

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
after PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Are you
envious
because I am
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15

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 *Trio* Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

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.

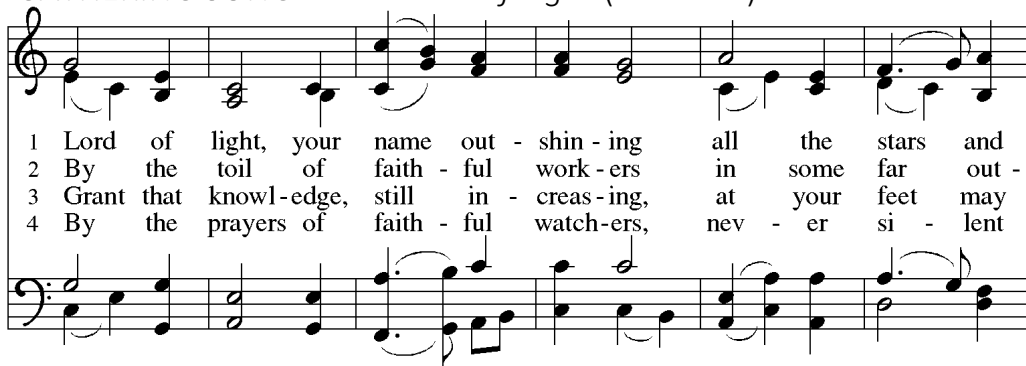
Lord, we plead for your mercy, forgive us our sins.

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.

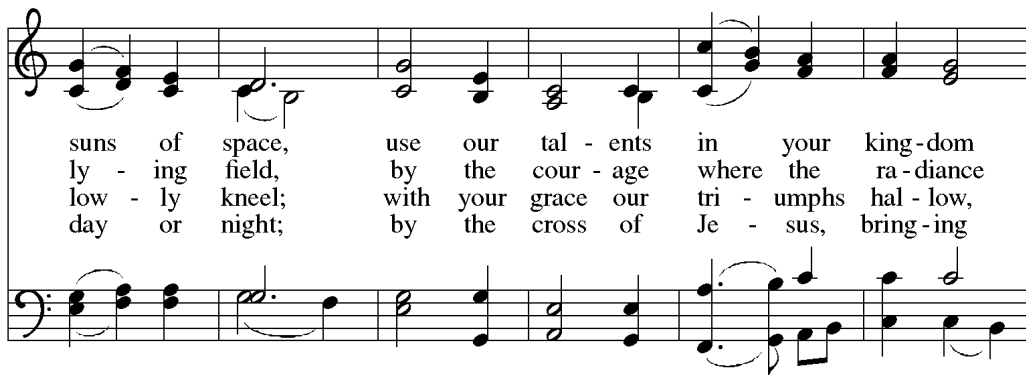
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

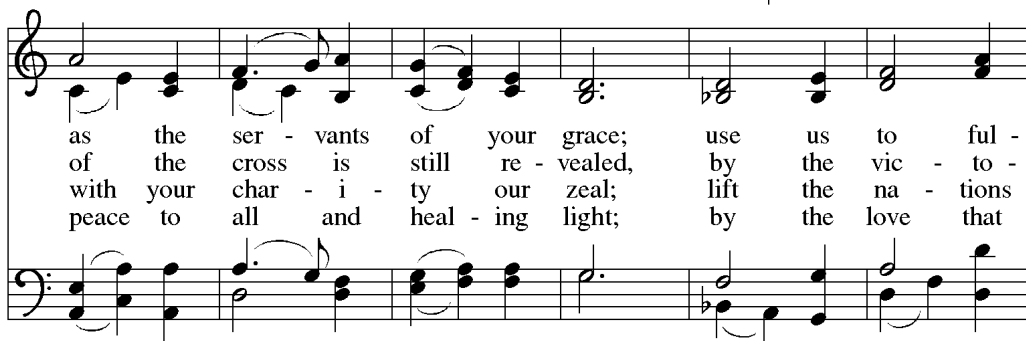
Lord of Light (ELW 688)



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.
 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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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

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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: Jonah 3:10—4:11

A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8



- ¹ I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.
- ² Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.
- ⁴ One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power. R
- ⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.
- ⁶ They shall tell of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully ¹ of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love. R

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

A reading from Philippians.

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

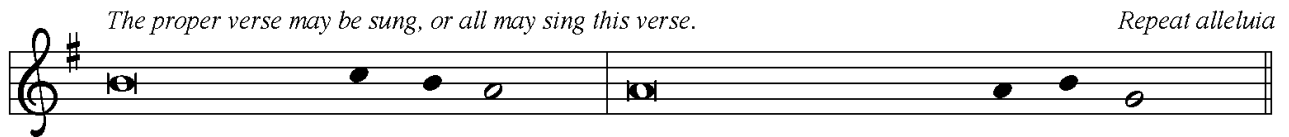
²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Take My Life, That I May Be* (ELW 583)

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;



To stanzas *Last time*
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,
2 Take my voice and let me sing
3 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 guiar 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.

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos de lo santo puedan ir, y que a ti, Señor, mi voz, se complazca en bendecir.* Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar hablen sólo de tu amor; que mis bienes dedicar yo los quiera a ti, Señor.* Estribillo

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté consagrado a tu loor; que mi mente y su poder sean usados en tu honor.* Estribillo

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.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need especially for Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Jeff, Adam, Phyllis, Anthony, Dan, Bonnie, Bernie, and Ashante (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community. Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. 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

Adagio

George Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)



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.

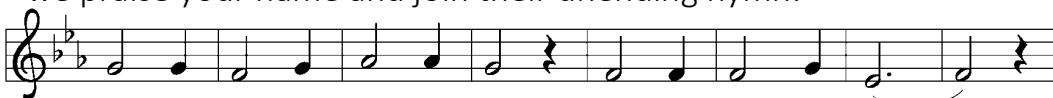
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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SONGS DURING COMMUNION

For the Bread Which You Have Broken (ELW 494)

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

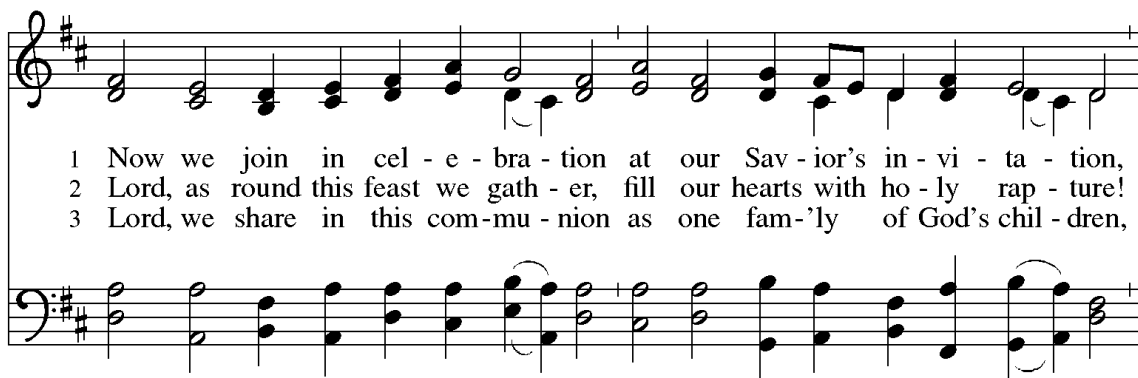
The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the final four lines. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The piece concludes with a final chord in the Soprano and Alto parts.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

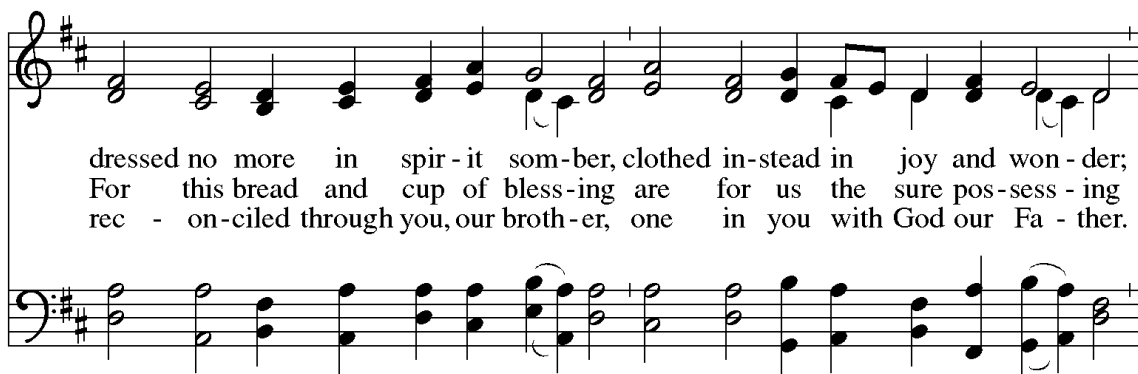
Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895

Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

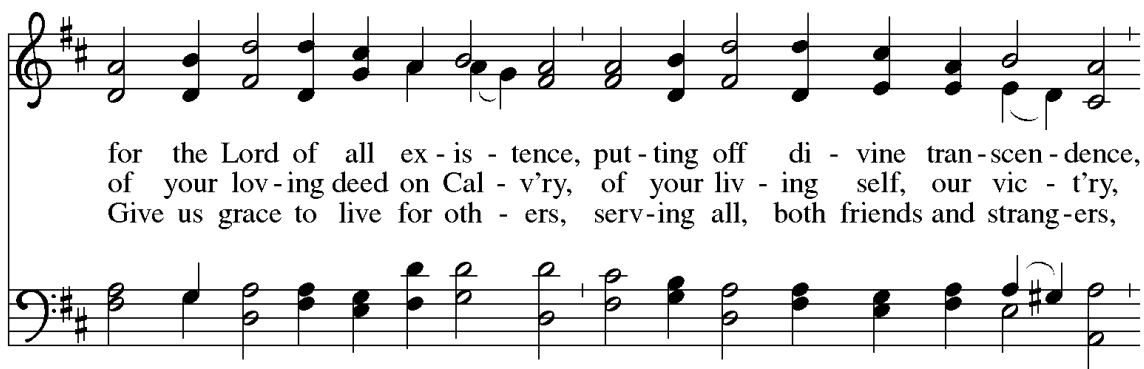
Now We Join in Celebration (ELW 462)



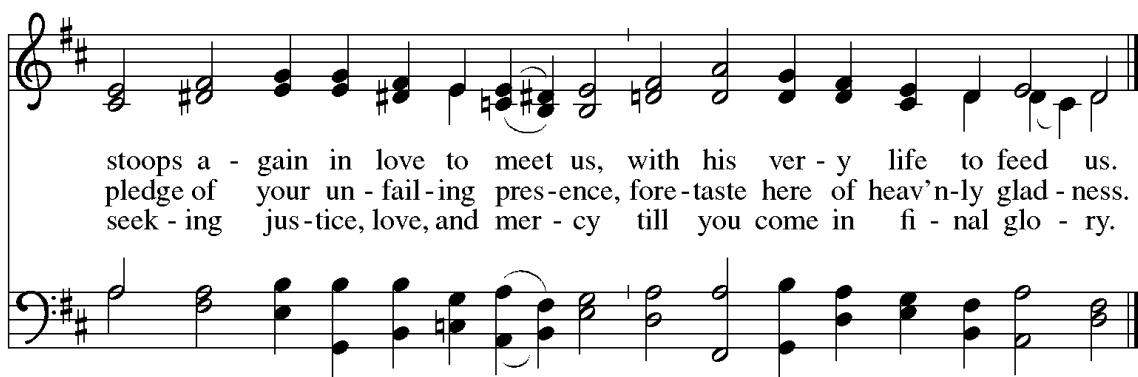
1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
 For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
 rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
 of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
 Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
 pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' n - ly glad - ness.
 seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990
 Music: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662
 Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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 *Voices Raised to You* (ELW 845) vs. 1,3,5



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Cruger (1598-1662)

Please stay after the service and join us for a special time of singing. We'll be recording some of Phyllis Wilson's favorite hymns—songs that are meaningful to her and bring her joy. We would love for you to stay, sing along. The recording of this will be shared with her.

The Ministers of Service:

- ❖ Officiant: The Reverend Larry Closter
- ❖ Organist & Music Director: Ricky Gearhart
- ❖ 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://trinityevangelical-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>



THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

~ Here's
what's
happening...

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



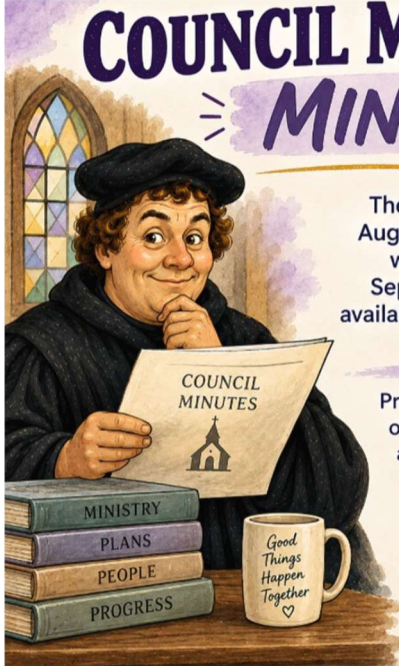
In The Know

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

-  Monday, September 21
-  Tuesday, September 22
 -  Sewing for the Savior @9:30 AM
-  Wednesday, September 23
-  Thursday, September 24
 - Choir Rehearsal @5:45 PM
-  Friday, September 25
 - Bible study and discussion of the book of Revelation @10 AM
 - CMSP Music private lesson @5PM
-  Saturday, September 26
 - CMSP – Fall Music Together
9:00–10:00 AM | Room 202
-  Sunday, September 27
 - Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost |
Worship @9:30 AM, following service;
Fellowship Coffee Hour, Bible Study.

Attendance and General Offering

DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	OFFERING
8/23/2026	42	14	\$2,129
8/30/2026	40	9	\$2,636
9/06/2026	?	10	\$2,359
9/13/2026	26	OUTDOOR SERVICE	\$6,932.10
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL COSTS \$ 4,649.00			



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the August Council meeting were approved on September 8 and are available for the congregation to review.

Printed copies are located on the Narthex exit table, and the minutes are also available online in the news letter link.

Stay informed about what's happening at Trinity!

Cemetery Restoration Update

Work continues in the Trinity Lutheran Church cemetery on Mulberry Street. Jim Weinmann and David have been clearing brush, repairing and resetting stones, and restoring several of the older monuments. One monument has been repaired and prepared for resetting, while additional stones have been cleaned and stabilized. Thank you to those giving their time and helping care for this important part of our church's history.

Donations to help support the restoration work are gratefully accepted through PayPal: Contact office

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**.

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 member of LCW.

A Heartfelt Thank You from the LCW!

The LCW ladies would like to thank everyone who **donated, volunteered, helped set up and clean up, shopped, and spread the word** about our yard sale!

Thanks to your generosity and support, we have received **\$2,162.10 in donations so far**, with more possibly to come!



We are so grateful for our wonderful church family and community. **Thank you for helping make this year's yard sale such a great success!** 

**With grateful hearts,
The Ladies of the LCW**

Save the Date! **SEPTEMBER 2026**

Mark Your Calendar – You're Invited!

Recurring Events



Choir

Rehearsals

Thursdays:

September **3, 10, 17**
& **24**



5:45 PM



Bible Study –
Book of Revelation
Fridays: September
4, 11, 18 & 25



10:00 AM |
Room 205



Sunday Bible
Study – Book of
Revelation
Sundays:

September **20 & 27**



11:00 AM |
Parish Hall

Community

Partnership

CMSP – Fall Music
Together

Saturdays:

September **12, 19 &**
26

9:00–10:00 AM |
Room 202

Sunday September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship @ 9:30 AM

- Monthly Birthday Celebration
- Coffee Hour

September 7

Labor Day

(September 7–11 **LCW Yard Sale**
Setup)

September 8



Sewing for the Savior — 9:30 AM



LCW Meeting — 11:30 AM



Church Council — 6:30 PM

September 11 Patriot Day - Marking
the 25th Anniversary of 9/11

September 12



LCW Yard Sale

Sunday September 13



Outdoor Worship & Picnic Lunch
(Newtown Commons)

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Worship @ **10:30 AM**

September 14



Senior Connections Lunch
10:00 AM–1:00 PM

September 19



Stephens City Fire Department
Boot Drive
9:00 AM–2:00 PM



Sustainability Laundry Day
2:00–4:00 PM

Sunday September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour
- Chime Choir Practice

September 22



Sewing for the Savior — 9:30 AM

Sunday September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour

September 28–30



Pastor Closter attending the
Virginia Synod Gathering of the
Ministerium

(Vacation follows October 1–7.)

September 30



Community Meal
5:30 PM





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 • Dorothee 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

