

21st Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 18, 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 Will Enter His Gates” TFBF 291

I will enter His gates

with thanksgiving in my heart;

I will enter His courts with praise.

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

*I will say this is the day
that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

*He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.
He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

***† 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**

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
 and riches hidden in secret places,
 so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
 the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
 and Israel my chosen,
 I call you by your name;
 I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
 and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
 I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the Lord do all these things.

† **Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; refrain, Ps. 96:7**

Refrain: Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

¹ Sing to the Lord | a new song;
 sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
² **Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the Lord;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
 and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods. R
⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
 but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.
⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the peoples,
 ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the Lord. R
⁹ Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
 tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.
 [¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The | Lord is king!**

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity.”

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth. **R]**

† Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd Chapter

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

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

† Choir Anthem: "Everything Will Be Alright"

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

***† Sermon Hymn: "Come And Go With Me To My Father's House" TFBF 141**

*1 Come and go with me to my Father's house,
to my Father's house, to my Father's house.
Come and go with me to my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!*

*2 It's not very far to my Father's house,
to my Father's house, to my Father's house.
It's not very far to my Father's house,*

where there's joy, joy, joy!

*3 Jesus is the way to my Father's house,
to my Father's house, to my Father's house.
Jesus is the way to my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!*

*4 Jesus is the light in my Father's house,
in my Father's house, in my Father's house.
Jesus is the light in my Father's house,
where there's joy, joy, joy!*

~ 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**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: "Come, Let Us Eat" TFBF 119

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,

come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Our Lord's body let us take together,

our Lord's body let us take together.

2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured

come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.

Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,

Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

*Congregation Standing

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*3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.*

*4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.*

***† 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.

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: "I'm Goin'-a Sing" TFBF 109**

*1 I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing.
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing.
I'm goin'a sing when the Spirit says sing,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.*

*2 I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray.
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray.
I'm goin'a pray when the Spirit says pray,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.*

*3 I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan.
I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan.
I'm goin'a moan when the Spirit says moan,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.*

*4 I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout.
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout.
I'm goin'a shout when the Spirit says shout,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.*

***† 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 Oct 28th
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be Sunday, November 1st
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, November 6th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, November 12th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next session will be Saturday, November 7th at 10AM at Grace Lutheran
- ◆ Trinity's **Fundraiser Committee** will meet Tuesday, October 20th at 7:30PM via Zoom - **Meeting ID: 852 7666 8790 Passcode: 122562** All are invited!!!
- ◆ Trinity offers **Math & Reading Tutoring** through the 2026-2027 school year. Time: 10AM–12:30PM | Dates: Oct 24th, Oct 31st, Nov 14th, Nov 21st, Nov 28th
- ◆ Trinity's **135th Anniversary Gala** will be Friday, October 23rd at Pines Manor, Edison, NJ. \$125.00 donation per person. Click here for the digital brochure where you can purchase tickets or make a donation: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/trinity-lutheran-churchs-135th-anniversary-fundraising-gala>
- ◆ Trinity's **135th Church Anniversary Friends & Family Worship Service** will be Sunday, October 25th at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Community Push** will host a **Timeless Treasurers Luncheon** on Thursday, October 29th – more info to come
- ◆ Trinity's **Community Push** will host **A Conversation with the Rev. Dr. Annette Jones: Depression “The fog that will not lift”** on Thursday, Dec 17th via Zoom at 7PM - **Meeting ID: 884 6464 3918 Passcode: 440471**
- ◆ 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>

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

- ♦ For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807

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