

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM

I'm Not For Sale, My Soul Can't Be Bought



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: “Leaning On The Everlasting Arms” TFBF 220

*1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,*

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

*Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]*

*3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]*

***† 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: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

† **Psalm: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; refrain, Ps. 103:8**

Refrain: Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy.

[¹ Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
² **Bless the Lord, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits —
³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶ **O Lord, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
] ⁸ **Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R
⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord. **R**

† Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th Chapter

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

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

⁴ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

† Youth Anthem: "Shake The Devil Off"

† Choir Anthem: "If I Be Lifted Up"

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

*† Sermon Hymn: "Bless The Lord" TFBF 273

Refrain:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

*He has done great things,
he has done great things,*

*he has done great things,
bless his holy name! [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.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders (*like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today*) to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember (*name/s, and*) all those 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.

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

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: "Have You Got Good Religion?" TFBF 113**

*1 Have you got good religion? Cert'nly, Lord!
Have you got good religion? Cert'nly, Lord!
Have you got good religion? Cert'nly, Lord!
Cert'nly, cert'nly, cert'nly, Lord!*

*2 Have you been redeemed? Cert'nly, Lord!
Have you been redeemed? Cert'nly, Lord!
Have you been redeemed? Cert'nly, Lord!
Cert'nly, cert'nly, cert'nly, Lord!*

*3 Have you been to the water? Cert'nly, Lord!
Have you been to the water? Cert'nly, Lord!
Have you been to the water? Cert'nly, Lord!
Cert'nly, cert'nly, cert'nly, Lord!*

4 Have you been baptized? Cert'nly, Lord!

Have you been baptized? Cert'nly, Lord!

Have you been baptized? Cert'nly, Lord!

Cert'nly, cert'nly, cert'nly, Lord!

***† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

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, October 9th 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, 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.
- ◆ 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**