

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

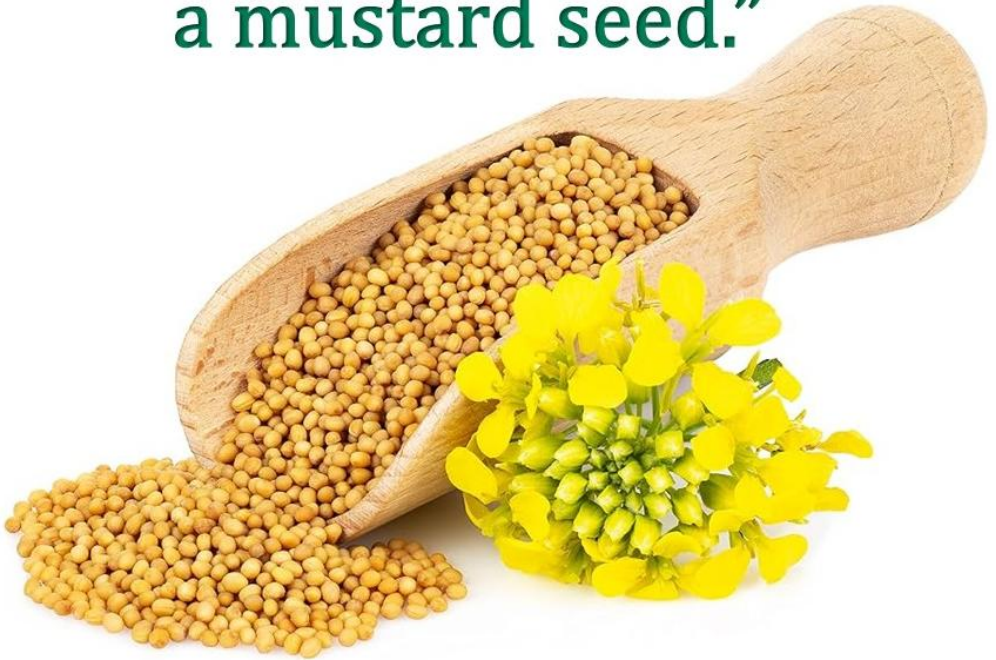
Pastor Bruce Thorsen

Ministers: Every Baptized Member

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Sunday, July 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

**“The Kingdom of heaven is like
a mustard seed.”**



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.

9TH SUNDAY IN PENTECOST

ELW HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 10

Introduction to the Day

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

GATHERING

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

**Indicates stand*

Prelude: "Come to Me"

Wendell Kimbrough

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.



C G C G C G C

Ev'-ry-one come! You are meant to rest in this per-fect love
 Ev'-ry-one come! You are free to drink of de-li-cious love.
 Ev'-ry-one come! We to-geth-er feast in the light of love.
 Ev'-ry-one come! We're be-low a sky of re-lent-less love.

G C G C G C G C G

— Ev'-ry-one come! Ev'-ry bird can nest in this per-fect love.
 — Ev'-ry-one come! Taste and see and think of de-li-cious love.
 — Ev'-ry-one come! We for-ev-er see in the light of love.
 — Ev'-ry-one come! We are on the ground of re-lent-less love.

Em D/F# G C Am D/F#

Ev' - ry - one come to the foun-tain of life!

Em D/F# G F

Drink from the riv - er of de - light!

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from 1 Kings.

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

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

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136 (read responsively)

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans.

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

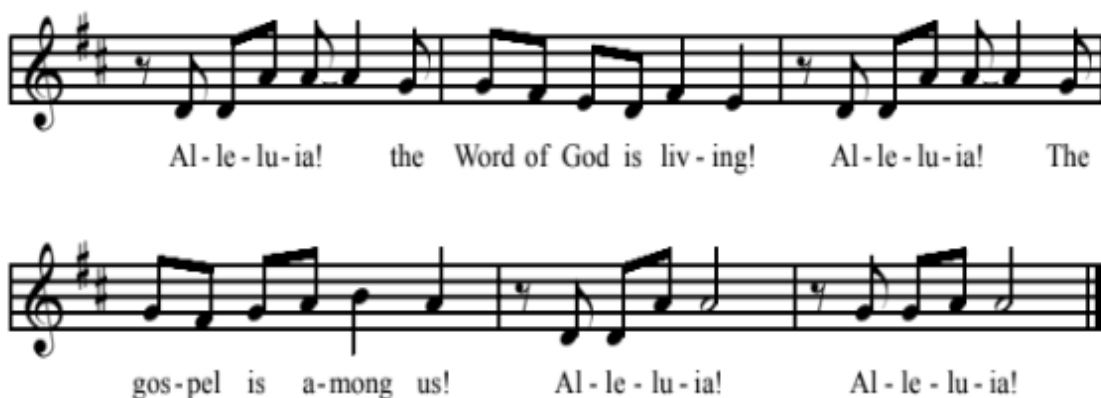
²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Children's Message

*Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

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

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Sermon:

Pastor Bruce Thorsen

***Hymn of the Day: Be Thou My Vision**

ELW 793

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**

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **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

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly One, God of pow'r and might - y love, Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly One, God of earth and hu - man heart, heav-en and the earth are full of You! Hal - le - lu - heav-en and the earth are full of You, Em - man - u - jah! Our hearts are break-ing o - pen. Save us, Ho - el. Our hearts are break-ing o - pen. Save us, Ho - san - na. O God of pow'r and might - y love, san - na. Em - man - u - el, our broth - er, help us, Ho - san - na. Bles - sed are You who help us, Ho - san - na. Bles - sed are You who bears the name, bles - sed are all - who bear the name of God! bears the name, bles - sed are all - who bear the name of God!

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly One, God of pow'r and might - y love,
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly One, God of earth and hu - man heart,
heav-en and the earth are full of You! Hal - le - lu -
heav-en and the earth are full of You, Em - man - u -
jah! Our hearts are break-ing o - pen. Save us, Ho -
el. Our hearts are break-ing o - pen. Save us, Ho -
san - na. O God of pow'r and might - y love,
san - na. Em - man - u - el, our broth - er,
help us, Ho - san - na. Bles - sed are You who
help us, Ho - san - na. Bles - sed are You who
bears the name, bles - sed are all - who bear the name of God!
bears the name, bles - sed are all - who bear the name of God!

Thanksgiving at the Table

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 to the table where Christ welcomes all who hunger and fills us with a love from which nothing can separate us.

Communion Song: Feed Us Now

VERSE
♩ = 84

E G#m Bm7 Amaj7 Am7

1. Feed us now, Bread of Life, in this ho - ly meal; Let us know Your
2. Piece of bread, glass of wine: Lord, this food is good; Love and mer - cy
3. God is here, O so near, near - er than our thoughts. Stay with us wher -

6 E F#m7 B7sus B7 E G#m

love a - new; We hun - ger for You. Feed us now, Bread of Life,
come to us, Your prom - ise we trust. Piece of bread, glass of wine;
e're we go; Lord, help us to grow. God is here, O so near,

11 Bm7 Amaj7 Am7 E F#m7 B7

come and live with - in; Let Your peace be ours to - day, Lord Je - sus, we
Who can un - der - stand how His mer - cy works in these? Yet, Lord, we be -
in this heav - en's meal. May we al - ways feed on You, on the Bread that's

16 E

pray.
lieve.
true.

Communion Blessing*Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our 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: Build Your Kingdom Here**VERSE 1**

$\text{♩} = 137$

G D G D G

1. Come set Your rule, and reign in our hearts a - gain. In - crease in us, we

6 D A(4) G D

pray. Un - veil why we're made. Come set our hearts a - blaze with hope, like

11 G D G D A(4)

wild-fire in our ver - y souls; Ho - ly Spir - it, come, in - vade us now.

17 G D A(4) G D A(4) D G2

We are Your church; We need Your pow'r in us. 2. We
(3. Un)

VERSE 2 & 3

G D G D G

seek Your king-dom first. We hun-ger and we thirst; Re - fuse to waste our
leash Your king-dom's pow'r, reach-ing the near and far. No force of hell can

28 D Asus G D

lives, for You're our joy and prize. To see the cap - tives' hearts re - leased; The
stop Your beau - ty, chang-ing hearts. You made us for much more than this; A -

33 G D G D Asus

hurt, the sick, the poor at peace. We lay down our lives for heav - en's cause.
-wake the king-dom seed in us. Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.

38 G D A(4) G D A(4) D G2

We are Your church; We pray, re - vive this earth.
We are Your church; We are the hope on earth.

CHORUS

45 D G2 A Bm7 G2 D A

Build Your king-dom here. Let the dark-ness fear. Show Your might-y

52 Bm7 G2 A D A Bm7 G2

hand. Heal our streets and land. Set Your church on fire. Win this na - tion

D A Bm7 G2 A D Asus

58 3rd time to Coda

back. Change the at - mos - phere. Build Your king - dom here, we pray!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Seek God's wisdom, treasure Christ above all else, and trust that God's kingdom is growing wherever love takes root. **Thanks be to God.**

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