

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 AM Worship Service • September 14, 2025

Now the Feast and Celebration



The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

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)

GEOFFREY BELL – Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

SHARON MATHISON – Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM – Treasurer (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.

Bulletin cover image by Carol Bessom.

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CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Aria

Flor Peeters

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.

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: Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people and boldly asks for mercy for them.

The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have

promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " And God's mind was changed about the disaster that God had planned to bring on the people.

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

PSALM 51:1-10



Have mer-cy on me, O God, ac-cord-ing to your stead-fast love.

Psalm 51:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. R

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Now the Feast booklet page 8

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

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

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Who, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling
THOMPSON

ELW 608

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 grace, **receive our prayer.**

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

A Right Spirit

Stephan Casurella

Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.

*Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.*

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me,
according to your loving kindness.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

Now the Feast booklet page 10

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,

**in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.**

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,**

**that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

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

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

That Priceless Grace
THAT PRICELESS GRACE

ELW 591

The assembly stands.

SENDING

TABLE BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thanks Be to You

Now the Feast booklet page 15

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
NETTLETON

ELW 807

DISMISSAL

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. Michael Burkhardt

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

CRUCIFER – Drew Rummel

ACOLYTES – Ellie Wessler & Elena Stevens

LECTOR – Jacob Wessler

USHERS/GREETERS -- Thad Kieninger & Cliff Obara

CAMERA/LIVESTREAM – Kelly Rummel



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).



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. Bob Sumpter, Tricia Wessler's Stepfather, *requested by Tricia Wessler*. David Hunt, Sentara Heart Hospital, *requested by Pastor Tina*.

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*. Izzy Perez, *requested by Pastor Tina*.

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, Potluck, 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 AM: Walk at 10 AM
October 26	Misty Movie Night/Dinner and S'mores
November 7-8	Lock In
November 21-23	Lost and Found (7 th and 8 th 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 th -12 th graders)
February 8	Soup-er Bowl Party (Super Bowl/Canned Food Drive)
February 20-21	Lock In
March 7-8	7 th Day Event (5 th and 6 th 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 th – 12 th graders)
July (TBD)	LAUNCH (Graduation High School Seniors)
July 24-25	Yard Sale (Prep is July 19-23)
August 15	River Tubing down the James River (Riverside Outfitters)



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.



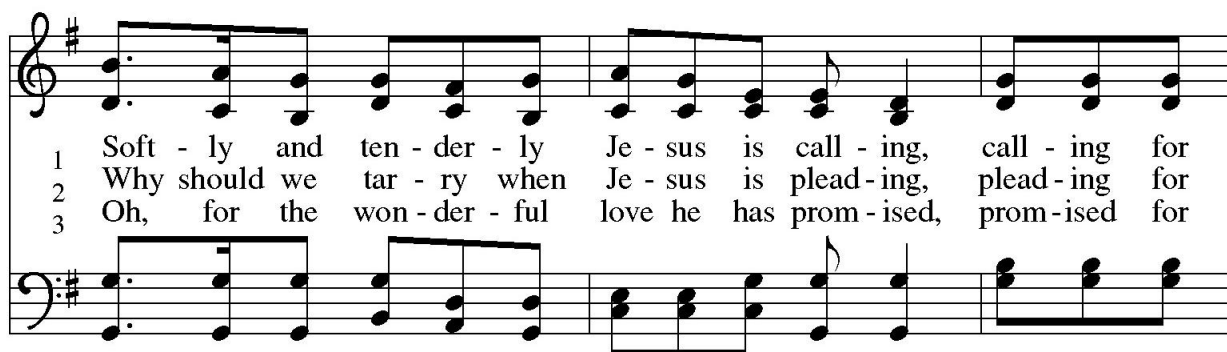
There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



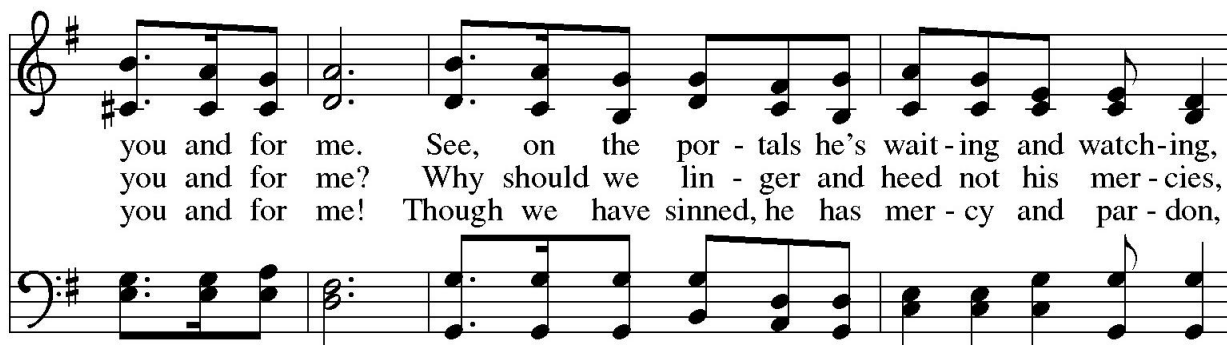
There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

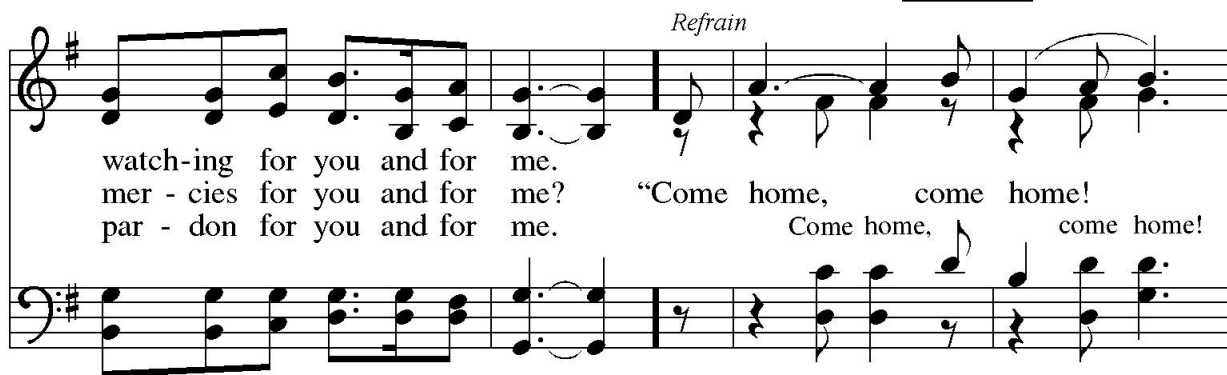
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



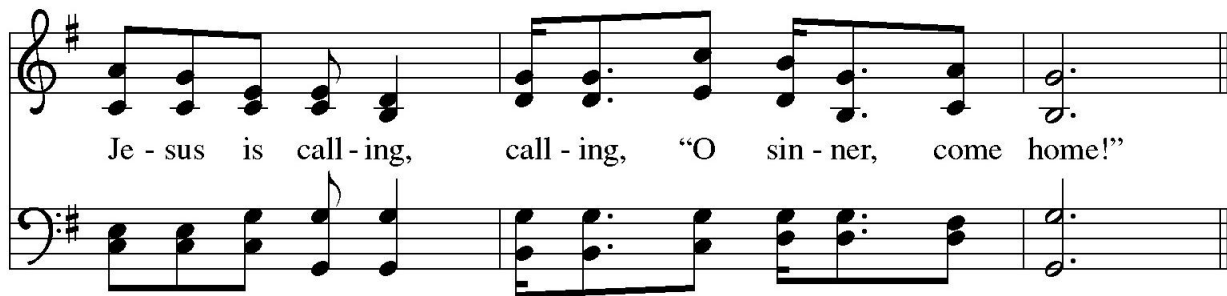
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"



1	That price-less	grace,	that price-less	grace,	that price-less
2	That price-less	blood,	that price-less	blood,	that price-less
3	That pain - ful	death,	that pain - ful	death,	that pain - ful
4	That pre - cious	word,	that pre - cious	word,	that pre - cious



grace, which	gave	me	life:	Je - sus'	life	is	price-less	grace.
blood was	shed	for	me:	Je - sus'	blood	is	price-less	grace.
death took	sins	a -	way:	Je - sus'	death	is	price-less	grace.
word, which	brought	me	light:	Je - sus'	word	is	price-less	grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949

Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional

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1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.