

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 6, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM



SEEING GOD IN THE MIDST OF PAIN

Trinity Lutheran Church



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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: "This Is The Day" TFBF 262

*This is the day,
this is the day
that the Lord has made,*

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

*that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice,
we will rejoice
and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.*

*This is the day
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice
and be glad in it.*

*This is the day,
this is the day
that the Lord has made.*

(REPEAT ALL)

***† 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, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God – who is about to attack Jerusalem – gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

† **Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40; refrain, Ps. 119:35**

Refrain: I desire the path of your commandments.

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain. R**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me. R**

† **Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14**

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th Chapter

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

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals – and the church as a whole – should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 Good To Know Jesus"

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

*† Sermon Hymn: "Love Lifted Me" TFBF 188

*1 I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;
but the master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
from the waters lifted me, now safe am I.*

Refrain:

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help,

Love lifted me.

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help,

Love lifted me.

*2 All my heart to him I give, ever to him I'll cling,
in his blessed presence live, ever his praises sing;
love so mighty and so true merits my soul's best songs;
faithful loving service, too, to him belongs. [Refrain]*

*3 Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
he will lift you by his love out of the angry waves;
he's the master of the sea, billows his will obey;
he your Savior true will be; be saved today. [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.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for (*name/s, and*) all who have gone before us. 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 Cantic**

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.

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: "He Came Down" TFBF 37**

*1 He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love,
Hallelujah forevermore.*

*2 He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light;
He came down that we may have light,
Hallelujah forevermore.*

*3 He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace,
Hallelujah forevermore.*

*4 He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy,
Hallelujah forevermore.*

***† 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, September 20th
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, September 11th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, September 17th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next session will be Saturday, September 12th 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.
- ◆ Trinity will celebrate **God's Work. Our Hands. Day of Community Service!** – We will assemble Care Packages, offer Produce giveaway, Clothes giveaway, Voter Registration & Health info, Sunday, September 13th following service.
- ◆ Trinity's **Fundraiser Committee** will meet Tuesday, September 15th at 7:30PM via Zoom - **Meeting ID: 852 7666 8790 Passcode: 122562** All are invited!!!
- ◆ Trinity's **Fish-Fry fundraiser** will be Saturday, September 19th, 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!
- ◆ 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**