

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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STEPHENS CITY, VA

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9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
AUGUST 29, 2021 PENTECOST 14

PRELUDE

Onward Christian Soldiers Trinity Chimes
Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900) arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

GATHERING SONG

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

All Glory Be to God on High

1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
God for grace and mer - cy! A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Anne Vermillion

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

SECOND READING: James 1:17-27

A reading from James.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The Thirsty Fields Drink In the Rain



We wait for you, O God, our rock, we seek your
light, your word, the truth we need to live. So,
Lord, send us now your ho - ly Word.

Text: Britt G. Hallqvist, 1914–1997; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: CONVIVIO, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

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

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

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Comfort the ill and dying 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.**

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.

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG vs. 1, 4, 5

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)



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

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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



God's Work Our Hands will be observed Sunday September 12. There is a sign-up list being passed around this morning for those who plan to participate. One of the tasks that day will be assembling hygiene bags for the residents of Green Valley Manor nursing facility. To fill those bags, we are now collecting the following full-size items: shampoo, deodorant, denture cleaner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wash cloth, tissues, combs, brushes, large print word search and puzzle books, Chapstick -- all gender neutral. Place your donations in the bin in the reception area outside the administrative offices.

Sunday, September 19 will be the start of Sunday School. Children's Sunday School will take 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. There will be an adult class on Acts -- time and day to be announced shortly.

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 chose 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.

September at a glance

Chime rehearse after worship each Sunday
6-Office Closed in observance of Labor Day
7-Council meeting 7PM
12-God's Work Our Hands Sunday
 LCW after worship in parlor
14-Sewing in Room 204, 9:30AM
19- Sunday School begins
 Ruby Riding's 101st birthday
20-Digital Ministry Team meeting, 7PM
25-Lutheran Church Women Yard Sale

Birthdays

6- Susan Deaver
7-Phyllis Wilson
10-Linda Rudy
13-Chuck Stern
16-Holly Landes
19-Ruby Ridings will 101
22-Chris Landes
30-Kathy Carrol, Jeff Shifflett, Will Wolf