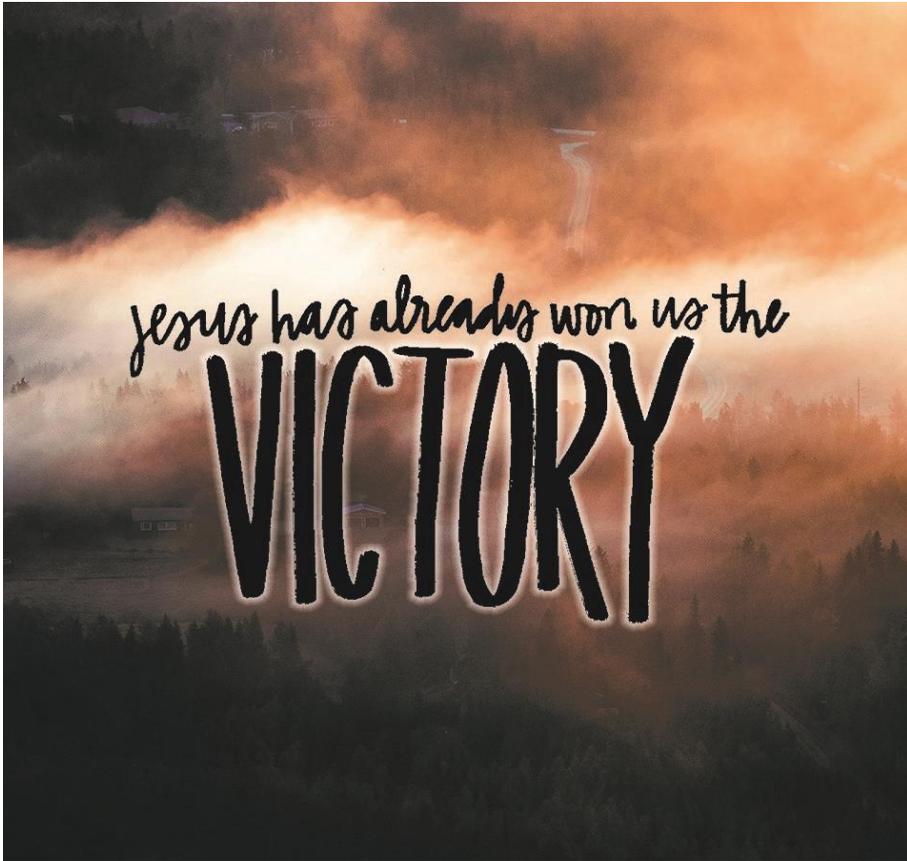


Triune Lutheran Church



Fourteenth 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**

“O Zion, Haste”

ELW 668

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the

region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do
evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the
earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.
²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**
²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.
²²O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be
punished.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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**

John 6:56-69

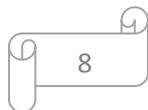
The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

ELW 729

***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**

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

God of all, bless the church universal in every place, inspiring strength and courage to boldly proclaim the Greatest News of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, bless wild animals and family pets, prairies and kitchen gardens, beaches and sandboxes, mountains and hearths. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of justice, spread the Gospel throughout the nations of the world, announcing the words of eternal life to peoples in every land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, remember the poor and the brokenhearted and rescue all those in trouble, including Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, Gary Weiss, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Ed Uhlir, Jenny Bennett, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces, and all those we name in our hearts...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of new life, watch over all our sisters and brothers in Christ of the Triune family; that along all our ways, you will empower us to serve Christ in sincerity and faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, redeem the lives of those who have served in the faith and raise them up, according to the promises of Jesus Christ, the bread that nourishes eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always!
And also with you.

OFFERING

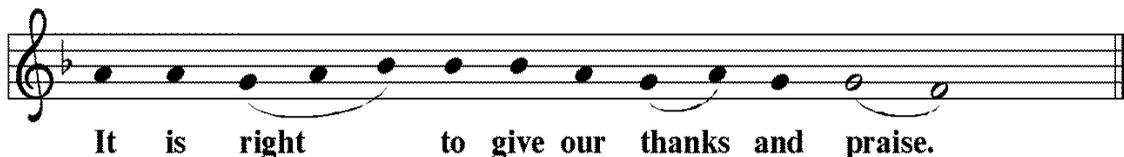
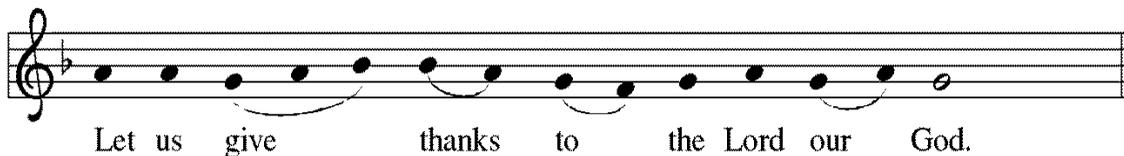
***OFFERING HYMN**

“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**

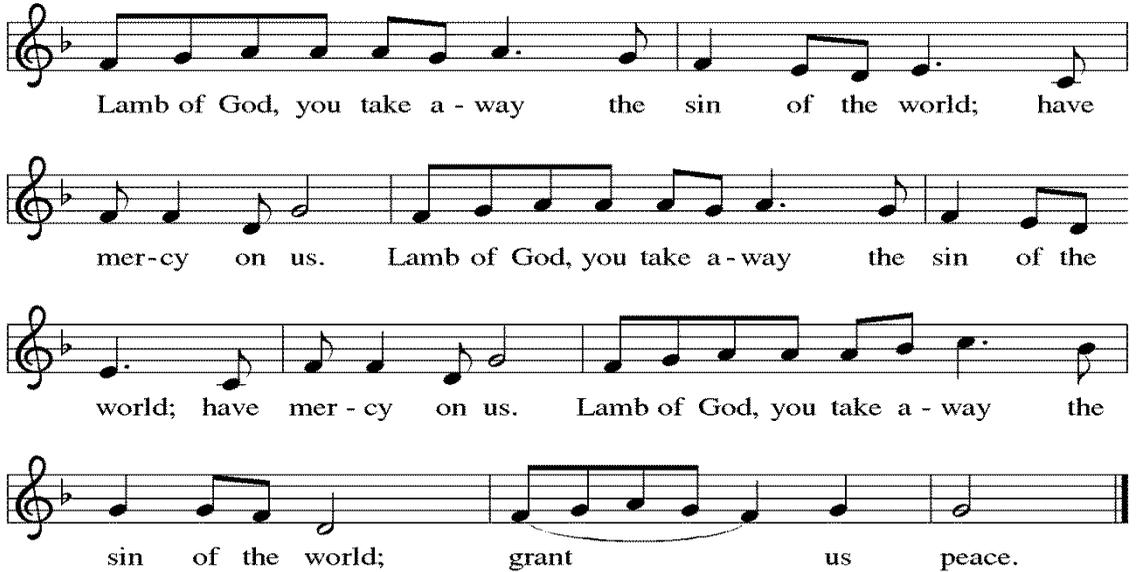
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is 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 us all!

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**

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

***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: ***Heidi Bailey***
Organist: ***Edith Schatt***
Office Manager: ***Jan Piskac***

Whom You Gonna Serve?

“Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve.” — Joshua 24:15a

“Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’” — John 6:66-67

Bob Dylan, in his song “Gotta Serve Somebody,” clearly lays out the options presented to the Israelites in Joshua, the disciples in the Gospel lesson and to each of us this, and every, day: *“Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”*

When I was a student in the divinity school at Duke University, there was a “shaggy dog” story going the rounds about a fraternity hazing prank. Seems the frat brothers kidnapped a pledge from his dorm, took him way out into the North Carolina countryside and put him out of the car with nothing on but a Duke Blue Devil mascot outfit. The young man trudged through the night, calculating how long it would take him to walk the 30 miles back to campus. After an hour or so, he saw some lights back in the woods, then he heard music and singing. It was a country church in the midst of a revival meeting. He thought to himself, “Church people are good people. Surely someone will give me a ride back to Duke.” So he walked across the parking lot and in the front door. The preacher stopped his preaching and stared. Everyone else turned to look at what the preacher was looking at, and then they stared too. Suddenly, the preacher dove out the window. The other folk began diving out windows too, until there was only one person left. She was too old and too frail to dive out the window, and the devil was standing between her and the church’s only door. She began to sidle down the aisle while talking in a soft voice, “Mr. Devil, my husband, bless his heart, was a deacon in this church for almost 40 years, one of my sons is a missionary, and my daughter is married to a pastor, and I was president of the Women’s Missionary Society for 20 years, but I just want you to know—I been on your side all along!”

“Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”

Forty years after their ancestors left Egypt, the Israelites are about to enter the promised land. The people are a bit unsure about the future. It has become clear that God’s gift comes with a few strings attached. There is still much work to be done and obstacles to be overcome, not the least of which is the fact there are already people living there.

In the verses we didn't read, Joshua lays out for the people a history of God's saving acts beginning with the calling of Abram and Sarai and moving through their liberation from Egypt, and their wandering in the wilderness. He reminds the people of their sacred history, of how God has seen them through, God has provided, God has made a way. Then he puts their choice, before them: Joshua 24:15—*“Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve.”* Choose this day. Decide. “You gonna have to serve somebody.” Who's it going to be?

For the last month or so the lectionary has led us through the sixth chapter of John. We have seen Jesus preaching to large crowds, feeding the 5,000, being followed about by crowds from here to there. The Jesus movement has begun to pick up steam. Jesus appears to have folk in palm of his hand. They are ready to follow him anywhere ... except where he is actually going.

When Jesus tells them, “I am not just another rabbi, a faith healing miracle man. I am the Son of God. I am the Living Bread from Heaven, I am the Christ,” the people say, “Whoa, this is heavy. This is—this is weird. This is hard. This is leading somewhere I'm not sure I want to go.”

It is becoming clear to the people who have been following Jesus around, listening to him talk, watching him heal people and eating at his overflowing table that to follow Jesus from here on out will be to go against their culture. It will make them religious and social outcasts. They are being asked to “choose this day,” and they do. They choose to go away, in droves. This is too hard, too difficult for them.

Jesus then turns to the twelve, to his closest companions, to the chosen ones. He looks them in the eye and ask them directly what they are going to do, “Do you also wish to go away?”

“Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you're gonna have to serve somebody.”

The Israelites chose to follow the Lord. *“Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods”* (Joshua 24:16).

The twelve decided to stay with Jesus. *“Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe that you are the Holy One of God”* (John 6:68-69.)

The Israelites and the twelve made their decision years ago. Today these questions are before each of us: How do we decide? Whom will we serve? Do we wish to stay with Jesus, or go away?

Amen and amen.

The Rev. 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.



On Sunday, September 9 (Sunday after Labor Day weekend), we invite you to join us as we sing some of our favorite hymns! So, in the next week (by September 2), we encourage you to let us know **your** favorites. You don't have to know which hymnal it's in/from; just simply let us

know the title. You can call the church office, e-mail, let Pastor Brad or Edith know, or even drop a piece of paper in the offering plate or during office hours on a weekday. Then, come September 9, as we sing praises to the God of everlasting life!