

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

## *Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost*

10:00 AM Worship Service • September 7, 2025

*Now the Feast and Celebration*



*Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life" – to choose life in God as our own.*

**Welcome members and guests** to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

**The nursery is available**, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607  
(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>  
Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**REV. TINA MELUSKY** – Pastor ([tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

**GEOFFREY BELL** – Director of Music Ministries ([music@trinitynn.org](mailto:music@trinitynn.org))

**SHARON MATHISON** – Administrative Assistant ([admin@trinitynn.org](mailto:admin@trinitynn.org))

**CAROL BESSOM** – Treasurer ([cbessom@trinitynn.com](mailto:cbessom@trinitynn.com))

**THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN** – Ministers of the Word  
**FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS:** <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE:** <http://trinitynn.org>

**PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS**

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

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

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

**Pastor's Cell:** (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,  
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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## CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRELUDE

*Prelude on Nettleton*

Joel Raney

## GATHERING

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross,  
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.**

**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✠ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Sing a New World into Being*  
NETTLETON

*Hymn may be found in the back of the bulletin.*

## 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.**

## KYRIE

*Now the Feast booklet page 3*

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Now the Feast booklet pages 4-5*

## SALUTATION

*Now the Feast booklet page 7*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The assembly is seated.*

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in God’s ways, and observing God’s commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying the Lord your God, and holding fast to the Lord, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 1



Psalm 1:3

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Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. R**

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with  
leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore, the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed. R**

## SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

*Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my

imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So, if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Now the Feast booklet page 8*

**GOSPEL: LUKE 14:25-33**

*Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

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

*The assembly is seated*

**CHILDREN'S CHAT  
SERMON**

Pastor Tina Melusky  
Pastor Tina Melusky

*The assembly stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*All Are Welcome*  
TWO OAKS

ELW 641

**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**

**God of... we pray, hear us when we call**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

*The assembly is seated.*

## RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

*Child of God*

Mark A. Miller

*No matter what people say or think about me, I am a child of God.*

*No matter what people say or think about you, you are a child of God.*

*No matter what the world says or thinks about me, I am a child of God.*

*No matter what the church says, decisions, pronouncements on you,  
you are a child of God.*

*And there is no thing, or no one who can separate,  
they can't separate you from the truth that you're someone,  
you are family, you are meant to be, a child of God!*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*As the Grains of Wheat*

*Now the Feast* booklet page 10

### OFFERTORY 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.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Now the Feast* booklet page 11

### PROPER PREFACE

It is our duty and delight...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Now the Feast* booklet page 11-12



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Seeing the lonely creature of earth, you created a partner that we would know the joy of community. Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called to us time and again to return to life with you.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people under the loving wings of a mother hen. Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me. In the same way after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and 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.

## AGNUS DEI

*Now the Feast booklet page 14*

## COMMUNION

*Communion is held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a **clear** cup with wine or a **purple** cup with grape juice from the tray. Recycling baskets for your plastic cups are located outside the doors of the sanctuary. Trinity has an open table – all are welcome to come to the feast.*

## MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

For Everyone Born (Murray/Mann)

*(choir will sing stanzas 1-4; all join in singing the refrain and stanza 5)*

*1. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.*

**(Refrain) And God will delight when we are creators of justice  
and joy, compassion and peace:  
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy!**

*2. For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding the share,*

*with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for woman and man, a system that's fair. (Refrain)*

*3. For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong. (Refrain)*

*4. For just and unjust, a place at the table,  
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,  
for just and unjust, a new way to live. (Refrain)*

**5. For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free. (Refrain)**

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Music © 2006 Brian Mann (admin. General Board of Global Ministries t/a GBGMusik)

*The assembly stands.*

## **SENDING**

### **TABLE BLESSING**

### **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

*Thanks Be to You*

*Now the Feast* booklet page 15

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

### **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 HYMN**

*God's Work, Our Hands*  
**EARTH AND ALL STARS**

ACS 1000

### **DISMISSAL**

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

**SERVING THE ASSEMBLY**

**CRUCIFER** – Carl Carpenter

**ACOLYTES** – Karina Stevens & Andrew Rummel

**LECTOR** – Kathy Stevens

**USHERS/GREETERS** – Tricia & Jacob Wessler

**CAMERA/LIVESTREAM** – Doug Hill



Congratulations to Reed Jay, Isabella Perez, and Charlotte Sniady as they begin their confirmation journey!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CAN YOU HELP!**

We are looking for a couple of volunteers who would be willing to serve in our nursery, providing care for our tiniest members during the service. Youth are welcome, but if you are under 16 you will need an adult present with you as well. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tina or a member of the Worship and Music committee.

**RED FOOD BOX**

Thank you so much to all who are so faithfully donating items for the Red Food Box!

**SAVE THE DATE! NEW DIRECTORY!**

Mark your calendars! We are going to have photographers here to build our new photo directory on Thursday, October 9 and Friday, October 10. Time slots will go live next month, but for now save the date!

## **TREASURER'S NOTE!**

Dear Trinity Family,

Just a reminder that, since we just voted to approve the 2025 - 2026 budget and have just begun the new fiscal year this month, this is a great time to prayerfully consider increasing your offering, especially if you haven't done so in a few years. It's easy to forget that our church family needs not just your time and talent but your treasure, too!

Thanks to all the members of our family for all you do!

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to the Pearson Family on the arrival of their baby, Nathan! If you'd like to help us welcome Baby Nathan to our Trinity church family by delivering a ready-to-cook meal for Bryan and Stephanie, please use the online sign-up by scanning the provided QR code to choose a date(s). If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact Tricia Wessler ([patricia@thewesslers.com](mailto:patricia@thewesslers.com)).



## **PRAYER LIST**

**ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS** — Nursing Homes/ Assisted Living: Millie Christensen, Barbara Olson; At Home: Tony Flores, Shirley Anderson, and Bonnie Carlson; Jerry Cobb, Williams Landing; Virginia Hamby, Harmony on Peninsula, Room 121.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** — Michele and Tom Leonard, requested by Dottie Self; The family and friends of *Phyllis Harrison Philpot*, requested by Bill Solomon; Warren, Maddie Walker's family; requested by Nancy Lindfors; Lilly Petty, requested by Carol Bessom; Eddie Bateman & Karen Vodenichar, requested by the *Sniady Family*; Bonnie Carlson, requested by Pastor Tina; Blaine Pearsall, requested by Lina Valdez; Family and friends of Scott Campbell, requested by Todd Recupero; Stephanie Beauvais, requested by Jarvis Edwards; Larry and Linda Jones, requested by Judy Hunt; Sarah Miller, requested by John and Sandy Lunsford; Wayne Skinner, Carroll Emerson, and Judy Wagner St. Pierre, requested by the *Dail family*; The family of Carole Knopp, requested by Wendy Mynoymany; Scully, Pastor Tina's dog, requested by Tricia Wessler; Ahlen family, requested by Kathy Stevens.

**THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY** — James Fielding, Tokyo, Japan; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National Guard, LAFB.

## Youth Schedule 2025-2026

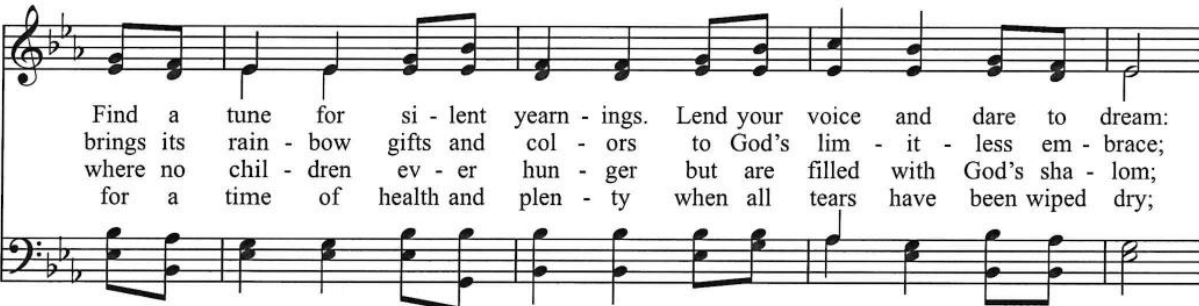
September 7, 2025	Rally Day – SS Chalking Sidewalk, Pot Luck, Banner
September 14	Youth Group Kick Off during Sunday School (Bring Breakfast item to share)
September 21	Worship in the Park and Picnic (Youth to help with music)
September 26	VA State Fair. Meet at Rummel House at 2:30 PM
October 12	Busch Gardens Howl O Scream (after church)
October 18	Walk to End Alzheimer's – Port Warwick. Meet at 9 A; Walk at 10 A
October 26	Misty Movie Night/ Dinner and Smores
November 7-8	Lock In
November 21-23	Lost and Found (7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> graders)
December 7	Homebound Gifts during Sunday School hour
December 14	Decorating and Caroling/ Christmas Party at Rummel House
January 4, 2026	Pizza and Ax Throwing (Ax Republic – Williamsburg)
January 23 -25	Winter Celebration (9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> graders)
February 8	Soup-er Bowl Party (Super Bowl/ Canned Food Drive)
February 20-21	Lock In
March 7-8	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Event (5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> graders)
March 20-21	DC Trip/ African American Museum (High School – Age 22)
March 29	Stuff Easter Eggs during Sunday School
April 5	Easter Egg Hunt (Easter Sunday)
April 24-25	VA Synod Youth Ministry Summit
April 26	Norfolk Zoo and Lunch
May 24	Confirmation Sunday
June 21-26	Kairos (Rising 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> graders)
July (TBD)	LAUNCH (Graduated High School Seniors)
July 24-25	Yard Sale (Prep is July 19-23)
August 15	River Tubing down the James River (Riverside Outfitters)

Mary Louise Bringle


NETTLETON

*Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813*



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
 2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race  
 3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.  
 4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
 brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
 where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;  
 for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.  
 where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
 where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
 when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



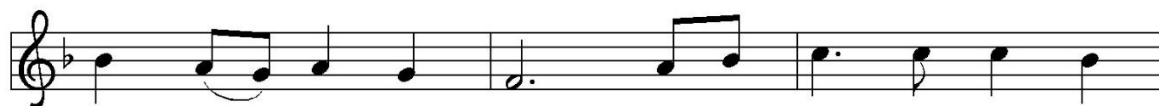
Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
 Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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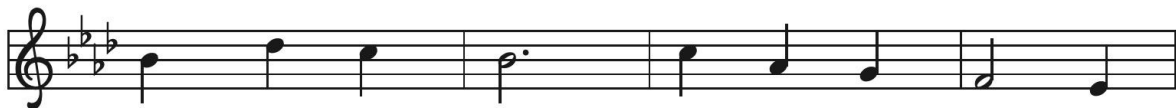




1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



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.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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