

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service • September 20, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost



*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

**Thank you for joining us online as a new way of connecting to God's word as we transition during this time of social distancing to protect ourselves and others.**

**Please feel free to contact Pastor Tina if you need help in any way during this time. Her phone number is listed below. Just know that she is only a phone call away.**



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor

Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15

Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12

(Times are sometimes flexible with monthly meetings,  
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)

William C. Solomon, Interim Organist

Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

[www.trinitylutheran-nn.com](http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com)

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Cover image by JoAnne Rawls

## **Prelude**

## **Announcements**

## **Gathering**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

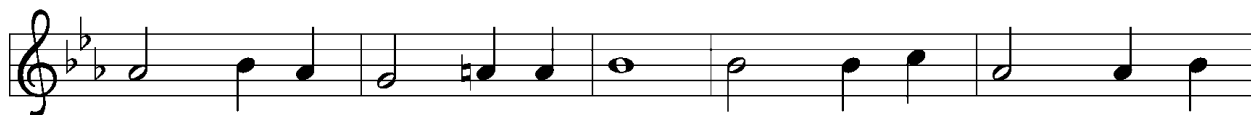
Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**



1 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and  
 2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the  
 3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -  
 4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the



rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our  
 earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,  
 scend - ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and  
 robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the



bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the  
 for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his  
 glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we  
 Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to



throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!  
 pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.  
 raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.  
 reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

## 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.**

## Hymn of Praise



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## First Reading: **Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

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.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 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.

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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." 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. 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 145:1-8** (read responsively)

I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your lives 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, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—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.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 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?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' 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.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

**Children's Chat**

Pastor Tina

**Sermon**

Pastor Tina





1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
 there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
 great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
 There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
 But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
 Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
 there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
 and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
 and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

## Apostle's 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**

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **Thanksgiving for the Word**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

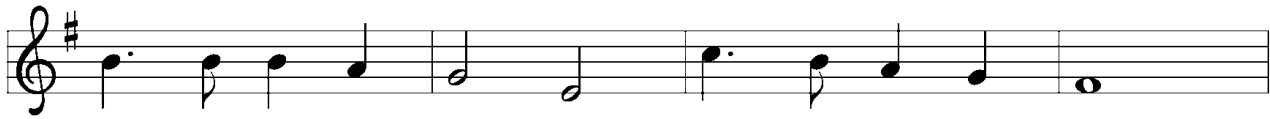
**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

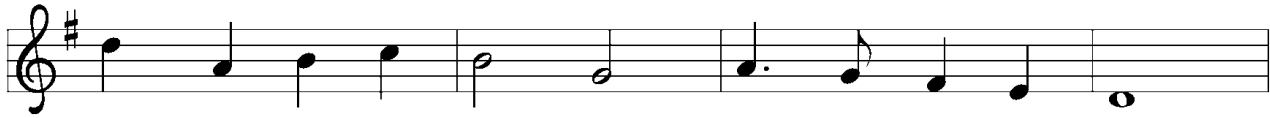
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Mothering God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.  
 2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.  
 un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;  
 un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?  
 on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

*Refrain*



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** The next Bible Study will be on Tuesday, September 22 at 10:30 a.m. A Zoom invitation will be emailed. If you would like to join this group, please let Pastor Tina or Anne know (245-7861). All are welcome!

**Open, But Hard Conversations:** This discussion group may continue its discussion at a later date. Stay tuned. Information will be sent to you, if we continue.

**Drive-Up Communion:** We plan to continue our drive-up communion on the last Sunday of the month and first Sunday of the following month. So, our next drive up communion will be on **Sunday, September 27, from 12-2 pm (Area Groups 1 - 7) and Sunday, October 4 from 12-2 pm (Area Groups 8-14 plus our Friends of the Congregation)**. If you need to know which area group you are in, look inside the church directory that was sent out about a month ago. At the bottom of your information, the word "Area" is listed with your group number. If you cannot find the directory that Anne emailed to you, please contact the church office and I will either send you another directory or tell you your area group number. Let's show Pastor Tina our love and have WAY more than 20 people show up per Sunday. It is our feast of victory!

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .

**Walking Worship Wednesdays:** With any luck, the weather will be cooler when we attempt to do WWW this time. On **Wednesday, September 23**, we will meet in the Mariner's Museum parking lot for a short walk through the Noland Trail at **5:30 p.m.** with an abbreviated worship service along the way. Anyone is welcome to come.

**Theology on Tap:** Yep! It is that time of year again. We will resume our Theology on Tap discussion time via Zoom starting on Thursday, **September 24 at 6:30 p.m.** Pastor Tina usually picks a topic and we think about and discuss our feelings about the topic. If you have not joined our group before or have not done so in a long time, please notify the church office or Pastor Tina so that she can send a Zoom invitation to include all who wish to participate

### **VANCO Online giving: An Important Note For Congregation Members and Friends -**

For your convenience, the Church Council and Finance Committee have arranged to provide an optional online donation service for congregation members, friends and visitors with Vanco Payment Services, the ELCA-recommended electronic donation service. Through this service, you may donate from your checking or savings account or with a credit or debit card. Of course, you may also continue to donate through whatever other methods work best for you.

The procedure is very user-friendly. Just go to Trinity's website, <http://www.trinitylutheran-nn.com> (see below), and click on the green "online giving" link on the homepage.

Being able to send your offering donations electronically is especially important during the current pandemic, and we hope that this will be an opportunity for members, friends and visitors to support the ongoing work of the church easily and from the comfort of home.

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

**Procedure for online giving:**

Go to <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/>

Press the green "online giving" link.

**Hilton Churches Outreach Project– Food for THRIVE:** As you can imagine, the daily request for food has skyrocketed since March. Therefore, as our Hilton Churches September Outreach Project, we are doing a food drive. Your food items can be dropped off in St. Nicholas Chapel at St. Andrew's in Hilton or in the lobby at Trinity during the month of September and we will deliver everything to THRIVE in September.

**To date, we have only received FOUR bags of collected items. Anne will be taking the bags to St. Andrew's this month. If you wish to contribute, please bring your item(s) to the basket at the double glass doors.**

Here is the list of items we will be collecting. Some of them are specific as to the need:

- \* small jars of peanut butter
- \* small plastic jars of jelly
- \* small pop-top cans of pasta, such as Ravioli
- \* cans of soup, black-eyed peas, and mixed vegetables
- \* regular size boxes of cereal (not the "giant" sizes)
- \* pouches of instant potatoes
- \* boxes with individual packets of oatmeal
- \* boxes of crackers, such as Ritz which has individual wrapped rolls
- \* "bowl" food items, such as Mac and Cheese, meat products, etc., that only need water to be added to them.

**Light the Night:** The youth group will be participating in the annual Light the Night event to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) on **October 3, time TBD**. Meet at the **Kiln Creek Track**. This year will look a little different as we walk only as a small group and participate in the larger event virtually. The mission of LLS is as follow: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS exists to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients. They are the voice for all blood cancer patients and they work to ensure access to treatments for all blood cancer patients. If you would like to donate to this cause, please send a check into the church office and write Light the Night in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your support with this cause. Leukemia and lymphoma have touched the lives of many of our youth group members' families.

**Flamingos:** Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! We greatly appreciate the support we have received in our Flocking Flamingos Fundraiser. This fundraiser has not only earned us over \$2000 toward the National Youth Gathering event, but it has also been a fun way to connect us all during this crazy pandemic. The stories we have heard about our birds in your yards have been truly amazing and amusing! Thank you for feeding them, dressing them up with COVID masks and hats, playing with them (both humans and pets), and even making them into an obstacle course for a toy car! Most of all thank you for creatively participating and supporting our youth group! We love you all and miss seeing you all!



## PRAYER LIST

**ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS:** **Recovery:** Rick Daggy and Ernie Moeser; **Nursing Homes:** Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131); Betty Hasel (The Newport, Rm 14); Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.206); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); Buddy Schultz (Commonwealth Senior Living at Hampton, Rm. 503 Memory Care Unit, 1030 Topping Lane, Hampton, VA, 23666); **Shut-in at Home:** Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris and Ernie Moeser.

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS:** **The Ahlen Family, Paige Ahlen, and Maria Goldsby** requested by Kathy Stevens; **Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (friend), Mike Muskalla (former member) and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend),** requested by Patricia Fielding; **Charlotte Rogers and Tina McManama,** requested by Richard and Sandra Anderson; **Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother),** requested by the Ardis family; **Sharon (Sherry) Johnston,** requested by Grant and Donna Owens; **Bonnie Carlson,** requested by Dave Carlson; **Rlou Baum (mother of Wendy Kowalski),** requested by Jessica Moye; **Jacque and Harry Hartman,** requested by Nancy Lindfors; **Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker),** requested by Patricia Wessler; **Paul St. Amand (former co-worker) and Autumn (granddaughter of former co-worker),** requested by Dee Klapperich; **George Kingston,** requested by Sandy and John Lunsford; **Michael May,** requested by Jon May; **Bobbie Morgan,** requested by Anne Obara; **the friends and family of Ruth Varn,** requested by Laura Davis and **Hardy and Peggy Cash,** requested by their daughter Cathy Edmundson;

**Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty:** James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.