

Triune Lutheran Church

Ecclesiastes:
Vanity of vanities!
All is Vanity
...or Not!



Eighth 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen!

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,
let us remember the gift of baptism and confess our sin.

*You may kneel or remain standing/sitting. Silence is kept
for reflection and self-examination.*

God of mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
against one another,
and against the earth entrusted to our care.
We are worried and distracted by many things,
and we fail to love you above all else.
We store up treasures for ourselves
and turn away from our neighbors in need.
Forgive us, that we may live in the freedom of your
Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

When we were laid low by sin and guilt,
God made us alive together with Christ,
forgiving us † all our trespasses
by taking our sins to the cross.
For that freedom from sin and death
Christ has already set us free:
Rejoice in this good news!
Amen!

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Benevolent God, you are the source and guide of our whole lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is harmful to ourselves and others, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14;2:18-23

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem,

¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity

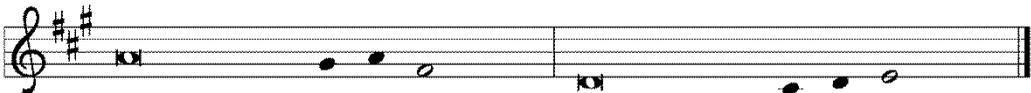
and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹— and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 49:1-12



¹Hear this, | all you peoples;
 give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
²**you of high de- | gree and low,**
 rich and | poor together.
³My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,
 and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.

**4I will incline my ear | to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp.**

⁵Why should I be afraid in | evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds
me,

**⁶the wickedness of those who put their trust
in | their own prowess,
and boast of | their great riches?**

⁷One can never re- | deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;

**⁸for the ransom of a life | is so great
that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**

⁹in order to live forev- | er and ever
and never | see the grave.

**¹⁰For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and
stu- | pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come | after
them.**

¹¹Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling
places from generation to | generation,
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.

**¹²Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;
they are like the | beasts that perish.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:1-11

¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that
are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of
God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things

that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

Luke 12:13-21

The holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say

to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We Know that Christ is Raised”

ELW 449

***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**

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

Your people struggle with the weariness and toil of living in a broken world. Work through your whole church to restore justice and mercy, and send rest and comfort to all your precious children. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation longs for generous care. Give growth to the fields, strength to farmers, ranchers, and laborers who toil in summer's heat, and wisdom to us to respect the entire earth's bounty. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your world reflects your image in billions of unique ways. Touch every life—low and high, rich and poor—and sway every heart toward your merciful will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your people in this family of Triune praise you and cling to you for your steadfast help. Comfort those who suffer from anxiety, depression, or stress, including Bev Deitrick, Joann Loede, Hazel Schwab, Martha Wasson, Trudy Weidman, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, Cathy Gallagher, Richard Jakubcin, Matt Loede, Mary Phillips, George Tomaselli, those serving in the armed forces and as first responders, and all those we name in our hearts...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your communities near and far lack many basic resources. Supply work, food, and health care for all who are in need. Bring relief to those who are overworked. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your saints who have died now rest in your merciful care. Comfort us in faith and love as we continue our labor on earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

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

OFFERING

*OFFERING HYMN

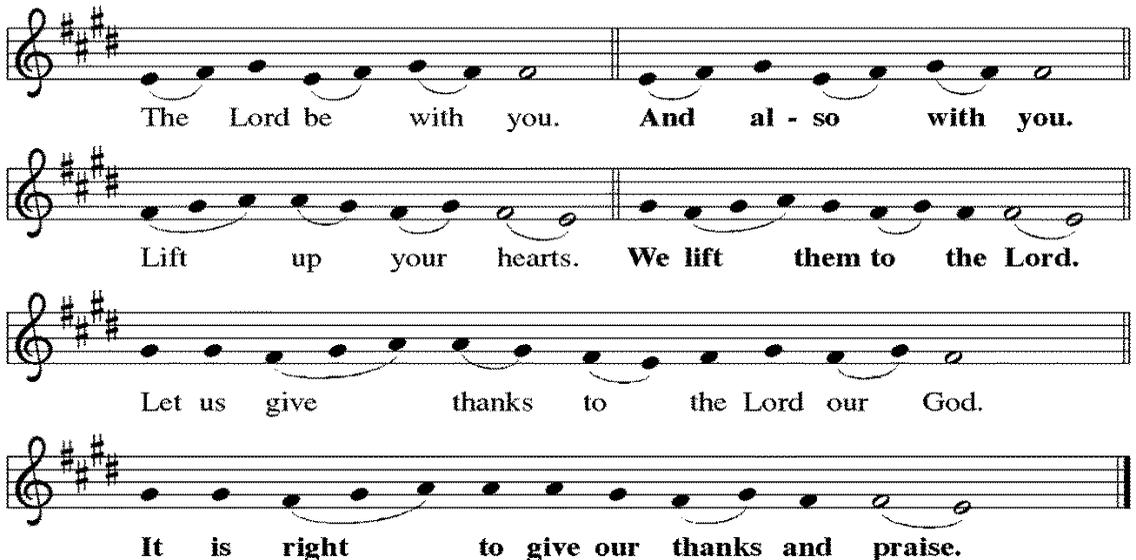
“We Come to the Hungry Feast”

ELW 479

*OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
for the greening earth given for all,
for the talents we are given to share,
and for this bread and wine.
Transform us to be the body of Christ,
that, feasting on this food and drink,
our lives may reflect your generosity;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*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, 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, ho - san - na, 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, continue to come upon us and upon 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!**

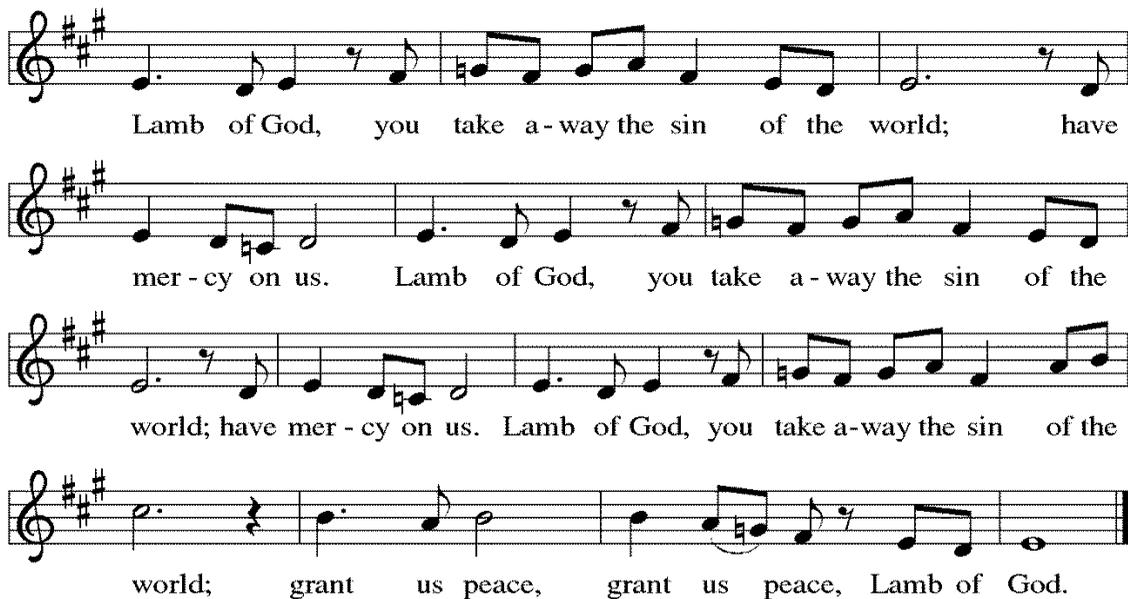
***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

God invites you to this table of bounty.
Come, the banquet is ready for 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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

*COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, in this holy communion
you have welcomed us into your presence,
nourished us with words of mercy,
and fed us at your table.
Amid the cares of this life,
strengthen us to love you with all our heart,
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,
and honor the earth you have made;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

***BLESSING**

Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him,
and abound in thanksgiving;
and the blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God,
be upon you and remain with you forever.
Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Be Thou My Vison”

ELW 793

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ sends you out for the world!
Thanks be to God!

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Pastor: **Brad Ross**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
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Growing Up as God's Children

Lectionary Blog for Aug. 4, 2019

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43;

Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

As I drove my family around one morning running errands, my 3-year-old son sang this delightful song: “I love my baby brother. I love my mommy. I don’t love daddy. I don’t love my daddy at all ...!” Before I started working, I had been his primary caregiver since he was born, so we are especially close. I know that he loves me. I couldn’t help but laugh at the contrast between his angelic little voice and what would have been cutting words if I thought he meant them.

I knew he was just trying to get a rise out of me, but somewhere deep in the recesses of my heart, his words did hurt a little. Those words were fresh in my ears a couple hours later when I read this week’s Scriptures. The passages all come from God’s perspective of not being loved and obeyed by God’s human children. They all go on to describe how God wishes we would behave instead.

Hosea uses intensely heartbreaking language to describe the relationship between God and God’s people. God describes loving Israel and calling them out of Egypt like one calls a son (11:1). God taught Ephraim how to walk and scooped Israel up in God’s arms (11:3). God is described as one who picks up infants to nuzzle them cheek to cheek. Moreover, the almighty creator of the universes stoops down to feed a little one (11:4). God uses loving parental language to describe the bringing up of God’s people. But the people rebelled against their loving parent. The more God called out to them, the more they ran away and sought other gods (11:2, 7). So God gave them over to oppression by foreign powers.

But even in the midst of disciplining Israel, God poignantly asks:

How can I give you up, Ephraim?

How can I hand you over, O Israel? ...

My heart recoils within me;

my compassion grows warm and tender (11:8).

God is the perfect patient parent. Wrongdoing is punished so the child can learn and grow in the right ways. But that discipline hurts God's heart. I translate the Hebrew for the end of the verse 8 as: "My heart has turned against me, and all my compassion grows warm." When I discipline my sons, how often does my heart turn against my scolding, and all my different emotions turn into an intense desire to comfort my crying boy? Every. Single. Time. I have so much empathy for God in this passage.

Hosea uses intensely heartbreaking language to describe the relationship between God and God's people. ... God is described as one who picks up infants to nuzzle them cheek to cheek. Moreover, the almighty creator of the universes stoops down to feed a little one (11:4).

The psalms also testify that God's love is ever-present, even when we walk through the dry and desert places looking for comfort (Psalm 107:4-6). This psalm's first verse ends with two words לְעוֹלָם חֶסֶד. I like to translate this phrase as "until eternity is [God's] lovingkindness." God's love for us just doesn't quit.

But if God's love for us knows no end, does that mean we should sing my son's song about how we don't love our [heavenly] parent and expect that all will go well? No. Just as I want to raise my son to speak kindness and ask for attention in healthy, loving ways, so God desires that we will grow up to love God and our neighbors. Colossians 3:5-9 counsels that we are to give up immature, childish things like greed, slander, filthy language, commitment-less sex, lying and malice. We don't judge those outside the faith. But we aren't to be foolish, wayward children when we persist in these foolish things after having been freed from them, through having been hidden away from them in Christ (Colossians 3:3-4).

Lastly, Jesus gives another example of God's parenting expectation. God desires that when we are blessed with abundance far beyond our needs and our capacity to use, we will share that blessing with others. Jesus describes a man who had a harvest so bountiful that it was much more than all his barns and storehouses could contain (Luke 12:16-20). Instead of sharing his overflowing bounty with others, he made a plan to pull down his barns (plural) and make new ones to store all he had. Instead of using his material security to enable him to farm for others or help his neighbors, the man planned to do nothing for the next several years but consume his stockpile. Jesus says God calls this kind of greed and disregard for others foolish.

God is a loving and long-suffering parent. God is much more faithful and kind than I am. Even though I know my son loves me, it hurts my heart when he sings that he doesn't. When I perform actions or think thoughts that are detrimental to me and my neighbor—and hurtful to God, God doesn't end our relationship. On the contrary, God tries harder and harder to call God's people back to wise and righteous living. God will take care of our sin problem and, indeed, already has through Jesus. But we are called to live as children who are being brought up by our heavenly parent and commanded and empowered by the Spirit to live righteously.



Cory Driver is a minister of word and service, and the director of the Transformational Leadership Academy in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. He earned his doctorate in Jewish religious cultures from Emory University, Atlanta. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.

On Sunday, August 25, during our worship at 11am, we will take time to sing some of our favorite hymns! In the meantime, you are encouraged to let us know which songs are your favorite by August 18, whether they be from the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal that we use during worship, our previous *Lutheran Book of Worship* (green hymnal), or even something from Sunday school that you remember. You can simply let us know the title, and we'll be sure to find it! We encourage you to turn in your votes via e-mail to the church, filling out a piece of paper and putting it in the offering plate or letting Edith or Pastor Brad know. Then, join us on Sunday, August 25, as we make a joyful noise to the Lord through the precious gift of music!

