

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Combined Worship Service • September 27, 2020

ELW Setting 3 • Facebook

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost



Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

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

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 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
 2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
 3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
 4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
 all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

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

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25:1-9 (read responsively)

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord.

**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice

and teach the lowly your way

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

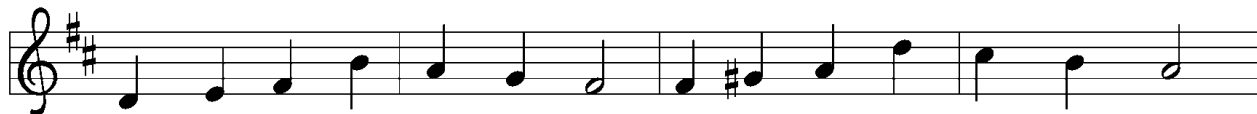
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Chat

Pastor Tina

Sermon

Pastor Tina



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine.
 Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

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.

Sending Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

ELW 553



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

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 29 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 will continue its discussion on Thursday, October 1 at 6:30 via Zoom invitation. We will wrap up with concluding thoughts and next steps forward.

Drive-Up Communion: We plan to continue our drive-up communion on the THIS Sunday and NEXT Sunday, October 4. This Sunday, **September 27, communion will be from 12-2 pm (for Area Groups 1 - 7) and then next Sunday, October 4 from 12-2 pm (for 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 or look in the back of the directory to find all of the listings. If you cannot find the directory that Anne emailed to you, please contact the church office and another directory will be sent to you or we can 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: The weather was much better for our first walk this fall. Yay! The next **WWW** is on **Wednesday, September 30.** 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: The next Theology on Tap discussion via Zoom will be on Thursday, **October 29 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 FIVE 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.

YOUTH NEWS

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. Youth, if you wish to participate, please sign up on the Trinity Youth Facebook page. If any congregation members 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, Maria Goldsby and Brittany Hock,** 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; Jack and **Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sister),** 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.

Continued . . .

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.