



PENTECOST SEVENTEEN

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Saline, Michigan

September 20, 2026

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THANK YOU for joining us in God's house today! We cordially ask that our guests sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a "Let's Get Acquainted" card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

THANK OFFERING: Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

RESTROOMS are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

In His Word, God makes it clear that the Lord's Supper is to be shared by people of a common proclamation of faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. Page 295 in the front of Christian Worship provides a guide for preparation.

Trinity Lutheran Church follows the historic Christian practice of *close communion*. We ask that only members of Trinity or one of our sister congregations partake of the sacrament.

Guests, we would love to have you join us in communion fellowship in the future, and for that to be possible, we ask that you meet the pastor so that we may speak with you on how that would be possible. We thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our congregations.

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

579 His Mercy Is More

CW 579



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
 2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
 3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
 what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
 his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
 He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
 We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
 our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).

Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

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727703

Please stand if you are able

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in

all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,

you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;

you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and

ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,

but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Jonah 3:10—4:11

¹⁰When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

¹But to Jonah all this seemed very bad, and he became very angry. ²He prayed to the LORD, “LORD, wasn't this exactly what I said when I was still in my own country? That is why I previously fled to Tarshish, because I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and you relent from sending disaster. ³So now, LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

⁴But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

⁶Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

Jonah said, “I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!”

¹⁰So the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. ¹¹So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?”

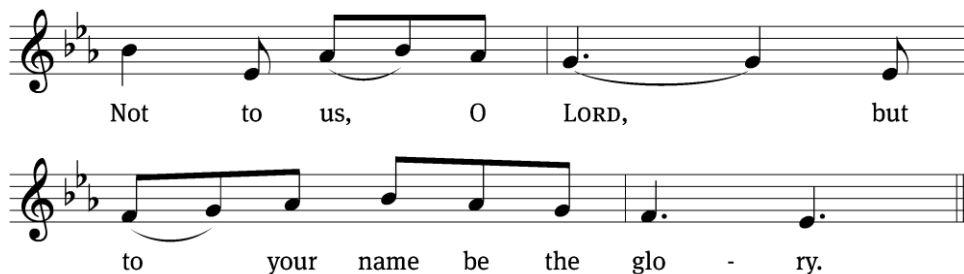
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

115A Not to Us, O LORD

Psalm 115A

Refrain



Tone



Why do the nations say, "Where / is their God?"

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,
he will bless those who / fear the LORD—
small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Michael D. Schultz

Setting: Michael D. Schultz

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Second Reading

Romans 9:6–16

⁶This does not mean that God's word has failed, because not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, ⁷and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁰Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac. ¹¹Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue— ¹²not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! ¹⁵For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

¹⁶So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand if you are able

VERSE OF THE DAY

Ephesians 2:8

Alleluia. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. Alleluia.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

¹“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. ⁴To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. ⁶When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’

⁷“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’

“He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’

⁹“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. ¹⁰When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. ¹¹After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ¹²“Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’

¹³“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. ¹⁵Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

558 Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558 sts. 1-3, 5-6, 10



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and
2 What God did in his law de - mand and none to him could
3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had
5 Yet as the law must be ful - filled or we must die de -



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and
ren - der caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand for man, the
giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re-deem and by their
spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, our hu - man



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who
vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those pure de - sires the
works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to
na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the law o - beyed and



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.
spir - it of the law re - quires, and lost is our con - di - tion.
bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.
thus the Fa - ther's ven - ge - ance stayed which o - ver us im - pend - ed.

6 Since Christ has full atonement made
and brought to us salvation,
each Christian therefore may be glad
and build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
your death is now my life indeed,
for you have paid my ransom.

10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
to Father, Son, and Spirit,
the God who saved us by his grace;
all glory to his merit!
O triune God in heav'n above,
you have revealed your saving love;
your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr., alt.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Etlich Cristlich lider, Wittenberg, 1524
Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Romans 14:5-9

⁵One person values one day above another. Another person values every day the same. Let each person be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The person who honors a certain day does this for the Lord, and the person who eats does this for the Lord, because he gives thanks to God. And the person who does not eat does this for the Lord and gives thanks to God.

⁷In fact, not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself. ⁸Indeed, if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹For this reason he died, rose, and lived, to be Lord of both the dead and the living.

“If God Doesn’t Judge, Don’t You!”

Please stand if you are able

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Please be seated as we prepare the altar for Holy Communion

Please stand if you are able

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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



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

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

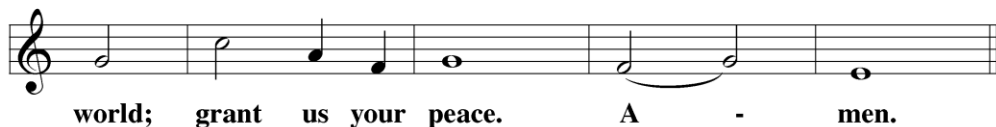
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



Please be seated

878 Christ Alone the World's Redeemer

CW 878



1 Christ a - lone the world's Re - deem - er, Christ, God's own be -
 2 Word a - lone, in - spired and ho - ly, Word re - veal - ing
 3 Grace a - lone, and not our work - ing, brings sal - va - tion
 4 Faith a - lone from God the Spir - it can God's gra - cious
 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry, to the Fa - ther,



got - ten Son, Christ, the sac - ri - fice for sin - ners,
 Christ our Lord, liv - ing, ac - tive voice of Je - sus,
 un - to all. Grace a - lone! Your gifts you give us
 gift re - ceive; not by hu - man works or ef - fort,
 and the Son, and to God the Ho - ly Spir - it;



by his death sal - va - tion won. Christ a - lone our me - di -
 sharp - er than a two - edged sword, Word to teach and to ad -
 as we hear your gen - tle call. Un - i - mag - ined love—ex -
 God is call - ing to be - lieve. Faith is liv - ing, bus - y,
 glo - ry to the Three in One. Hymned by saints of earth and



a - tor, Christ a - lone our great High Priest, in his right - eous -
 mon - ish, Word to com - fort and to heal— God's own Word en -
 chang - ing all our sin for right - eous - ness, grace on grace thro'
 ac - tive, ev - er seek - ing ways to care, in the least, the
 heav - en and by an - gels at his throne, all cre - a - tion



ness he clothes us. Christ a - lone is our true peace.
 dures for - ev - er all his coun - sel to re - veal.
 Christ re - ceiv - ing, clothed in his own ho - li - ness.
 lost, the need - y, seek - ing Je - sus ev - 'ry - where.
 joins to praise him: glo - ry be to God a - lone!

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964

Tune: Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contradanseu, Amsterdam, c. 1710

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Tune: Public domain

575 By Grace I'm Saved

CW 575



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
 3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
 earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
 by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
 la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
 prom - ise I re - joice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false-hood taught? So then this
 mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
 con - science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
 trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
 di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is



word must true re - main: by grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
 grace, and grace a - lone, that brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
 can - not com - pre-hend God by his grace to you did send.
 help and strength se - cure if grace were not my an - chor sure?
 glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand if you are able



M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Please be seated

Please stand for the final verse of the closing hymn

582 Not unto Us CW 582



1 Not un - to us, not un - to us be glo - ry, Lord;
2 A - maz - ing grace— that chose us ere the worlds were made;
3 O faith - ful love— that shep - herd - ed through faith - less years;
4 Not un - to us but to your name be glo - ry, Lord,



not un - to us but to your name be praise;
a - maz - ing grace— that sent your Son to save;
for - giv - ing love— that led us to your truth;
for grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.



not un - to us but to your name all hon - or be giv'n
a - maz - ing grace— that robed us in your right - eous - ness
un - yield - ing love— that would not let us turn — from you
A - bide with us till trav - 'ling days are o - ver and done,



for match - less mer - cy, for - give - ness, and grace.
and taught our lips to sing glo - ry and praise.
but sent us forth to speak par - don and peace.
and pil - grim feet lead us home, Lord, to you.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993, alt.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Officiant.....Pastor Ralph Stuebs
Organist.....Sarah Hanke
Preservice Instrumentalist.....Amelia Hanke
Deacons.....Ron Roehm and Jim Tice
Ushers.....Al Whitley and Tim Phelps
Altar Guild.....Marica Marion and Melissa Daugherty
Videographer.....Jake Vershum

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