

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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STEPHENS CITY, VA

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9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 PENTECOST 15

## PRELUDE

*Voluntary*

John Garth (1722-1810)

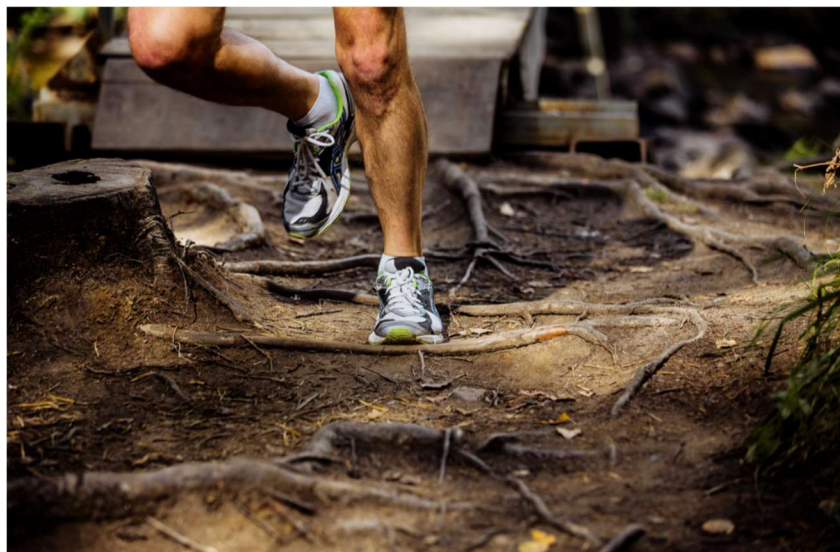
## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** With hearts open and trusting, we come before our gracious God, seeking forgiveness, healing, and hope. Creator God...in the midst of this difficult and stressful year we have become well acquainted with fear and worry, and even doubt. Dreams have been disrupted and the path forward remains challenging. In our weakness and our weariness, we come to You today seeking a fresh start, for our lives and our church.

**C:** Gracious, God, forgive us for taking for granted what You have done for us thus far. Forgive us for our lack of faith in what You can do in the future. Forgive us for failing to live passionately for You. Like You did so long ago with Martin Luther shower us anew with Your grace today. Thank-you for the privilege of being witnesses to the world of the grace and peace Jesus has shared with us all! Renew and refuel us today with the fire of Your love that we may extend Your light into all the world. Give us a holy discontent for anything that is not in alignment with Your will in our lives, our church, and our world. Encourage, inspire, and challenge us today to embrace Kingdom impacting dreams and inspire others to do the same! Amen.

**P:** God promises that through Jesus our sins are forgiven. I declare to you now the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a new day! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, may God renew your spirit, your faith, and your passion, and may Christ live in your heart through faith.

**C: AMEN!**



*...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,  
looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...*

Hebrews 12:1a-2

# GATHERING SONG

*All Are Welcome*

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
*Refrain*  
Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
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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## 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

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, as we gather for worship today, we ask You to help us see our lives, the Church, and Your world through the lens of Your resurrection power. As You do that, strengthen us in our inner being with power through Your Spirit that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in His love. We pray for the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the breadth, length, height, and depth of Your great love revealed in Jesus so that we may be filled with all Your fullness. Wherever we are fearful today, plant seeds of faith. Wherever we are discouraged, plant seeds of hope. Help us see beyond our limited resources to Your abundant possibilities so that by Your power at work in us You may accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine or dream. We promise to give You all the credit and all the glory...through our lives, in Your Church, and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **AMEN!**

## FIRST READING: Hebrews 12:1-3

Sue Teal

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

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

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21**

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 5:1-9**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids — blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

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

## **SERMON**

Pastor JMe Lowden

## **CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. As we celebrate Labor Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. We lift to you all affected by fire, hurricanes, rain and floods. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. We pray for all who are in need especially Pamela, Eileen, Pauline, Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Rodney, Yvonne, Ruby. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## OFFERING

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

Again, 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 sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

P: May God, whose power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **AMEN!**

# SENDING SONG *v. 1, 3*

## *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*March*

R.G. Thompson (1862-?)

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**Zoom to Worship**, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 0840 5981 Passcode: 321080

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89308405981?pwd=TDY0SkxiUWgvNHpUZDBHdGk0aWRqZz09> Dial +1 646 876 9923 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

**Facebook Live:** you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

# TRENDING @ TRINITY

The church office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

God's Work Our Hands will be observed next Sunday. If you have not already signed up to be part of this day of service, please take a moment to do so this morning. There are three sites of service, you may choose one. Lunch will be provided to all three crews. By now you should have the list of items needed for the hygiene bags. Those working at the Poffenberger home should bring rags, Windex, buckets (and gloves if you wish).

In early 2021 Pastor JMe was contacted by the Sons of the American Revolution (SOAR) inquiring if Trinity would like to recognize the 5 Revolutionary War Veterans buried in the cemetery. SOAR would purchase a brass plaque with their names and service and install it during a special ceremony in which their members would participate dressed in period costume. The idea was brought to the congregation council which voted approval. The plaque should be ready soon and then a ceremony for Oct or Nov can be planned. With that in mind, the third project for the 12th would be to clean, at the very least, the 5 headstones belonging to these veterans. But ideally as many as can safely be cleaned without damaging the stone would make for better photos on the day and show respect to those who are buried there. Cemetery work will need buckets, if anyone has hand pump backpack sprayers, **non-wire/non-metal** scrub brushes and/or small whisk brooms. Again, gloves if you wish.

Choir rehearsal will begin on Thursday September 9 at 6PM. The choir is open to all voices, so if you enjoy singing, plan to participate!

Sunday, September 19 will be the start of Sunday School. Children's Sunday School will take place on the third Sunday of each month, during worship. The children will be taken out as a group prior to the reading of the lessons. They will return in time for Holy Communion.

The LCW will have its Yard Sale September 25th, so start cleaning out closets, basements, and garages. No furniture or electronics, please. Clean, gently worn clothing is welcome. **Do not** bring the items to church until you are instructed to do so, closer to the date.

There are many open dates on the calendar for those wishing to provide chancel flowers. The list is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. If you choose a date(s), please give Brenda in the office a head's up either by phone or email.

Those who enjoying staying after worship for fellowship, coffee and snacks are welcome to help by donating cookies or other snacks.

Donations needed: the church kitchen needs paper towels, dish detergent, water.

Have you noticed? In the narrow bed outside the administrative office windows in the spring we had lovely daffodils. Now there are beautiful marigolds. Thank you to Martha Cooley for planting these day brighteners!