

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 23, 2026

JESUS asked,
“Who do
you say I am?”

MATTHEW 16:15

Trinity Lutheran Church



810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA 22655



(540) 869-4019
Worship, 9:30 AM



office@trinitychurchvirginia.org



www.trinitychurchvirginia.com

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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SUMMER SONG CELEBRATION

Red Hymnal ELW 685

Red Hymnal ELW 866 *sing twice*

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

In First John the Bible tells us that, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Let us confess our sin before God and before one another.

Silence for reflection

Merciful God,

we've tried to hide the wrong we've done from you.

We have lived for ourselves and turned from our neighbors.

**At times we refuse to bear or even to hear the troubles of others,
ignore the pain of the world and passed by the lonely, hungry, poor, and
oppressed folks.**

Forgive us for this sin.

Free us from selfishness,

and guide us to choose your will and follow in your way.

Amen.

Almighty God who in Jesus Christ has invited us into a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom through ✝ Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (ELW 645)

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

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.

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-8

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

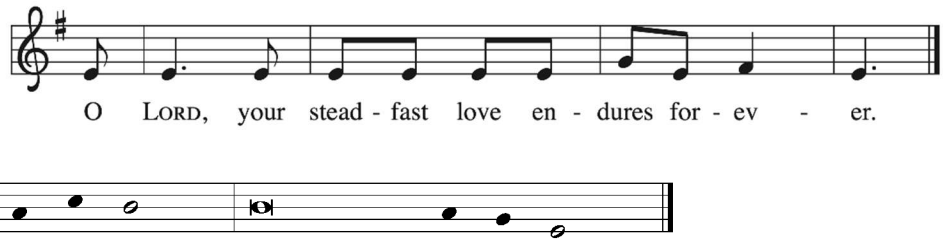
⁷ Listen to me, you who know righteousness,
you people who have my teaching in your hearts;
do not fear the reproach of others,
and do not be dismayed when they revile you.

⁸ For the moth will eat them up like a garment,
and the worm will eat them like wool,
but my deliverance will be forever
and my salvation to all generations.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138



¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word a- ¹ bove all things.

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth. R**

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right ¹ hand
shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- ¹ pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works ¹ of
your hands. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

A reading from Romans.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to
present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your
reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by
the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is
good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself
more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according
to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many
members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many,
are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have
gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith;
⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in

encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

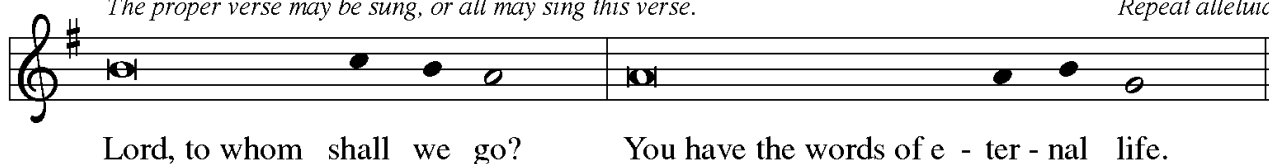
Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

Repeat alleluia



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

REV. LARRY CLOSTER

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Church's One Foundation* (ELW 654)

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day especially for Shirley, Louise, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Jeff, Adam, Phyllis, Anthony, Dan, Sandra, and Bonnie (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

OFFERING *I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry* African American Spiritual
Christine Cornwell, Soprano



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, you have given us riches beyond measure. We give of what you have given us so others also may experience your blessings. We ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and help us to use them wisely in your service and for your glory. **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.

By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling
and strengthen us to run the race set before us,
that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory.

And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all 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.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

From age to age your creation sings your praises.

You feed even the birds of the air, and you clothe the fields with lilies.

You gave your blessing to Abraham and his descendants, and you spoke with Moses,
Elijah, and David.

Blessed are you, Lord our God:

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

You fulfilled your covenant with us in Jesus.

He is Emmanuel, your beloved Son.

For us he lived, for us he died, for us he rose to eternal life.

Then and now he invites us to your banquet.

On the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

Send your Holy Spirit here on your gathered disciples.

Make of this meal the body and blood of forgiveness.

Heal us and grant us your righteousness,
that we may love you and serve our neighbors.

Blessed are you, Lord our God:

Blessed are you, Lord our God.

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,

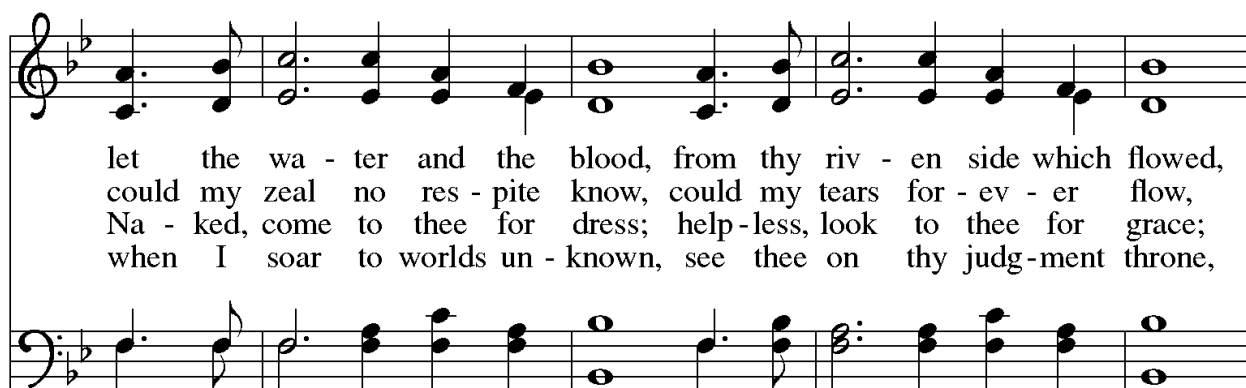
grant us peace, grant us peace.

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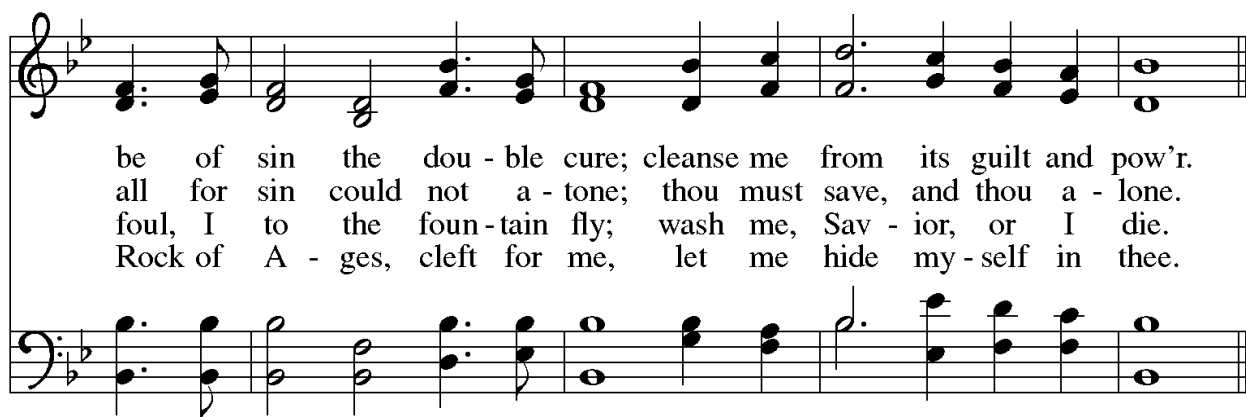
SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (ELW 623)


1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



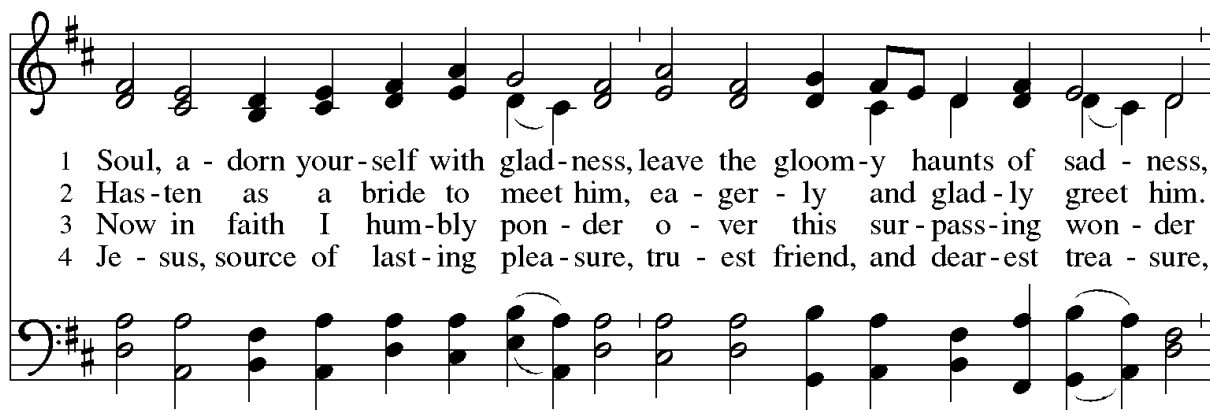
let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

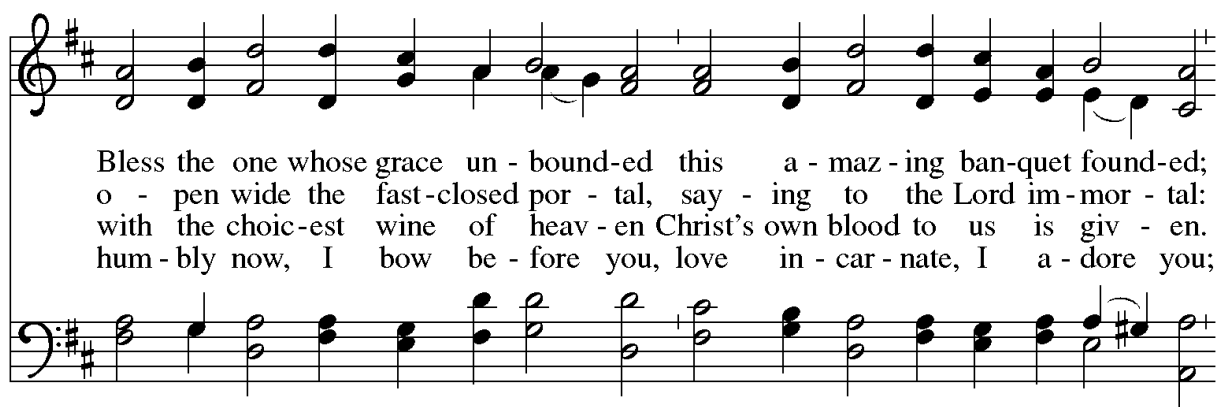
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (ELW 488)



1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing won - der
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est trea - sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.
 There he stands al-read - y knock - ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,
 that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:



Bless the one whose grace un - bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;
 o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:
 with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
 hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



Christ, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er."
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you."

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

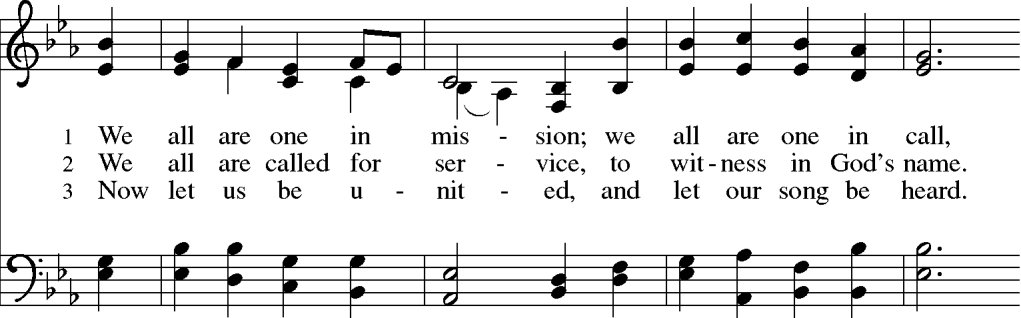
Now may the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another.

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.



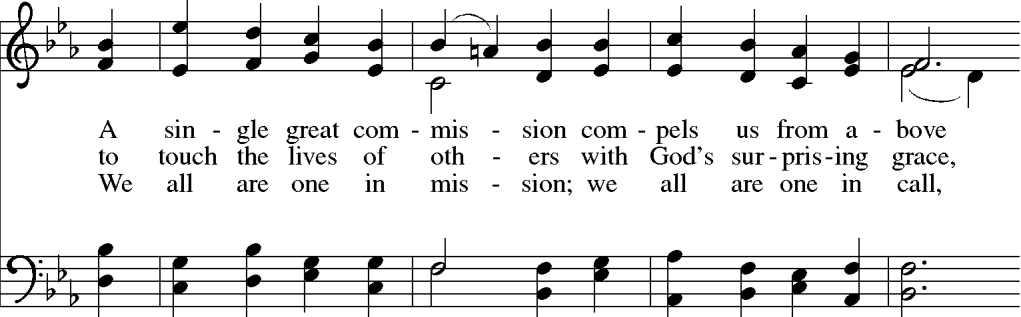
SENDING SONG *We All Are One in Mission* (ELW 576)



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
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 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Foundation* Early American Tune, setting by Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

The Ministers of Service:

- ❖ Officiant: The Reverend Larry Closter
- ❖ Organist & Music Director: Ricky Gearhart
- ❖ This Service: Greeters: Nan Righter. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Marcie Stern. Communion Assistant: Ken Marin. Acolyte: Wayne Wright.
- ❖ Next Service; Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Emily Hartman. Communion Assistant: David Reichert. Acolyte: Jacob Carroll.

Worship live streaming Sundays @ 9:30AM, scan code (left) or link:



<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>

Please Consider Donating Chancel Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? Consider donating **chancel flowers** for a Sunday service. Flower donations are a beautiful way to:

- Honor or remember someone special
- Celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or milestone
- Add beauty to our worship space

If you'd like to donate flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please sign up on the **flower calendar** in the church Narthex or contact Martha Cooley.

You're welcome to take the flowers home after the service, or they can be delivered to someone in need of encouragement.

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, August 24**
-  **Tuesday, August 25**
-  **Wednesday, August 26**
 - Community Meal @5:30 PM ; Menu; Sub Sandwiches, Assorted Pasta & veggie Salads, Fixings (lettuce, tomato, onion, condiments), desserts.
-  **Thursday, August 27**
-  **Friday, August 28**
 - Bible study and discussion of the book of Revelation @ 10 AM
 - CMSP Music private lesson @ 5-6 pm
-  **Saturday, August 29**
 - Newtown Heritage parade and festival
-  **Sunday, August 30**
 - Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost | Worship @ 9:30 AM,  Fellowship, Chime Choir rehearsal, Bible Study after this service.

Attendance and General Offering

DATE	IN PERSON	ZOOM	FACEBOOK	OFFERING
7/26/2026	45	New streaming	18	\$2,033
8/02/2026	45	13		\$ 4,746.27
8/09/2026	46	11		\$4,889
8/16/2026	34	SERVICE IN PARISH HALL		\$2,390.30
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL COSTS \$ 4,649.00				



Next

COMMUNITY MEAL

Good Food. Great Fellowship. All Are Welcome! 



WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 26, 2026


5:30 PM



MENU



Sub Sandwiches



Assorted Pasta & Veggie Salads



Fixings (Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Condiments)



Dessert

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



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



ELCA
World Hunger Program

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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**.

Newtown Heritage Festival & Parade — Trolley Sign-Up

Trinity is excited to participate in the **Newtown Heritage Festival Parade** on **Saturday, August 29!**

Thanks to approval from the Congregational Council, Trinity will be providing a **trolley from the Visitors Center** for Trinity friends and family participants to ride together in the parade. The trolley will arrive at Trinity at **12:45 PM**, with parade lineup beginning at **1:00 PM**. The parade is expected to finish around **3:00 PM**, with everyone returning to Trinity afterward.

Want to ride? Please sign up!

The sign-up sheet is posted on the **peg board next to the Community Meal sign-ups**.

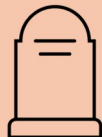
Sign-up deadline: Monday, August 24

We need a final headcount for riders.

Trolley decoration reminder: Signs may be attached to the trolley, but **please do not use nails, staples, or anything that could damage the paint or trolley**.

Come join the fun and help Trinity show our community spirit at this wonderful Stephens City tradition! 

A Special Gift to Trinity & Our Community



You may notice some activity at Trinity's historic cemetery on Mulberry Street. **Jim Weinmann and David Branham** have generously offered their time and expertise to help clean, restore, and preserve the cemetery **at no cost to Trinity**. Their initial assessment has already uncovered a buried headstone and several additional stones hidden by brush and growth. They also noted the beautiful hand-carved stones made from local rock.

Jim and David have completed similar restoration work at historic cemeteries in Middletown and are now continuing their work here in Stephens City.

We are incredibly grateful for this unexpected gift and look forward to sharing more as their work continues!

God's Work. Our Hands.

**Save the Date — Sunday,
September 6**

Following worship, Trinity will put **God's love into action** with two hands-on outreach projects:

Dignity, Hope & Hygiene Packs

Helping provide essential hygiene supplies for women and girls in our community through **Showers for Souls at Laurel Ridge Community College**.

Backpacks of Hope for Foster Children

Filling backpacks with new comfort and care items for children entering foster care through **Froggy's Closet**.

The ELCA will officially recognize **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday on September 13**, but we're getting a head start and putting our faith into action together after service on **September 6!**

For more information about what you can donate and bring, please see check list printed on exit table in the Narthex.

Together, we can share dignity, hope, comfort, and compassion—one small act of kindness at a time.



SAVE YOUR TREASURES!

Keep setting things aside to donate!

Your donations help make Trinity's Annual LCW Yard Sale a success!

SAVE THE DATE

DONATION DROP-OFF



Monday, September 7 –
Friday, September 11



9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



Parish Hall

YARD SALE



**Saturday,
September 12**

DONATION GUIDELINES



Clothing should be clean and in good condition.



No electronics (TVs, stereos, computers, etc.).



No large furniture.



Please do not bring donations before September 7, as storage space is limited. LCW members will be available during drop-off hours to receive and sort your donations.



Extra clothes hangers are always appreciated!



Questions? Please contact any LCW member.



Thank you for supporting this annual ministry and fundraiser!



A Little Look Back: More Than a Meal

Our recent cooking class was about more than recipes and ingredients—it was about building confidence, learning new skills, and making sure that the food we share can truly become a meal. One participant shared afterward:

"I really thought the class was great. I was really glad to learn some new things. It was very helpful. :)"

And one family member offered this beautiful reflection:

"What you are doing here is an amazing thing. There may be people in those three families who have never had anyone patiently stand beside them and say, 'Let me show you how to do this.' That's a beautiful thing to give someone."

That thought has encouraged us to look at where we can take this ministry next. In future classes, we hope to include some basic **"Kitchen 101"** skills—things like reading a recipe, measuring ingredients, safely preparing food, cooking rice, using a crockpot, and understanding basic food safety.

Because when we give someone ingredients, we want to give them more than food. We want to give them the knowledge, confidence, and support to turn those ingredients into something nourishing for themselves and their families.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this class possible—and to those who participated and were willing to learn something new. **This is what community looks like: sharing what we have, sharing what we know, and standing beside one another.** 



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

