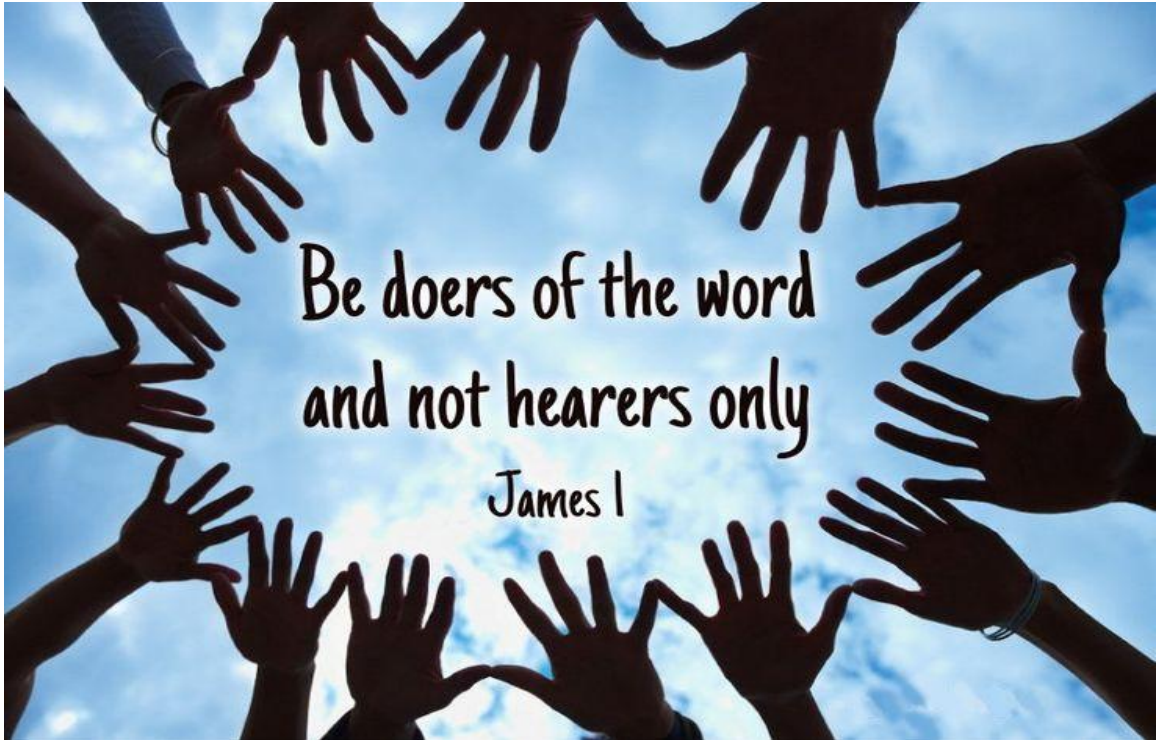


Triune Lutheran Church



Fifteenth 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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the † holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen!

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

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

Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.**

We fear that we are not good enough.

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,**

act for what is just,

and seek the healing of your whole creation.

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven,
✠ God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen!**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Jesus Loves Me”

ELW 595

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward
creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the
outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within
ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances
that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to
enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your
ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to
what I command you nor take away anything from it, but
keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I
am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your
wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they
hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a

wise and discerning people!” ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,**

who speak the truth | from their heart;

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

SECOND READING

James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live

according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

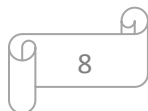
This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord!
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW 807



***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**

**Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for
the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.**

A brief silence

Gracious God, we lift up all those who labor to bear your word into the world by welcoming the stranger, healing the sick, and caring for the orphan. Embolden your whole church to take up the cross against the powers of oppression and death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, we lift up your Creation. Keep watch over those who rescue endangered species and repair scorched landscapes. And make us all good stewards of creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we lift up the nations of the world, for governments, leaders, and citizens. Watch over refugees and immigrants. Inspire us to welcome them with glad hearts when they arrive in our neighborhoods. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you call us to serve our neighbors. Bless our vocations as we fill the cups of the thirsty, the plates of the hungry, and the hearts of the lonely. Make our presence your presence for all who experience sorrow, including Hazel Schwab, Trudy Weidman, 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.**

Welcoming God, at tables around the world, through story and meal, strangers become guests and guests become friends. Embolden us as the Triune family to always extend the wide-armed welcome you extend to us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses, including Gary Weiss, whose lives inspire us to loving service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

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”

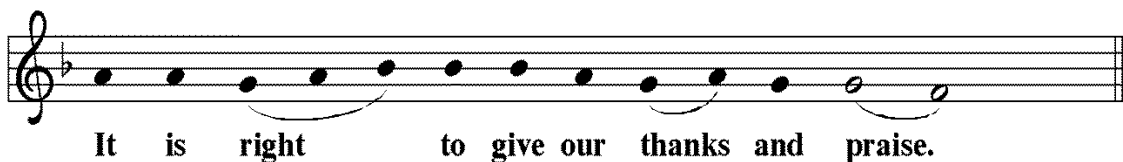
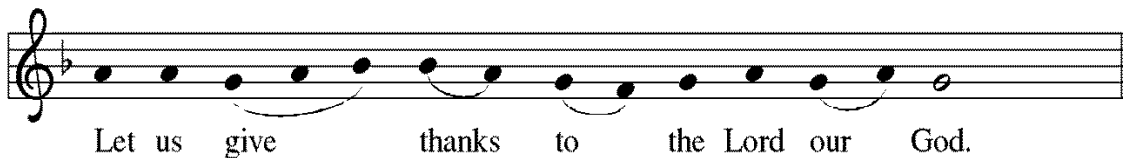
Verse 1

ELW 479

*OFFERING PRAYER

God of life,
you give us these gifts of the earth,
these resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.
Amen!

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

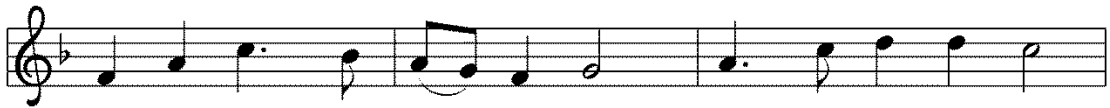


*PREFACE

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 Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your
abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting
feast.

As the Holy Spirit, nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup shape us to be the living body of
Christ.

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

Amen!

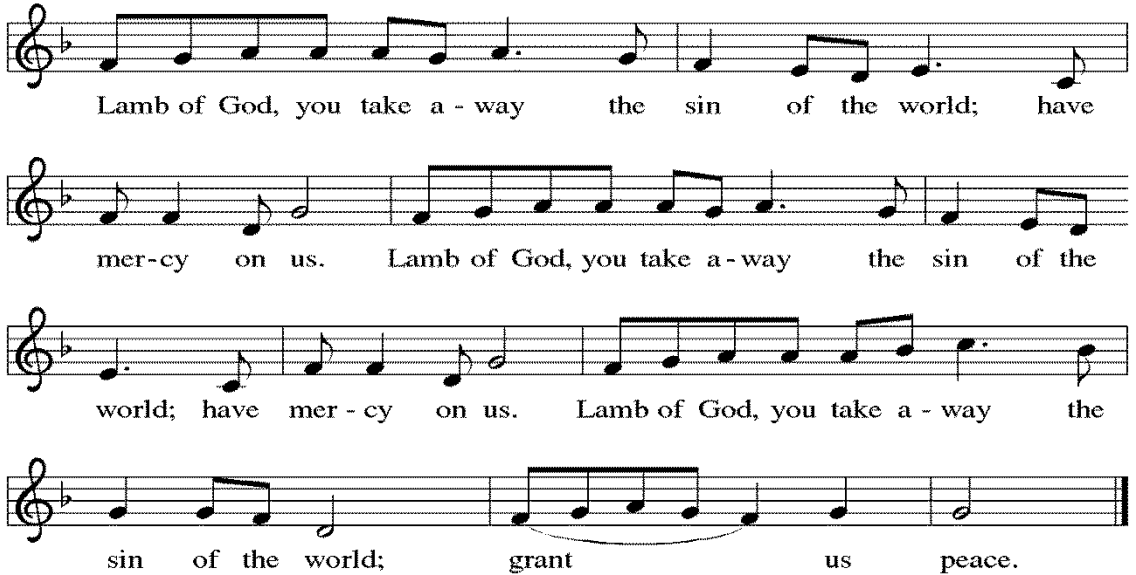
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with 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

Holy and compassionate God,
in bread and wine you give us gifts
that form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
in our serving and in our witness,
that we might speak a living voice
of healing and justice to all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen!**

***BLESSING**

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

ELW 888

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Good News!

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***

The Flower bouquet for September 2 is from The Jakubcin's
for Richard's Birthday. Happy Birthday Richard!

It's the Relationships, Not the Rules

In our gospel reading, Jesus confronts people who focus on obeying the rules while ignoring the relationships for which the rules exist. This is sometimes true of us as well. We make religious rules that are intended to help us live together as people of God. Then, over time, we forget that the rules are there to help us, not to hurt us; to bring us together, not push us apart. What really matters are our relationships with each other as a sacred community, as the body of Christ—not strict adherence to rules.

There used to be a 1918 Dodge Touring Car on display in the Car Collectors Museum in Nashville, Tenn. Its little placard told an interesting story. “In 1918, the father of Albert Hillyard bought this car for \$785. In 1921, Albert and his brother got into an argument over who got to drive the car into town on Saturday night. Their father drove the car into the garage and shut the door. There the car remained until found 38 years later, covered with dirt and chicken manure, with only 1800 miles on the odometer.”

I've thought about Mr. Hillyard and his Dodge Touring Car many times over the years. Dad attempted to heal the breach between his children by making a rule. “OK, neither one of you gets to drive it!” I'm willing to bet that the boys just went on to argue about something else, and then about something else, and then about something else. The car wasn't the problem. The problem was the jealousy and strife that lived in that family and in those brother's hearts. They didn't need rules and judgment—they needed reconciliation. So it is with all of us. Because our problem lies within our hearts, our healing must start there as well. Jesus calls us to understand that it's not about the rules; it's about the relationships—the relationship between us and God and the relationships between us and others.

After I left the family farm, my first real job was as a daycare worker. Besides supervising the playground and changing diapers and serving lunch, I had the great pleasure of watching *Sesame Street* every afternoon from 4 to 5 o'clock. Seriously, it was a great pleasure; I really liked it. One night recently I saw a documentary on the making of *Sesame Street*. Someone asked the producer about the reaction of the child actors to working with the Muppets, who are, after all, puppets with a human being crouched on the floor holding them up with one arm. The producer said the kids don't pay any attention to the humans; they just talk to the Muppets. In fact, he said, there was one child who saw Big Bird take off his top half and an actor step out. The child stared and then yelled to his mother, “Mom, Mom. Do you think Big Bird knows he has a man inside?”

The purpose of the law is to remind us that we have a human being inside, inside our heart, inside our soul, in our center of being—in that part of us that makes us something other than a thinking animal. The law also reminds us that everyone else has that hidden humanity, that heart and soul, that center that belongs to God. In today’s lesson, Jesus invites us to remember that communal broken center in our dealings with each other. Jesus invites us to remember that we are called to transcend the rules in the name of love.

That’s why Jesus says, “*there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.*” (Mark 7:15). And also, “*for it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come*” (7:21) Blaise Pascal said in his *Pensees*, “*There is a hole in the heart of everyone that only God can fill.*” And St. Augustine prayed, “*Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in thee.*”

No rules or regulations or guidelines can change our hearts. Only God can do that. Only God’s Spirit can move us in that way. Only the Cross of Christ, only the broken body and spilt blood of Jesus can break our hearts enough that we will let the love of God flow in to change and reshape us.

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.

You may find this article and other resources for your faith journey at

LivingLutheran.org

Or through our website: TriuneLutheran.com



Next Sunday, September 9, we invite you to join us as we sing some of our favorite hymns! So, if you haven't already done so, today 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. So come back next Sunday, as we sing praises to the God who more than inspires us to sing with all our heart!

Then, the following Thursday, September 13, we encourage you to come back to Triune again, as we gather together as a family in Christ to spend time together, share a meal, as well as conversations about where we are as Triune Lutheran Church and ideas we have going forward. If you do plan on joining us, simply let us know at the church office, and, if you're able to bring something to share for this potluck meal, please let us know that too (we don't want twenty Jell-O salads, after all!) We also encourage to BYOB (beverage, that is) as well. We will take care of plates and utensils. In the end, take some time on Thursday, September 13, starting at 6PM, to spend time with your Triune family! Please contact the church office, if you have any questions.

