

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Bruce Thorsen

Ministers: Every Baptized Member

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Sunday, July 19, 2026, 9:00 a.m.



"The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field."

Mt 13:24-30

TRINITY'S MISSION

Bringing God's love to the world in worship, witness, and service.

TRINITY'S VISION

A Christ and Scripture centered congregation.

- Mission centered congregation constantly evaluating its vision to accomplish its mission.
- A congregation whose members sense that they belong to the body of Christ and, in turn want to provide for the needs of others.

8TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

ELW HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 10

Introduction to the Day

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Indicates stand*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Come, people of God. We gather in a world where wheat and weeds grow side by side, where beauty and brokenness share the same field.

Yet God remains our rock, our refuge, and our hope.

When fear threatens to overwhelm us, God says, "Do not be afraid."

When suffering and uncertainty surround us, God's Spirit calls us children and heirs of grace.

Creation itself groans for renewal, longing for the freedom God has promised.

We come to worship the One who is the first and the last, whose love endures forever.

Though God calls us to trust, we often seek certainty. Though God calls us to mercy, we are quick to judge. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God,

we confess that we often fail to trust your promises. When we encounter the weeds of hatred, injustice, violence, and division, we become impatient, fearful, or discouraged. We have judged others harshly while overlooking our own faults.

We have contributed to the world's brokenness through words left unsaid, actions left undone, and opportunities for love ignored. We confess that we have sometimes surrendered to cynicism rather than hope, fear rather than faith, and self-interest rather than compassion. Forgive us. Renew us by your Spirit. Give us patient hearts, steadfast faith, and courage to bear the fruits of your kingdom until the day all creation is made new. Amen.

Hear the good news: You have not received a spirit of slavery that leads back to fear, but a Spirit of adoption. In Jesus Christ, God claims you, forgives you, and calls you beloved. Your sins are forgiven, your hope is renewed, and your future is held securely in God's hands.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Gathering Song: O Holy Spirit, Root of Life

ELW 399

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



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"
- 3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;
- 4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"
and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8

A reading from Isaiah.

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

⁶ Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last; besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it; let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. ⁸ Do not fear or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17 (read responsively)

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.

For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy on me; give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25

A reading from Romans.

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit

bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

*Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ ²⁸ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon:

Pastor Bruce Thorsen

***Hymn of the Day: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

ELW 693

Creed

Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of Grace,
Hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Peace: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

***Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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...and join their unending hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff ends with a whole note G. The second staff ends with a whole note G. The third staff ends with a whole note G. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

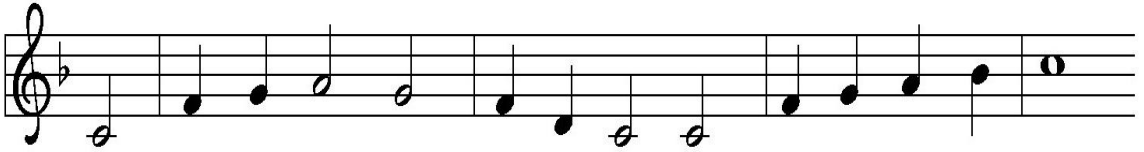
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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, for Christ gathers saints and sinners, the weary and the hopeful, and feeds us with mercy for the journey and hope for the harvest.

Communion Song



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymns: As the Grains of Wheat
Sing to the Lord of Harvest

ELW 465
ELW 694

*Communion Blessing

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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Song: On What Has Now Been Sown

ELW 537

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be patient in hope, steadfast in love, and bear the fruits of God's kingdom wherever you are planted. **Thanks be to God.**

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