

CONNECTED TO CHRIST, CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 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: "Come By Here" TFBF 43

*1 Come by here, my Lord, come by here;
come by here, my Lord, come by here;*

*come by here, my Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.*

*2 Someone's crying, Lord, come by here;
someone's crying, Lord, come by here;
someone's crying, Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.*

*3 Someone's singing, Lord, come by here;
someone's singing, Lord, come by here;
someone's singing, Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.*

*4 Someone's praying, Lord, come by here;
someone's praying, Lord, come by here;
someone's praying, Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.*

*5 Someone needs you, Lord, come by here;
someone needs you, Lord, come by here;
someone needs you, Lord, come by here;
O Lord, come by here.*

***† 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**

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

† Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136; refrain, Ps. 119:130

Refrain: When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding.

¹²⁹ Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened | it gives light;
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do to those who | love your name. R**

¹³³ Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,
and I will keep | your commandments.**
¹³⁵ Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed | streams of tears,
because people do not | keep your teaching. R**

† Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*† Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th Chapter

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

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

† Adult Choir Anthem: "Lord Keep Me Day By Day"

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

*† Sermon Hymn: "A Follower Of Christ" LMGM 117

*1 1 I want to be a follower of Christ.
I want to be one of his disciples.
I want to live in the newness of life,
Just let me be a follower of Christ.*

*What do I have to do?
What do I have to say?
How do I have to walk each and ev'ry day?
Tell me what does it cost
if I carry the cross?
Just let me be a follower of Christ.*

*2 I want to be a fisher, now for Christ.
I want to bring other souls to him,
I want to help rid this world of its strife,
Just let me be a follower of Christ.*

*What do I have to do?
What do I have to say?
How do I have to walk each and ev'ry day?
Tell me what does it cost
if I carry the cross?
Just let me be a follower of Christ.*

~ Prayer ~

*† The Apostles' Creed

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

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**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us.
Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches
to wild places. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with
compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be
separated. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all
who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (*We pray especially
for . . .*) God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts,
annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation,
and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares
upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

***† Sharing of the Peace**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***† Offering Cantic**

*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: "Now Behold the Lamb" TFBF 128

*1 Now behold the Lamb,
the precious Lamb of God,
Who bore all my sin,
that I may live again;
The precious Lamb of God.*

*2 Holy is the Lamb,
the precious Lamb of God,
Why you love me so, Lord,
I shall never know;
The precious Lamb of God.*

*3 Thank you for the Lamb,
the precious Lamb of God,
Because of your grace,
I can finish the race;
The precious Lamb of God.*

*† 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

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

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: "Shine, Jesus Shine" TFBF 64**

Refrain:

*Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word, Lord,
and let there be light*

*1 Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me [Refrain]*

*2 As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever-changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me, shine on me [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**. *Will resume in September.*
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. *Next session will resume in September.*
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, August 14th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. *Will resume in September.*
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, September 10th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Fundraiser Committee** will meet Tuesday, August 11th at 7:30PM via Zoom - **Meeting ID: 852 7666 8790 Passcode: 122562** All are invited!!!
- ◆ Cooper DeGregorio from **Thrivent Financial** will give a financial planning presentation following service.
- ◆ Trinity's **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** will be the weeks of August 10 and August 17, Monday – Friday, 9am -3pm. Volunteers are needed!
- ◆ *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 "**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**