

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 20, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church



195 Claremont Avenue | P.O. Box 15303

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-435-9807

www.trinityjerseycity.com

The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

Order of Service

~ Gathering ~

† Welcome

*† Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection, and self-examination.)

P: Holy God,

C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: 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. **C: Amen**

*† Greeting

*† Entrance Hymn: “I Just Came To Praise The Lord” LMGM 302

I just came to praise the Lord

I just came to praise the Lord

I just came to praise His name

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

I just came to praise the Lord (Repeat)

He came into my life, One very special day

Oh, He came into my heart

To show me a better way

He said He'd never depart

And this is why I say

I just came to praise the Lord

And that's the reason why we sing

To give praise and glory to Jesus Christ

And this song was written

Especially to lead us

And to lead you into praise

The Bible says that He inhabits

The praises of His people

And if you're one of His

You won't mind singing this along with us

***† Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***† Kyrie**

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy,

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

***† Hymn of Praise**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

*This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

***† Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to

forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?"

† Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8; refrain, Ps. 145:8

Refrain: The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

¹ I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

² **Every day | will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

³ Great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works | to another**
and shall de- | clare your power. R

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

and all your | marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸ **The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

† Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th Chapter

C: Glory to you, Glory to you, Glory to you, O Lord

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise be to you, Praise be to you, Praise be to you O Christ

† Choir Anthem: “It’s Your Season (To Be Blessed)”

† Sermon: The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

*† Sermon Hymn: “Yield Not To Temptation” TFBF 195

*1 Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin;
Each vict’ry will help you, Some other to win;
Fight valiantly onward, Dark passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.*

Refrain:

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

*Ask the Savior to help you,
Comfort, strengthen and keep you;
He is willing to aid you,
He will carry you through.*

*2 Shun evil companions, Bad language disdain;
God's name hold in rev'rence,
Nor take it in vain;
Be thoughtful and earnest,
Kindhearted and true;
Look ever to Jesus,
He will carry you through. [Refrain]*

*3 God saves us in trial, God gives us the crown;
Through faith we will conquer,
Though often cast down;
Christ Jesus our Savior,
Our strength will renew;
Look ever to Jesus,
He will carry you through. [Refrain]*

~ Prayer ~

***† The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.*
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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 the People**

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Hold your church accountable for our unwillingness to share your good news and our anger at your generosity to others. Nourish us by your grace to be witnesses to your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide scientists and researchers studying responses to the climate crisis so that all your creation may inspire us to give thanks for your great goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Show employers the benefits of equal pay standards for all their employees. Reconcile conflicts between employees. Fill places of employment with camaraderie, and bring an end to employment disparity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Encourage any who cannot work or who cannot work a full day with the truth that their value comes from your everlasting love for them. Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen all those in this congregation whose labor serves the needs of others in the community (*especially*). Inspire all in this congregation to support community endeavors with our time and talents. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Comfort us with the promise of the resurrection as we remember all our loved ones whose desire to be with Jesus is fulfilled. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***† Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***† Offering Canticle**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence.
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***† Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

~ Meal ~

***† The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

A: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***† Words of Institution**

***† Lord's Prayer**

**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

† Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

† Communion Hymn: "Fill My Cup, Let It Overflow" TFBF 127

Refrain:

Fill my cup let it overflow

Fill my cup let it overflow

Fill my cup let it overflow

Let it overflow with Love

1 Lord, let me be your instrument,

Spreading sunshine in the land

Let all see your works in me;

Help me live the best I can [Refrain]

2 It's my desire to live for you

And to always walk upright

Give me strength to face each day;

Stay with me through each dark night [Refrain]

*† Post Communion Blessing

(After all have returned to their places:)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

*† Post Communion Canticle

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*† Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

***† Benediction**

***† Hymn: “Every Time I Feel The Spirit” TFBF 241**

Refrain:

*Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.*

*1 Upon the mountain my Lord spoke,
out of his mouth came fire and smoke. [Refrain]*

*2 All around me looked so fine,
asked my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]*

*3 Jordan River, chilly and cold,
chills the body but not the soul. [Refrain]*

***† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday via Zoom at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**. Next session Sept 23rd
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be Sunday, October 4th
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, October 9th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, October 8th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next session will be Saturday, October 3rd at 10AM at Grace Lutheran
- ◆ The **WELCA Gathering** will be Saturday, September 26th at Abiding Presence Church, Ewing, NJ. Please see Glynis Megargel for more info.
- ◆ Cooper DeGregorio, from **Thrivent**, will give a financial presentation following service
- ◆ Trinity's **Fundraiser Committee** will meet Tuesday, October 13th at 7:30PM via Zoom - **Meeting ID: 852 7666 8790 Passcode: 122562** All are invited!!!
- ◆ Trinity's **Fish-Fry fundraiser** will be Saturday, October 17th, 12 Noon - 4PM
- ◆ *Save the Date:* Trinity's **135th Anniversary Gala** will be Friday, October 23rd at Pines Manor, Edison, NJ. \$125.00 donation per person. *Secure your spot with \$25 down ASAP*. Full payment due by Sunday, Sept 27th.
- ◆ Trinity is selling the **Grand Lodge Charity Raffle Tickets** – Donation: \$5 per ticket. Amazing prizes including a new 2027 Mercedes-Benz! Money due by Sun, Oct 11th
- ◆ Trinity is selling "**Faith Over Fear**" T-Shirts in 3 different designs. Short-sleeved: \$20; Long-sleeved: \$23. Please check our website for the designs and order info.
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle.
- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
- ◆ For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807