

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 PENTECOST 15

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

PRELUDE

Beach Spring

Wilbur Held

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

HYMN

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512



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

Glory to God: Gloria a Dios

Glo - ria_a to Dios, glo - ria_a to Dios,
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria_a to 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.

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

Christine Cornwell

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.**

PSALM: Psalm 15 *read responsively*

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

PSALM RESPONSE

The musical score is for a unison response in 4/4 time, marked with a tempo of 78-100. It is written in G major (one sharp) and consists of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "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

ERICKSON

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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

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

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.

²¹“For 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

Change My Heart, O God

ELW 801

Refrain



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

End



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Refrain

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa
Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Barb, Hadley, Juanita, Nikki, Dan, Michael and those we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

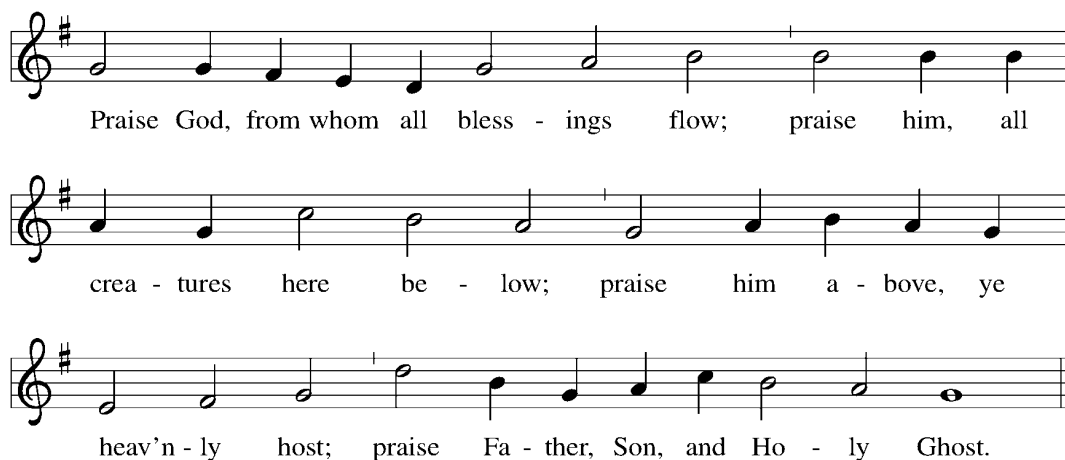


OFFERING *Hungry and Thirsty, Lord, We Come* Wm. Farley Smith Trinity Choir
Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide 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 mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer 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.

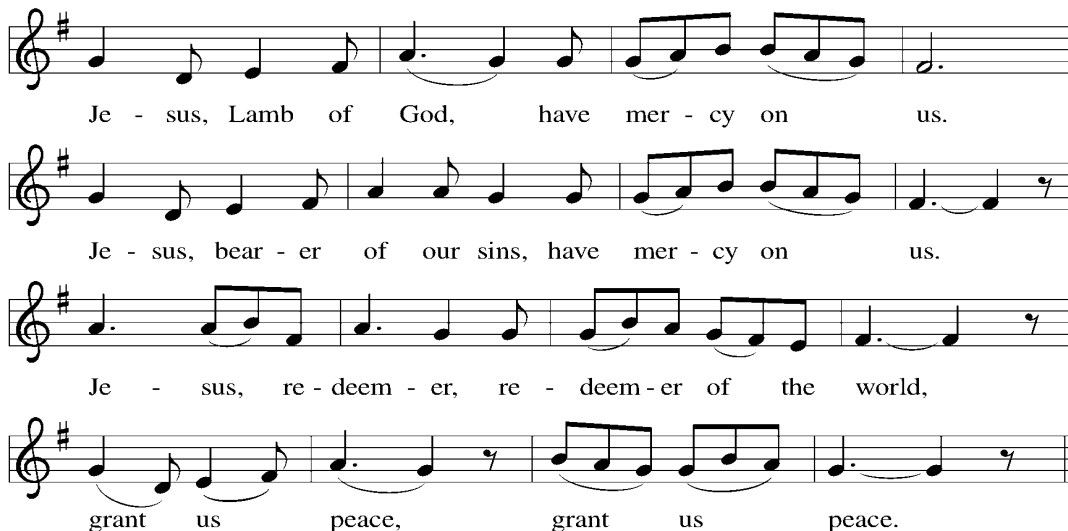
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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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God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -
vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we
so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the
síes la co - mu - nión; pues a - síes la co - mu - nión.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: NUESTRO PADRE, Miria T. Kolling
Spanish and English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.
Music © Miria T. Kolling.



1 Streng - then for ser - vice, Lord, the hands that ho - ly
2 The tongues that sang your ho - ly name now purge of
3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev - er



things have ta - ken; and let the ears that heard your
all de - cep - tion; keep bright the eyes that saw your
lured to wan - der; but lead the faith - ful nour - ished



word to false - hood nev - er wak - en.
love and sharp - en their per - cep - tion.
here to jour - ney on in splen - dor.

Text: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. composite
Music: BUCKHURST RUN, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart,



in my heart, Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
in my heart, Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
in my heart, Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
in my heart, Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: IN MY HEART, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Alleluia

George Blake

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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/>

This week: Greeter: David & Pam Reichert, Reader: : Comm. Asst. Mary Anderson

Next week: Greeters: Maxine Rogers, Deb Wickboldt; Reader: Pam Reichert;

Comm. Asst.: Deb Wickboldt

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

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, and allows them to shower. **Remember to wear your GWOH t-shirts to church!**

Food pantry donation request for September: peanut butter. 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.

TRENDING @ TRINITY

Trinity's Yard Sale Saturday, September 14th from 8 am until 1 pm.

Mark your calendar to bring your Yard Sale donations to the Parish Hall Monday, September 9 through Friday, September 13 between 9 am and noon. Members of the LCW will be on hand in the Parish Hall to take your donations and will then sort them and put on appropriate tables. *If you happen to have any extra hangers, please bring them during the drop off week.* If you have any questions, please contact Deb Wickboldt, Hilda Painter or any member of LCW. Thanks so much!!

Regarding what can be donated, please keep in mind:

- ~ all clothing MUST be clean and in good condition
- ~ if you want to bring books, that's fine, BUT *you must be willing to come back and take back any that haven't sold*
- ~ NO electronics (such as TV's, stereos, computers)
- ~ NO big furniture items

Sewing for the Savior and Lutheran Church Women resume their meetings this month. Sewing is open to all who are interested in hand sewing quilts. They meet in room 204, Tuesday Sept. 10 and 24 at 9:30 AM. LCW meets once a month (2nd Tue. of the month), Sept. 10 at 11:30AM in Room 205.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LUTHERAN IN A CRUCIAL ELECTION YEAR?

As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that “faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society” (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder some timely social teachings of the ELCA.

The sessions will be recorded presentations by the Kindling Faith program of United Lutheran Seminary from June 25 until October 22. Together, we will view and discuss them during a six-week adult study beginning September 15.

Session 1: Introduction to Social Teachings

Session 2: Corporate Social Responsibility

Session 3: Abortion

Session 4: Faith, Sexism and Justice

Session 5: Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide

Session 6: Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture