

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
AUGUST 18, 2024 PENTECOST 13

I am the Way,
the Truth,
and the Life



John 14:6

PRESERVICE SINGING *WOV 642, 693*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **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

Glory to God: Gloria a Dios

Glo - ria_a Dios, glo - ria_a Dios,
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,
glo - ria_a Dios en los cie - los.
glo - ry to God in the high - est.
Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,
Peace be to you, peace be to me,
paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite
Music: GLORIA A DIOS, Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

Stephan Aker

A reading from Proverbs.

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”

To those without sense she says, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14 *read responsively*

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD, for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes pleasure in life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.**

PSALM RESPONSE

Unison
♩ = 78-100

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to the Son, glo-ry
be to the Ho-ly Ghost, Three in One; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and shall be, world with-out end. A - men.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (Gloria Patri) c. 4th cent.
MUSIC: John Erickson, 1969
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ERICKSON

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: John 14:1-7

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe¹ in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?¹

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going."¹

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

⁷ If you know me, you will know¹ my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

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

SERMON

I am the way, the truth, and the life

Pastor JMe Lowden





1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a
 2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a
 3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys in love.

Text: George Herbert, 1593–1633
 Music: THE CALL, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music © 1911 Stainer and Bell, Ltd., 23 Grunzeisen Road, London N3 1DZ, UK. www.stainer.co.uk.

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

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Barb, Hadley, Juanita, Nikki, and others close to our hearts (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

PEACE

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



OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING – *benefits Middletown Area Meal Assistance*

Holy Manna

Trinity Chimes

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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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.

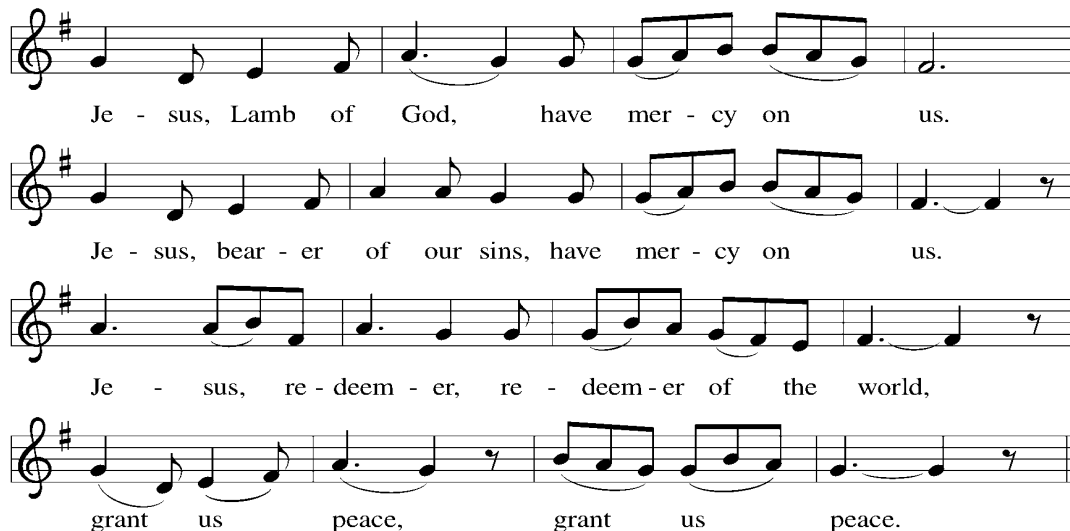
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges those at home and says: "Take and eat. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you." Then you may partake.

COMMUNION SONGS

ELW 199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

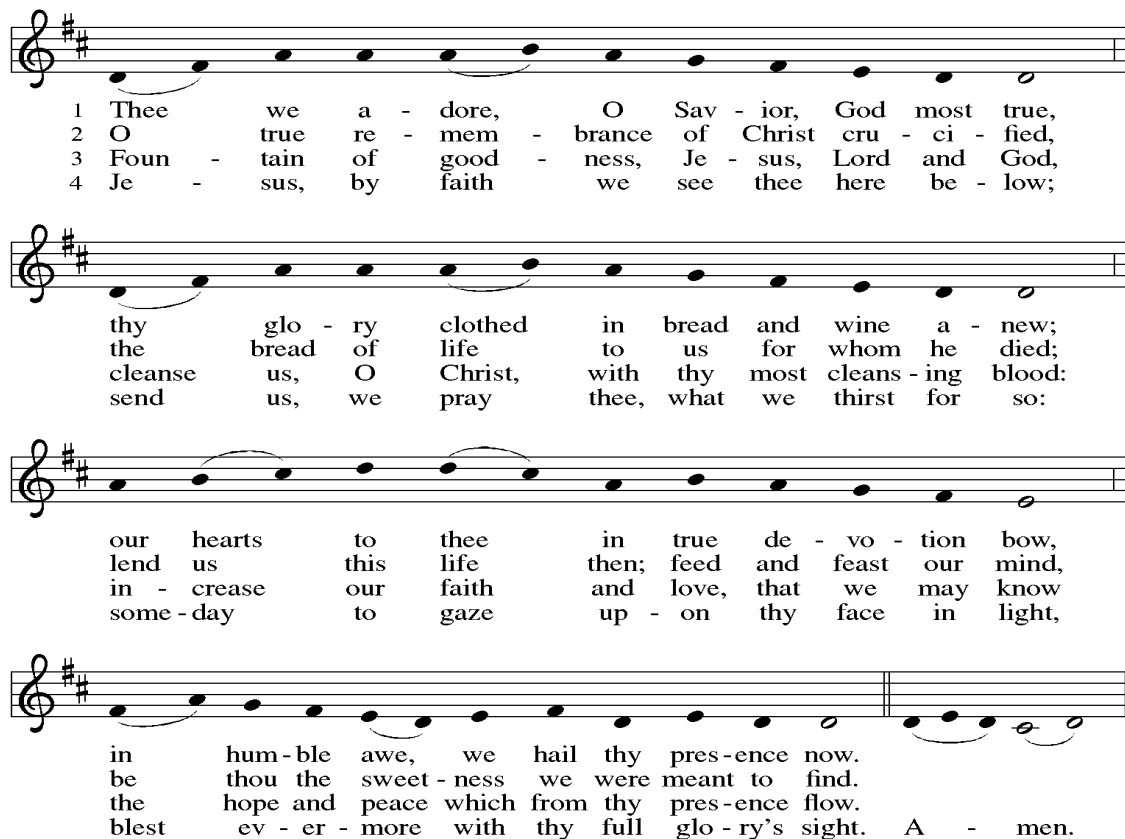
Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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The We Adore, O Savior

ELW 476



1 Thee we a - dore, O Sav - ior, God most true,
2 O true re - mem - brance of Christ cru - ci - fied,
3 Foun - tain of good - ness, Je - sus, Lord and God,
4 Je - sus, by faith we see thee here be - low;

thy glo - ry clothed in bread and wine a - new;
the bread of life to us for whom he died;
cleanse us, O Christ, with thy most cleans - ing blood;
send us, we pray thee, what we thirst for so:

our hearts to thee in true de - vo - tion bow,
lend us this life then; feed and feast our mind,
in - crease our faith and love, that we may know
some - day to gaze up - on thy face in light,

in hum - ble awe, we hail thy pres - ence now.
be thou the sweet - ness we were meant to find.
the hope and peace which from thy pres - ence flow.
blest ev - er - more with thy full glo - ry's sight. A - men.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, 1227–1274; tr. Gerard Manley Hopkins, 1844–1889, and James R. Woodford, 1820–1885, alt.
Music: *ADORE TE DEVOTE*, plainsong mode V; Processionale, Paris, 1697



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

When Long before Time (The Singer and the Song)

ELW 861



1 When long be - fore time and the worlds were be - gun,
2 The si - lence was bro - ken when God sang the Song,
3 The sounds of the crea - tures were one with their Lord's,
4 Though down through the a - ges the Song dis - ap - peared,



when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and light pierced the dark - ness and rhy - thm be - gan,
their har - mo - nies sweet and be - fit - ting the Word;
its har - mo - nies bro - ken and al - most un - heard,



and all was deep si - lence and night reigned su - preme,
and with its first birth - cries cre - a - tion was born,
the Sing - er was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
the Sing - er comes to us to sing it a - gain,



and e - ven our Mak - er had on - ly a dream—
and crea - ture - ly voic - es sang praise to the morn.
the choir of the crea - tures re - ech - oed it long.
our God - is - with - us in the world now as then.

5 The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

6 To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Text: Peter W. A. Davison, b. 1936

Music: THE SINGER AND THE SONG, Peter W. A. Davison

Text and music © Peter W. A. Davison, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

How Majestic is Your Name

E. Broughton

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Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

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

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

TRENDING @ TRINITY

This morning's Noisy offering benefits MAMA – Middletown Area Mission Action Program that provides Blessing Bags to school children.

Pastor JMe will be offering a training session on Sat, Aug. 31 at 10AM for anyone interested in being a Eucharistic Minister. Eucharistic Ministers take communion to those who are homebound. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please speak to Pastor by August 28.

Trinity's Friendship and Prayer Team would like everyone to know that we are lifting up Trinity and those on the prayer list. We encourage you to submit your prayer requests using Trinity's prayer box located for your convenience to the right of the entrance to the sanctuary. Trinity's Prayer Team is respectful of everyone's privacy and seeks to uplift all needs to God, so please feel free to be as specific or as general as you like.

The chancel flower calendar is posted in the Narthex, you can sign up for any of the vacant weeks. Speak to Martha Cooley if you have questions about how to go about providing flowers for the chancel.

September 8 is God's Work Our Hands Sunday in which the entire ELCA commits to doing community service projects. In preparation for it this year we are starting to collect the following items: combs, soap, shampoo, body wash (hotel sizes and full sizes). These will be donated to Mt. Carmel Baptist Winchester, which, every Wednesday feeds the homeless, lets them shower. We will have more information on other projects in the upcoming days.

Community Meal is August 28th at 5:30PM menu: subs & fixings, cold salads, dessert. Keep an eye on the bulletin board in the parish hall for the sign up list if you wish to provide a portion of the meal or lend your hands to help. Financial contributions are always welcome as well.

What does it mean to be a Lutheran in an election year? This is the subject of a new adult six-week study beginning September 15 following worship. Grab your coffee and treats and join Pastor JMe to learn and ponder some timely social teachings of the ELCA. Topics include: corporate social responsibility, abortion, race, ethnicity and culture, and climate crisis.

Food pantry donation request for August is canned fruit. The black bin for donations is in the Narthex. Please remember to check expiration dates to be certain they are at least a year away, also no personal hygiene or other products unless specifically asked for; no opened products of any kind (this includes unopened items that are in an opened multipack).

Friendly reminders to one and all:

Anytime you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please let the church office know. Pastor JMe can't visit if she doesn't know you're there. Don't rely on neighbors, friends or the grapevine to get word around. Make sure your family members know that if you are unable to reach out to the church, they should do it for you.

Brenda's office hours are 8AM-1PM Monday - Thursday. Friday is also Pastor JMe's day off. Contact info: 540-869-4019; office@trinitychurchvirginia; pastor@trinitychurchvirginia

Update from the church Treasurer:

The deficit for July for the current fund was \$ 8715. This brings the YTD deficit in the current fund to \$ 50,308. This compared to a deficit of \$ 34,178 for the seven months ending 7/31/23. The difference is in \$ 7717 in current fund offerings and \$ 8379 more in expenses. The majority coming from property expenses.

This week: Greeter: Deb Wickboldt, Reader: Marcie Stern: Comm. Asst. Mary Anderson

Next week: Greeter: Marianne Watson; Readers: Marcie Stern; Comm. Asst.: David Reichert