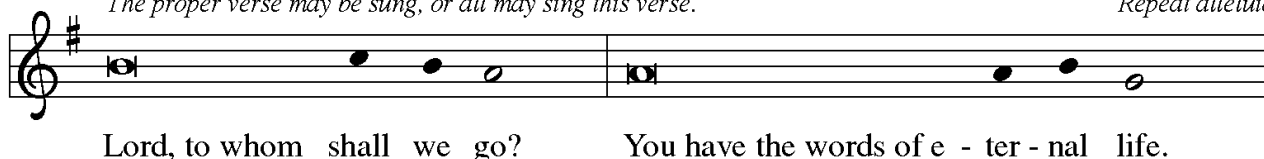
Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.

Repeat alleluia



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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 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.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which 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. ³² For 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

REV. LARRY CLOSTER

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (ELW 517)

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a four-part harmony. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are in English and German. The score is divided into three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains the first line of the hymn, the second system contains the second line, and the third system contains the third line. The lyrics are: 1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and by de-ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife and bring to naught all he has done. may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly. and lead us out of death to life.

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and

by de-ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

CREED

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

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

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need especially for Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Jeff, Adam, Phyllis, Anthony, Dan, Bonnie, Bernie, and Ashante (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest especially Phyllis Wilson, a beloved companion, whom you called home to be with you this past Wednesday. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

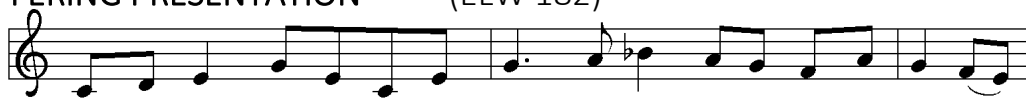
OFFERING



Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

Please stand

OFFERING PRESENTATION (ELW 182)



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be 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.

PREFACE

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.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
he stretched out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.
Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.

COMMUNION SONG

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

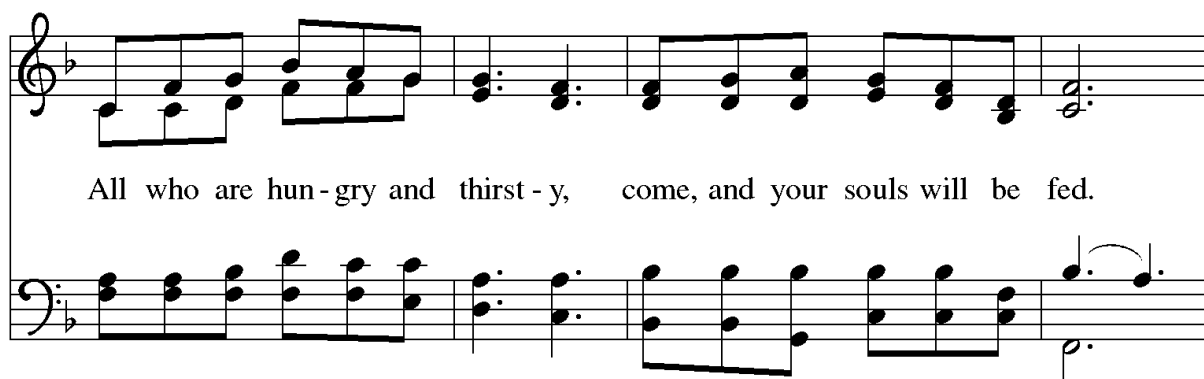
grant us peace, grant us peace.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Come to the Table (ELW 481)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

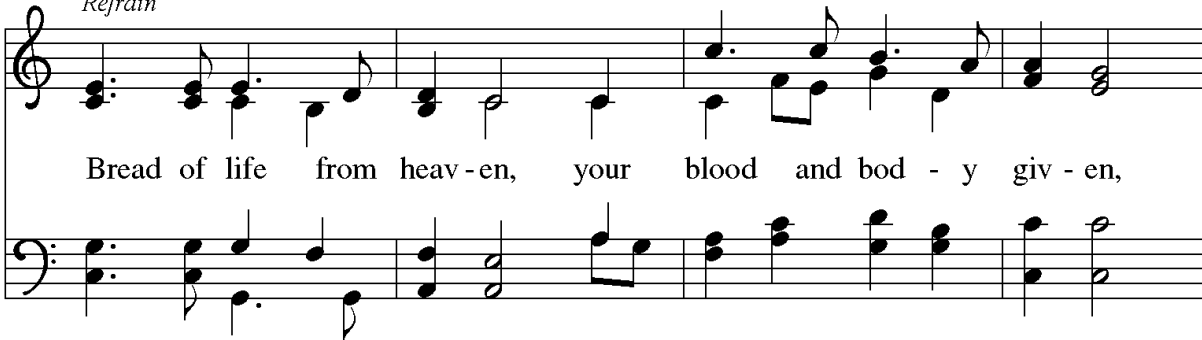
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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Bread of Life from Heaven (ELW 474)

Refrain



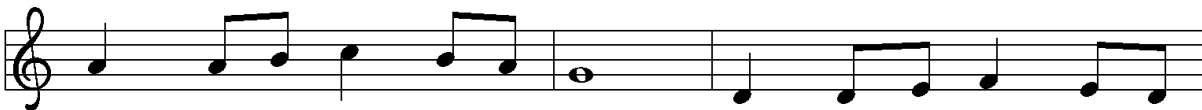
Bread of life from heav - en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,



we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|------|-------|------|----------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break | now | the | bread | of | Christ's | sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek | not | the | food | that | will | pass a - way; | set your |
| 3 | Love | as | the | one | who, | in | love for you, | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell | in | the | one | who | now | dwells in you; | make your |
| 5 | Drink | of | this | cup | and | de - | clare his death; | eat this |



thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er round.	Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food	that en - dures.	Come, learn the true and the
self for the life	of the world.	Come to the one who is
home in the life -	giv - ing Word.	Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve	Eas - ter morn;	trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied;	in Christ's pres -	ence the loaves	will a - bound.
liv - ing way,	that the full -	ness of life	may be yours.
food for you,	that your hun -	ger and thirst	be no more.
One of God,	and be - lieve	in the truth	you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath,	praise the one	in whom you	are re - born.

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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. Give us courage to live as your faithful disciples, serving our neighbors with love, mercy, and compassion.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

Now may the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believe in, and by the power of the Holy Spirit may the God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Open Your Ears, O Faithful People* (ELW 519)



- 1 O - pen your ears, O faith-ful peo - ple, o - pen your ears and hear God's word.
- 2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage, they who have ears, now let them hear;



O - pen your hearts, O roy - al priest-hood, God has come to you.
they who would learn the way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.



Refrain
To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!



To - rah o - ra, To - rah o - ra, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version

Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

Text © 1966, 1982 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Ministers of Service:

- ❖ Officiant: The Reverend Larry Closter
- ❖ Musician: Melinda Russell
- ❖ This Service: Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Patty Stringer. Communion Assistant: Barry Hockenberry. Acolyte: Jacob Carole.
- ❖ Next Service: Greeters: Nan Righter. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Kathleen Carroll. Communion Assistant: David Reichert. Acolyte: Joey Patterson.

Worship live streaming Sundays @ 9:30AM, scan code or visit:

<https://trinityevangelicall-8vs9.subspla.sh/hphnbh5>

Services will also stream on the churches Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

and on the churches YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchsteph7103/videos>



We are thankful that Melinda Russell is again sharing her musical gifts with us this morning. We are grateful for her presence and the joy she brings to our worship through music.

Melinda was a public school music teacher for more than 30 years before retiring and has taught private piano for more than 50 years. She is an accomplished musician who holds both a Bachelor of Music (1976) and a master's in music education (1994) from Shenandoah Conservatory.

Thank you Melinda for the music you bring. It is a vital part of our worship life!

In Loving Memory of
Phyllis L. Wilson

*Phyllis was a long-time and faithful member of Trinity Church.
Today, we remember her with gratitude and hold her family and loved ones
in our prayers.*

Funeral Service Today
Sunday, September 27, 2026 • 2:00 P.M.
Giffin Funeral Home & Crematory
Capon Bridge, WV

The service will be officiated by Pastors George Sims and JMe Lowden,
with interment to follow at Hebron Cemetery in Yellow Spring, WV.

Family and friends will be received one hour prior to the service.

Memorial contributions may be made in Phyllis's memory to
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 810 Fairfax St., Stephens City, VA 22655,
or to Hebron Cemetery.

To view Phyllis's tribute wall, please visit: giffinfuneralhome.com.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

~ Here's
what's
happening...

Welcome, scan the QR code—we'd love to connect with you.



In The Know

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY *Here's what's happening...*

September 28–30

Pastor Closter attending the
Virginia Synod Gathering of the Ministerium
(Vacation follows October 1–7.)

Monday, September 28

Tuesday, September 29

Wednesday, September 30

- **Community Meal** @5:30 PM ; Menu:
Manwich Sloppy Joes, Buns, Corn, Cole
Slaw, Applesauce, Desserts.

Thursday, October 1

Friday, October 2

- CMSP Music private lesson @5PM

Saturday, October 3

- Town of Stephens City- community meet-
and-greet | Parish Hall 10Am -12PM
- CMSP – Fall Music Together
9:00–10:00 AM | Room 202

Sunday, October 4

- Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost | Rev.
Terry Hannon, Worship @9:30 AM,
following service; Fellowship Coffee Hour.

Attendance and General Offering

DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	OFFERING
8/30/2026	40	9	\$2,636
9/06/2026	?	10	\$2,359
9/13/2026	26	OUTDOOR SERVICE	\$6,932.10
9/20/2026	39	10	\$2,228.75
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL COSTS \$ 4,649.00			

This Saturday (3 Oct.) and next Saturday (10 Oct.) The Town of Stephen City will be hosting a meet-and-greet in the fellowship hall from 10:00am-12:30pm. This will allow local residents an opportunity to speak with Town Council and Mayoral candidates. There are no political party affiliations associated with these positions and Trinity Lutheran Church does not endorse any candidate. This event provides a safe place for you and others to talk with local candidates prior to voting.

Keep an eye out **next week** for our **Pet Tree of Remembrance**, created to celebrate the lives of the pets who are with us today and those who have gone before us. 🐶 🐱 🐾

We invite you to help us honor these special members of our families by making a **donation of pet food**. All donations will be given to **Dakota's Dream** and **Shirley's Angels Animal Rescue** to help pets in need. **Want to add your beloved pet to the tree?** Simply fill out a paw and attach it to the tree with your pet's name. Whether they are still by your side or forever in your heart, **every paw has a story and every pet deserves to be remembered**. Let's fill our tree with paws, memories, love—and a whole lot of purrs and wagging tails! – *Social Outreach Team*

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Servants

We'd love your help in making each Sunday special. Whether you'd like to greet, read, assist with Communion, or take part in special services, there's a place for you! Reach out to **Christine Cornwell** or sign up through **SignUpGenius** in the newsletter.

Prayer Team Table

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request or contact **Laurie Closter 540-840-8401**, to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession. Or simply scan and submit



Hospital Visitation

Pastor Closter is registered with Valley Health for hospital visits. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospital cannot notify us when someone is admitted. To request a visit, contact the church office at **540-869-4019**, or after hours, call Pastor Closter at **540-848-5325**. You may also reach out to **Pastor Closter** or **Martha Cooley**.

Next COMMUNITY MEAL

*Good Food. Great Fellowship.
All Are Welcome!*



WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



5:30 PM



*Come enjoy
a delicious meal
and warm fellowship
with your church
family and neighbors!*



MENU



Manwich
Sloppy Joes



Buns



Corn



Cole Slaw



Applesauce



Dessert



*Free-will donations welcome —
all proceeds support the
ELCA World Hunger Program.*



ELCA
World Hunger
Program

LCW Bedding Drive

Coming in October • Benefiting Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Mark your calendars! Trinity's LCW (Lutheran Church Women) will be collecting **NEW bedding throughout the month of October** to benefit **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, a nonprofit that provides beds and bedding to children ages 3–17 in Winchester and the surrounding counties.

No donations are needed yet — this is a heads-up so you can plan ahead! Collection will begin **October 1.**

Needed items include:

- Twin-size sheet sets with pillowcase (**NOT Twin long, or XL**)
- Twin-size blankets (**must fit a Twin bed; no small blankets or throws**)
- Twin-size comforters
- Twin-size mattress covers
- Pillows for Twin-size beds

“Bed in a Bag” sets are an easy way to provide several needed items at once and can be found at Walmart, Target, and other stores.

Please bring donations to the church Nursery anytime during October. Monetary donations are also welcome; LCW members will be happy to shop for needed items on your behalf.

Thank you for helping provide a warm, comfortable place to sleep for a child in our community!

Questions? Please speak with a



10/1 Thursday - Reminder no choir rehearsal

10/2 Friday - Reminder no Bible Study

10/3 Saturday - Town of Stephens City- 1st community meet-and-greet | Parish Hall 10Am -12PM

10/4 Sunday - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost w/ Rev. Terry Hannon, Service @ 9:30 AM, Coffee Hour | Parish Hall, All are welcome! Monthly Birthday Celebration!

10/8 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/9 Friday- Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205

10/10 Saturday Town of Stephens City- 2nd community meet-and-greet | Parish Hall 10Am -12PM

10/11 Sunday – Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – Service @ 9:30 AM– Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!– Chime Choir Practice – Bible Study @ 11:00 AM | Parish Hall

10/12 Monday – Columbus Day. No Senior Connections Lunch.

10/13 Tuesday - Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204
- LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30 AM | Room 205

- Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM | Parish Hall

10/15 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/16 Friday- Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205

- **Gordan Wedding** (decorate 4pm, rehearsal 6pm)

10/17 Saturday- Sustainability Sewing Class – 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

- **Gordan Wedding** (arrival hour or two prior, ceremony @ 5pm)

10/18 Sunday – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

– Service @ 9:30 AM– Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!

– Chime Choir Practice – Bible Study Acts @ 11:00 AM | Parish Hall

10/19 Monday- Senior Connections Lunch 10AM – 1pm | Parish Hall

10/22 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/23 Friday - Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205

10/25 Sunday – Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

– Service @ 9:30 AM– Coffee Hour | Parish Hall – All are welcome!

– Chime Choir Practice – Bible Study @ 11:00 AM | Parish Hall

10/27 Tuesday - Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

10/28 Wednesday - Community Meal @ 5:30PM | Menu:

- Meatloaf • Mashed Potatoes • Peas • Dessert

10/29 Thursday- Choir Rehearsals @ 5:45 PM

10/30 Friday - Bible Study @ 10:00 AM |





TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH

STEPHENS CITY, VIRGINIA

Growing in God's Grace

TRINITY LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Growing in God's Grace

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Larry Closter

Interim Pastor

Cell: (540) 848-5325

Ricky Gearhart

Organist & Music Director

Jodie Broccolo

Administrative Assistant

Mark Greene

Treasurer

Vacant

Bookkeeper

Mike Pyne

Financial Secretary

TRUSTEES

- Diann Daily
- Barry Hockenberry
- Tom Righter

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL • 2026

Carole Pfisterer

President

Marianne Watson

Vice President

Patty Stringer

Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Bruce Everly • Jim Hall • David Reichert

Tom Righter • Dorothée St. Germain

CHURCHWIDE LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Yehiel Curry

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton

Bishop

Virginia Synod, ELCA



VISIT US

810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA 22655



CONTACT US

(540) 869-4019
office@trinitychurchvirginia.org
trinitychurchvirginia.com



OFFICE HOURS

Church Office:
Monday–Thursday • 8:30 AM–1:00 PM
Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 AM–1:00 PM



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP



SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM