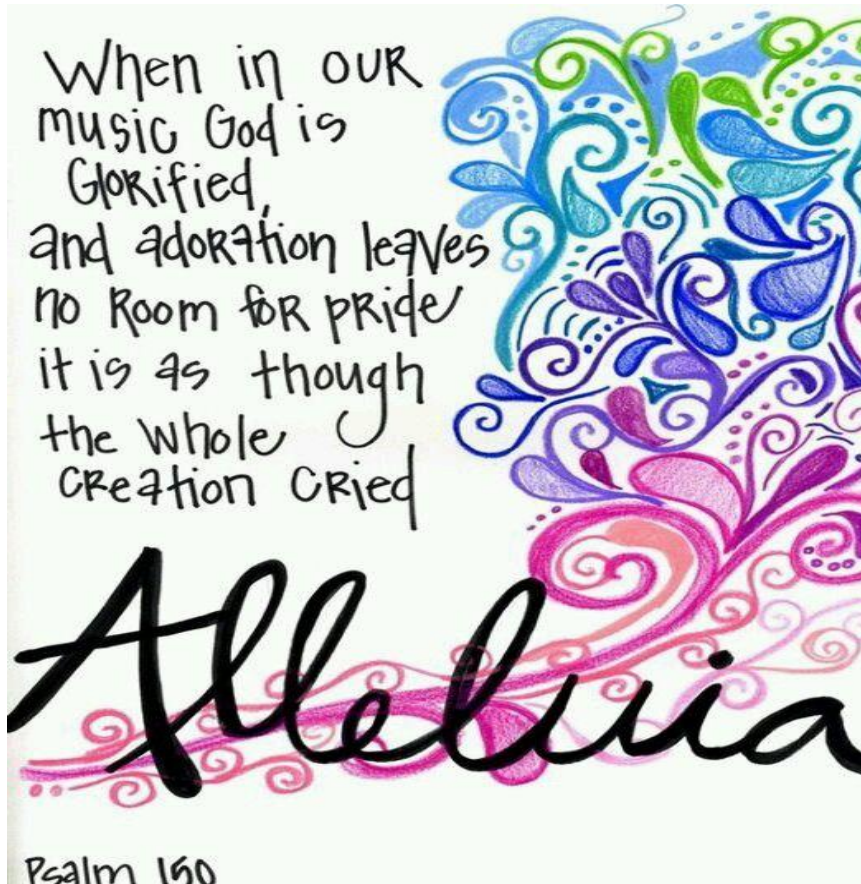


Triune Lutheran Church



Sixteenth 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

HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

***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**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW 413

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness
into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your
presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your
promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our
healer and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

The Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

HYMN “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742

SECOND READING James 2:1-10, 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

ELW 858

***GOSPEL**

Mark 7:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord!

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said

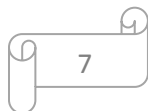
to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁸But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” ²⁹Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

HYMN “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW 779

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

ELW 815

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

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

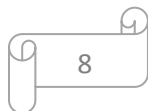
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**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, you call your whole church to proclaim the love of Christ to a needy world. Embolden us to be your risen body by welcoming strangers and serving our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creative God, small sprouts and tall trees proclaim your majesty. Give us clear eyes to see nature's beauty and wise minds to protect our home, this earth, from misuse and harm. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you draw order from chaos. Watch over all the nations of the world. Bless citizens and leaders who strive toward the beloved community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you give us all that we need. When your children suffer from hunger, poverty, loneliness, persecution, injury, or illness, send generous helpers and companions; including for 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, you set a table for us. Embolden this family of Triune to continue in seeking new ways of inviting others to the feast of all creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You bless us with throngs of saints who witness to your compassion. With gratitude, we recall the lives and deeds of those who proclaim lovingkindness to a needy world. 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**

“Here I am, Lord”

ELW 574

***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!

***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**

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

COMMUNION

HYMN

“We Are Marching in the Light”

ELW 866

***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**

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again” *all verses* ELW 536

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Proclaim the Good News!

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**

This 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 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.



When Hope is Lost

“Say to those of fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God ... (who) will come and save you!’” (Isaiah 35:4).

“Happy are they who have their hope in the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God” (Psalm 146:5).

Have you ever lost hope? I don’t mean just a little bit, I mean a lot—so much so that you thought you were going lose everything, that you were going to, quite literally, die? I did, once, a long time ago. I was maybe 6 or 7. We were at my grandma’s little house in the mountains of southwest Virginia. She and Grandpa had 10 children, and we were having a family reunion. The seven children who had lived to adulthood, their spouses and some stray in-laws, plus most of Grandma’s 21 grandchildren, as well as a few great-grands, neighbors, preachers and other, more distant, cousins, etc.

After a “covered-dish” dinner on tables set up under the walnut tree in the front yard, some of my teen-age cousins decided to go hiking. They were intent on climbing Joe’s Knob, a mountain that rose up directly behind Grandma’s house. A trip to the top and back was a rite of passage in my family. It was not an easy climb and there was no real trail. I wanted to go. Daddy said no. Mama said no. Grandma emphatically said no, gently swatted my behind and gave me a cookie. I stood on the kitchen steps, eating my cookie and watching the big kids head off on their great adventure. And as soon as I could, I lit out after them—without water, without food and with no plan but catching up with my cousins and following them from a discreet distance.

By the time I realized that my plan wasn’t going to work, I was in big trouble. I was completely lost. And the more I walked, the more lost I became. As the darkness began to deepen, I sat down on a log, crying, praying, begging and yelling. Eventually, I settled into a fitful and exhausted sleep, having given up all hope of living.

In Isaiah, we encounter a community on the verge of losing hope. They are a “little people,” who often aspire to join the ranks of the “big people.” Great empires like Egypt, Assyria and Persia march and swirl around them, ignoring the little lap dog states trotting along behind hoping to be noticed. And when they do get noticed, they often live to regret it, finding themselves trampled under foot in the battle for supremacy and power in the known world. Israel looks up from where they have fallen and cries and prays and yells and wonders, “Has God forgotten us? Is God punishing us? Will we ever get ‘home’?”

In the midst of their descent into despair, Isaiah speaks a word of hope, *“Say to those of fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God ... (who) will come and save*

you” (Isaiah 35:4). This promise is two-fold: 1) the return to wholeness of the people—the eyes of the blind shall see, the lame leap, the deaf hear, the speechless sing, and 2) the return from barrenness to productivity for the land—water in the wilderness, streams in the desert, burning sands becoming pools of water, dry ground erupting with springs.

In Mark’s Gospel we encounter a gentile woman who is told (by Jesus yet!) that she should not expect Jesus to heal her daughter. “It’s not your turn. I came for the children, not the dogs.” Ouch! But, even when Jesus rejects her, appears to have turned his back on her, she holds on to hope. She takes Jesus’ meal image and runs with it. “Ah yes,” she says, “but even the dogs get to lick up the crumbs from under the children’s table.” She finds hope in a hopeless situation, and her daughter is healed.

As Jesus moves on from Tyre to the Decapolis, he encounters a group of folks who ask him to heal a man with two connected problems; he is deaf, and he cannot speak plainly. For most of human history, that would be a hopeless situation with no conceivable opportunity to be healed. But the people who come to Jesus believe that he can do something. They have hope, and their hope is fulfilled; the man is healed.

Almost no one gets through life without experiencing a loss of hope. Not just the little things like “I hope she will go to the prom with me,” or “I hope I get into that college,” or “I hope we can swing the loan for that house.” Most of us learn soon enough to cope with those sorts of normal ups and downs in life—some of us better than others. But the larger loss of hope in the future can hit us like a ton of bricks, and it can hit any of us. A failure to find meaning in life, a loss of belief and trust in the church or the government or your fellow human beings. Sometimes we think society is moving progressively in one direction—then it veers and turns and goes another way. And to us it looks like the world is going to hell in a handbasket, downhill at 90 miles an hour. What can we do; where can we look for hope?

The Scriptures remind us to look to God, our loving parent, our creator. Psalm 146 says, “*Happy are they who have their hope in the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God.*” Mark’s Gospel, from beginning to end, is written to let us know that Jesus is God incarnate, here with us in our earthly existence to give us hope, to lead us in giving others hope, to remind us that God loves us and everyone, now and forever.

On that lonely Virginia mountainside, I awoke with a start from behind a log. There was a light shining in my eyes and a gentle hand on my shoulder. It was my father. He had walked many miles that night looking for me. He picked me up in his arms, gave me a long drink from a jar of water he had brought, carried me to a spring he had found nearby and washed me clean, put me on his shoulders and carried me home. And I have never, ever completely lost hope again. Amen and amen. - The Rev. Delmer Chilton