

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Bruce Thorsen

Ministers: Every Baptized Member

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Sunday, September 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

"So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother and sister from your heart." *Matthew 18:35*



TRINITY'S MISSION

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

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ELW HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 10

Introduction to the Day

Forgiveness should not be seen as a private act. The text tells us the opposite; in fact, forgiveness is communal. As we celebrate “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday this year, working together on projects as a church and a community, we must remember that when we stay connected and share in forgiveness, it can transform our life together. When we are connected to one another, we see how forgiveness sustains a community amid differences, how a family withstands challenges. We see that, when we fail to forgive as generously as God does, grace is nevertheless poured out freely.

GATHERING

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

**Indicates stand*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose mercy has no end, whose forgiveness restores what is broken, and whose love calls us into the work of reconciliation. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's abundant grace, let us bring before God the places in our lives and relationships that are in need of mercy, healing, and renewal.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you know our hearts and the burdens we carry.

You know the hurts that are difficult to release, the relationships that need healing, and the times we struggle to offer the same grace we have received. You have given us hearts to love and hands to serve, yet sometimes we grow weary, sometimes differences divide us, and sometimes we fail to see the neighbor who needs our care. Meet us with your mercy. Soften our hearts. Open our hands. Help us to listen with compassion, forgive with generosity, and serve with humility, that your love may take shape in us and through us in the world. Amen.

God, whose mercy is without end, meets us in our brokenness and gathers us again into love. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May the Holy Spirit strengthen

you, open your hearts in love, and guide your hands in service, that the mercy you have received may take shape through you in the world. **Amen.**

***Gathering Song: Gather Us In**

ELW 532

***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. Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from Genesis.

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

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

Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (read responsively)

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

A reading from Romans.

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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 18:21-35

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

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

***Sermon:**

Pastor Bruce Thorsen

***Hymn of the Day: God, When Human Bonds Are Broken**

ELW 603

***Creed**

Let us join together in saying the Apostles 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**

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

... we pray,

hear us when we call.

Receive these and all our prayers, gracious God. We pray in the name of the Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit. **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: Fantasia on Forest Green

arr. Lloyd Larson

***Offering Prayer**

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **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

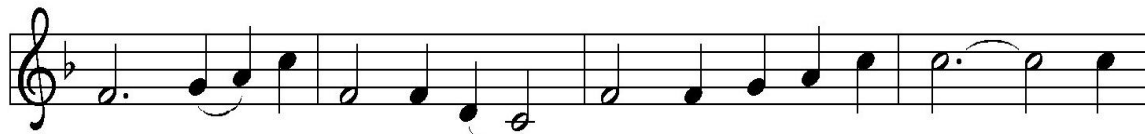
*Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

*Thanksgiving at the Table

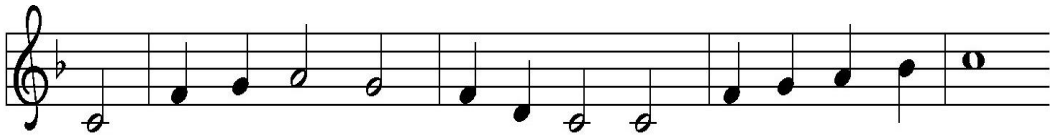
*Lord's Prayer

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

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;



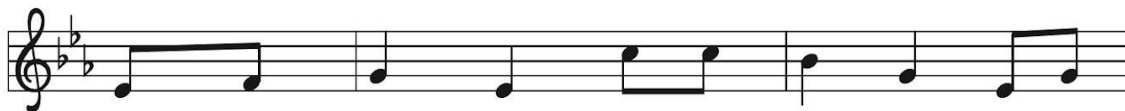
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Hymn: Day By Day

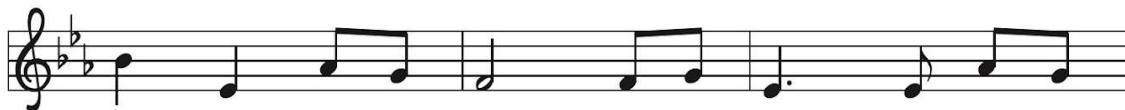
ELW 790

Communion Song: Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

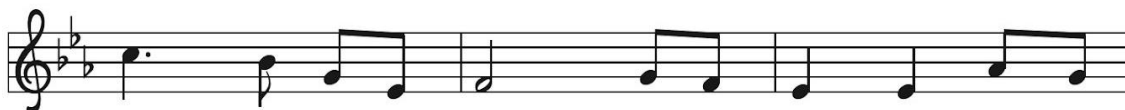


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

***Communion Blessing**

***Prayer after Communion**

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

SENDING

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

***Affirmation of Christian Vocation**

Siblings in Christ, both our work and our rest are in God.

Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit us your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ's name.

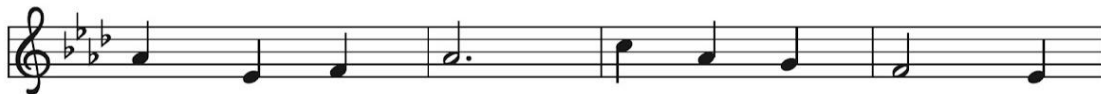
Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Blessing**

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

Sending Song: God's Work Our Hands

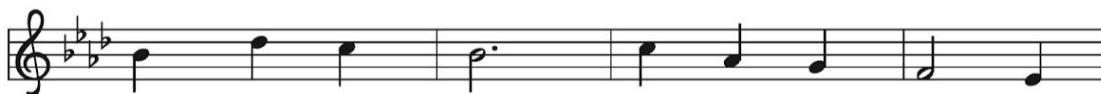
ACS 1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world!
Thanks be to God.

WE NEED YOUR PICTURE!

TRINITY IS UPDATING OUR PICTURE DIRECTORY

Available appointment times

Wednesday September 16th 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Thursday September 17th 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Friday September 18th 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Saturday September 19th 10:00am – 3:00pm

All families that are photographed by Mortell Studio
Will receive a free directory and a free portrait.



**Call Mortell Studio at 920-846-3393
or toll free 1-800-498-3399**

In the new picture directory we would like to highlight as many ministries and members as possible.

All submitted photos are due in the office by Friday, Sept. 25.

All committees and activity groups are encouraged to send photos.

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