

Triune Lutheran Church

There's power in love to help
and heal when nothing else can.
There's power in love to lift up
and liberate when nothing else
will. There's power in love to
show us the way to live.

Bishop Michael Curry

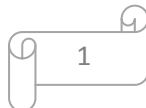


Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



*We thank you for joining us here
at Triune Lutheran Church, a
family united by our Risen Lord,
Jesus Christ!*



In order to make you feel more at home, here are a few notes about the service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We hope to make your time here as meaningful as possible!

Worship

- The * by the headings throughout the service indicate when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- The light print will be spoken by the pastor or another worship leader, while we encourage you to speak the **bold print**.
- The hymns are chosen from our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal, which is the red book directly in front of you in the pews. You will find the hymns in the last two-thirds of the book with the bold numbers on the top of the pages.
- We welcome all the baptized to join us in the Lord's Supper, where we believe Jesus is present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine as his body and blood. After the organist and assisting minister commune, you will be invited to come forward up the non-organ side aisle to the pastor, who will give you bread (gluten-free wafers also available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the bread in your hands and then dip it into the chalice of wine for intinction. You may also come forward to receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded. You may return to your seat up the center aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available at the center-aisle end of the pew to learn more about us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

*You are invited to kneel or remain standing. Silence is kept
for reflection and self-examination.*

Eternal God our creator,

in you we live and move and have our being.

**Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.**

**Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty
desires.**

**By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Lead On, O King Eternal”

ELW 805

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Continue to give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹[A voice] said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.²And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. ³He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants are impudent

and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, “Thus says the Lord GOD.” ⁵Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 123

¹To you I lift | up my eyes,
to you enthroned | in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their
masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand | of her
mistress,**

**so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until
you show | us your mercy.**

³Have mercy upon us, O | LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough | of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the in- | dolent rich,
and of the derision | of the proud.**

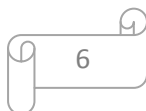
SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows—⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard

things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. ⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus] came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.²On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. ⁴Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in

their own house.” ⁵And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. ⁶And he was amazed at their unbelief.

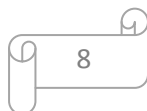
Then he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY
“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

ELW 786



***APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION**

Growing in faith and discipleship, we give thanks for God's merciful compassion as we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Lord God, equip all your faithful people for the work of mission. When we are empty-handed, give us partners in ministry. Help us to speak boldly of your promises without reservation or fear. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you breathe life into the dust of the earth. Bless the land and all who work it. Bring relief to areas of drought and famine. Send healing rains and cooling breezes to places scorched by sun and heat. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, when the nations are rebellious, raise up prophets and leaders to proclaim your way of justice. Provide for the needs of refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and exiles. Protect all who live in areas of war and conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, your grace is more than sufficient to bring wholeness to human weakness. Restore hope to those suffering hardships, persecutions, and calamities. Strengthen all who are fragile in body, mind, or spirit, including Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Gary Weiss, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny Bennett, Richard Jakubcin, George Tomeselli, those serving in the armed forces, and all those we name in our hearts...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, as the family of Triune, renew our commitment to the work of hospitality. Help us to be living examples of your grace and generosity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord God, you equip disciples throughout the ages to proclaim your kingdom. Lead us by faith until every weakness of this world has been made perfect in the power of your everlasting glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we lift to you these prayers and the prayers of our hearts, trusting in your everlasting love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

***PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!

And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING HYMN**

“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

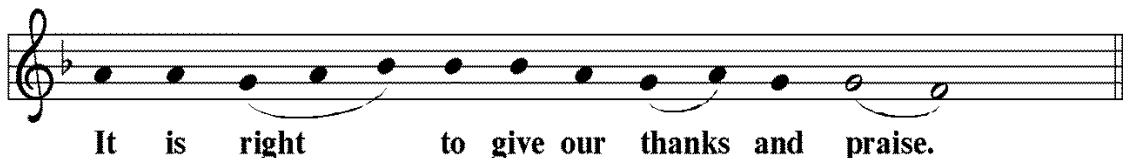
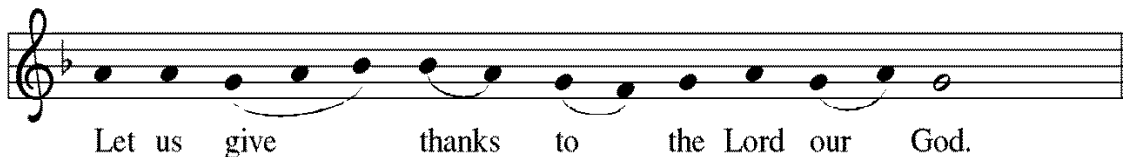
Verse 1

ELW 479

*OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,
you open wide your hand
and satisfy the need of every living thing.
You have set this feast before us.
Open our hands to receive it.
Open our hearts to embrace it.
Open our lives to live it.
We pray this through Christ our Lord.
Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals, the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, you are among us and in this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our
Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

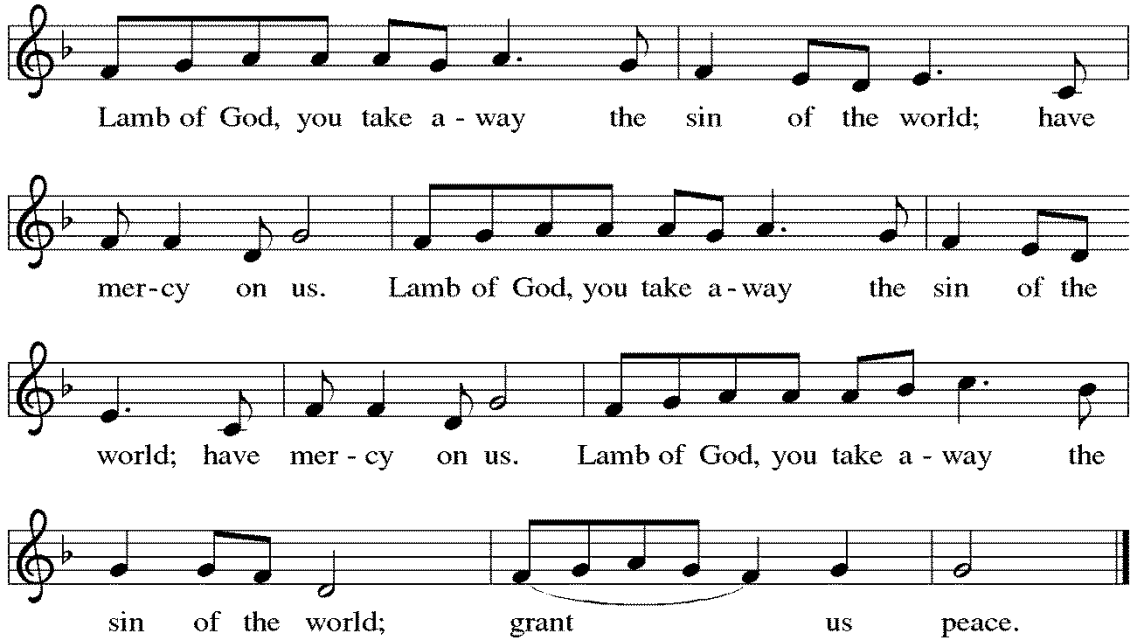
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast of joy is spread before you!
Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
you have given us not only this bread and cup,
but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
may we hunger for your reign of justice,
may we thirst for your way of peace,
for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen!

***BLESSING**

May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever. **Amen!**

***SENDING HYMN**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW 656

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve!
Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: ***All People***
Pastor: ***Brad Ross***
Worship Leader: ***Dale Kirk***
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

When a Loss is a Win

Or, “Who Wants Snack?”

My younger son was playing coach-pitch baseball. They weren't a very good team, losing a lot more often than they won. They were 7 years old, and most of them had the attention span of a gnat. They spent most of their time jostling and picking on each other. They seldom knew much about what was going on, even when they themselves were at bat or in the field.

After each game was over, as they lined up to shake hands with the other team, I would hear the boys ask the coach, “Did we win? Did we win?” If the coach said “yes,” they would cheer; if the coach said “no,” they would kick the ground. Then they would say, “What's for snack?”

Adult winning and losing is usually much more complicated than that. But it is important for all of us to learn to deal with losing, with failure, with disappointment—because long experience shows that most of us, most of the time, lose more than we win. And when we lose, it takes more than a snack to cheer us up and make us feel better.

Our Scripture lessons deal with people “losing,” encountering very real and painful failure in their lives. Their losses, their failures go beyond competition and games and what's for snack. Their failures are failures at life, failures at vocation, failures in health and failures in faith.

Our Scripture lessons deal with people “losing,” encountering very real and painful failure in their lives.

Ezekiel: the prophet—to whom no one would listen. Paul: the healer—who could not heal himself. Jesus: the preacher teacher, miracle man—who could work no miracles at home. Each learned a valuable lesson from their failure: how to know when a loss is a win.

Ezekiel's story begins like all good prophet stories; the people are acting like total pagans. They have turned their backs on God and godly ways. God decides to send a prophet to straighten them out. In Chapter 1, Ezekiel has a vision. In Chapter 2, God begins to speak to Ezekiel: " 'Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel ... who have rebelled against me. ... You shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' "

So far, so good and so normal. This is how it works with God and prophets and the people of Israel in the Bible. Then, God says a strange thing: "Whether they hear or refuse to hear ... they shall know that there has been a prophet among them." (verse 5) Success or failure, winning or losing, is not the issue. The important thing is that they hear the truth, that they know "there has been a prophet among them." As it happens, the people didn't listen, and God sent them into exile, and the people rewarded Ezekiel for speaking out by treating him very shabbily. By all external measures, Ezekiel failed and failed miserably. But Ezekiel's loss was a win, because he was faithful to the truth. When Ezekiel was finished, the people knew there had been a prophet among them.

Nobody knows what Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was, but that is not important. What matters is that Paul prayed very hard and very long and very faithfully for this thorn to be removed, and it wasn't. Paul lost the struggle for victory over a physical problem, and this loss created for him a spiritual problem, a crisis of faith. This failure to pray himself out of this physical problem led him to question his faith. It was an experience that could have shattered his trust in God, but instead it humbled him and strengthened his faith. Paul's thorn in the flesh was a loss that turned into a win.

The story of Jesus returning home to preach occurs early in his ministry. Up until now, the Jesus of Nazareth Traveling Salvation Show and Tent Revival has been a roaring success. The first five chapters of Mark are filled with healing stories and reports of huge crowds of people coming to hear Jesus preach. Immediately before this story, he had raised Jairus' daughter from the dead and healed the woman with the flow of blood.

So, he takes the tour to Nazareth, his hometown and falls flat on his face. They question his legitimacy. "Isn't this Mary's son? The carpenter? Where did he get this?" They "took offense at him;" where I come from they would have said, "Who does he think he is?" And, somehow, their resentment results in his inability to perform miracles and other healings. One little line shows us Jesus being very human; "He was amazed at their unbelief." Jesus just couldn't believe it. He was stunned.

That day in Nazareth, Jesus had a loss that was a win. From it he learned the limits to his power.

He learned you can control what you say; you cannot control what people hear. He learned you can control what you do; you cannot control how people respond. He learned you can control how you show your love; you cannot control how people receive it.

I like to imagine that when we “get to heaven,” most of us will be like 7-year-old baseball players. We will cry out, “Did we win?” because we really won’t know. And the Jesus will look at us with a smile and say, “Who wants snack?”

Amen and amen.

Delmer Chilton is originally from North Carolina and received his education at the University of North Carolina, Duke Divinity School and the Graduate Theological Foundation. He received his Lutheran training at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. Ordained in 1977, Delmer has served parishes in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

*This, and many resources for the journey of faith, may be found at LivingLutheran.org.
You can also check out our website for other stories: triunelutheran.com.*

Covenant Farmers' Market

The eighth season of Covenant Farmers' Market runs every Saturday until October 6 (9:30AM-1:30PM). The market is held in the parking lot behind the church rain or shine. In addition to locally grown vegetables and fruit, plants, fresh baked goods, jams and jellies, prepared foods and ready to eat items as well as crafts, books and more. So stop by on Saturday for your weekly shopping needs, to meet new people, and to have a great grilled sausage, chips, and a can of pop for two bucks. We look forward to seeing you there! For general market questions, or even to become a vendor, call the church at 216-662-0370.

Lutheran Church of the Covenant
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