

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 PENTECOST 17

PRELUDE

Consolation

Josef Löw (1800's)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

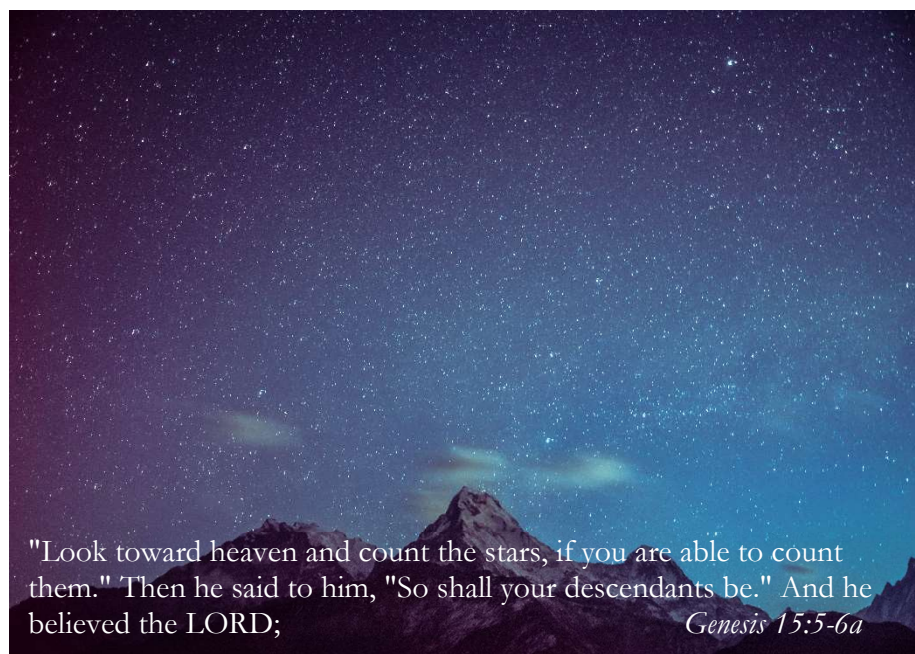
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



"Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD;
Genesis 15:5-6a

GATHERING SONG *v. 1,3, 5*

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard
Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music)/ASCAP,
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Coady Road, Mobile AL 36695.

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.

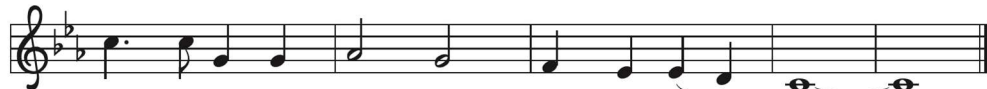
KYRIE



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

God of the covenant, as you promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky, night after night. **Amen**

BLESSING of Sunday School and Confirmation students and teachers

STUDENTS DEPART to Sunday School classes

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

Sue Teal

A reading from Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him,

"So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

SECOND READING: James 3:13-18

A reading from James.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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. God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, hear **our prayer**.

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, hear **our prayer**.

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, hear **our prayer**.

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. We pray especially for Meghan, Odie, Pauline, Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Rodney, Yvonne, Ruby. Lord, in your mercy, hear **our prayer**.

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. 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

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**.

SENDING SONG *v. 1,3,4* *Children of the Heavenly Father: Tryggare kan ingen vara*



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil-dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Allegro

Jonas Blewitt (?-1805)

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The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Martha Cooley, Mary Anderson, and their families in celebration of Ruby Riding's 101st birthday today.

All adults interested in participating in Pastor JMe's study on Acts are requested to meet in the Parish Hall during coffee time. It's important you be present so we can get a count of how many books to order. Thank you

October 9, 10AM, Trinity will hold a Blessing of the Animals service. All animals must be on a leash or crated.

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/>

The Narrative Lectionary

Each year, the scripture readings typically used in worship are taken from a prescribed list of weekly readings called the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). This lectionary was originally devised as a means to support the ecumenical relationships among Lutheran, Episcopalian, and Roman Catholic churches by providing common scriptural themes for Sunday worship reading and preaching. One of the three synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, or Luke provides the New Testament focus for each year of readings with passages from the Gospel according to John interspersed throughout the year. Additional readings from the Old Testament, New Testament, and Psalms are included each week to complement the Gospel reading. The three years, or cycles, of the RCL are designated as A (Matthew), B (Mark) or C (Luke). Each cycle begins the first Sunday of Advent and ends on Christ the King Sunday of the following year.

Although most Lutheran congregations follow the RCL, Pastors or worship leaders are free to choose alternate readings or another lectionary. An alternative to the RCL is the narrative lectionary, which came into use about a decade ago. This lectionary all four Gospels as means to organize its four-part cycle. It focuses on “the overarching biblical story” through readings of longer portions of the scriptural narrative beginning with Genesis through Jesus’ life. The four cycles of this lectionary are each nine months long, beginning in September and ending in May, aligning more closely with the school year.

According to the lectionary website: “This lectionary is not simply a series of stories; rather, it is a series of stories that facilitate an understanding of and appreciation for the broader biblical story.... It tries to move rapidly through the biblical narrative, in canonical order. The lectionary also features mainly narrative passages. [T]he narrative lectionary has two readings each week:

- A ‘preaching text’ (from the Old Testament through Advent, a Gospel from Christmas to Easter, and from Acts/Epistles from Easter to Pentecost)
- An ‘accompanying text’ (the accompanying text is from a Gospel when the preaching text is from the Old Testament or Acts/Epistles, and from a psalm when the preaching text is from a Gospel)”

During the coming months, we are focusing as a congregation on growing in our knowledge of the story of salvation through daily bible reading. Use of the narrative lectionary will be a helpful accompaniment to our bible challenge and a means to enrich our experience each Sunday morning. Why use the narrative lectionary? “Because knowledge of the biblical story is crucial to mature Christian faith.”

(Quotations are from “Commentary on Introduction to Narrative Lectionary” by Rolf Jacobson, August 30, 2015 Commentary on Introduction to Narrative Lectionary - Working Preacher from Luther Seminary)

Property Updates:

There's a good deal going on both on the church property and the parsonage these days. Here's a quick list to keep you up to date:

Parsonage:

- Driveway has been sealed.
- There are trees that need to be removed and a few trimmed. Due to delays from COVID, this work will happen in the Jan-March time frame.
- Several windows at the parsonage haven't had blinds since the Lowdens arrived. That is going to be remedied in the near future.

Church:

- Still in the process of having the HVAC unit that controls the Nursery area repaired.
- There are three AC units that will sooner rather than later need new parts. For financial reasons and since summer/AC weather is almost at an end, the council elected to postpone replacing the parts at this time.
- Currently the workers from A+ Handyman are doing a number of jobs on the exterior of the building including repairing soffitt/facia boards around the Fairfax St. sanctuary door, sealing the flashing around the bell tower, repairing, caulking and painting 13 stained glass windows and installed gutter brackets.
- We're awaiting repair of the refrigerator which was dripping water into the unit due to an ice-covered pipe.

Your Congregation Council reviewed bids (thank you Jerry Rogers for all your effort in obtaining quotes) for all the major items on these lists before approving the work. While many of these are costly and will require transferring funds from other accounts, the work is necessary to keep the building in good working order.

Your continue offerings to Trinity are needed in order to offset the monies being taken from savings.