

Triune Lutheran Church

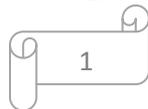


Nineth Sunday after Pentecost



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



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



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



- You are invited to speak the **bold print**, as well as sing along with the psalm and hymns, which you will find in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal in front of you in the pews.
- The portions marked with * are times when we invite you to stand, as you are able.
- There will not be a separate time for an offering to be collected during worship. If you wish to do so today, you may place your offering in the offering plate at the back.
- The Communion elements are placed in the hallway/narthex just outside the entrance doors to the sanctuary. We ask you bring them to your seat and leave them until we reach the celebration of holy Communion during worship, when you will be asked to remove the lids and consume the bread (wafer), then the wine. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please let the pastor know before worship. We believe the body and blood of Christ is meant for everyone, regardless of your church affiliation, and so feel free to participate, if you feel so moved.
- For visitors, if you so choose, we encourage you to fill out a card available in the pew to learn more about us.
- Bathrooms are available in the hallway.

WELCOME

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross serves as a reminder that nothing, not even sin, can separate you from God's love in Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever! **Amen!**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have not always followed a path
of steadfast love
but have often chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too frequently passed by on the other side.
Help us to see the path of new life and hope.
Save us from ourselves,
and free us to love our neighbors with joy. Amen!**

Hear the good news!
God does not deal with us according to our sins
but thoroughly delights in granting pardon and mercy.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
You are set free to love as God loves the whole world. **Amen!**

*GATHERING HYMN

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

ELW 771

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy Spirit, you are the never-ending life and light of the whole church. Open our hearts to the riches of your wonderful grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 33:12-22

- ¹²Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to | be God's heritage!
- ¹³**The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**
- ¹⁴God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.
- ¹⁵**God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**
- ¹⁶A king is not saved by the size | of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.
- ¹⁷**The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**
- ¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,
- ¹⁹**to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine.**
- ²⁰Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.
- ²¹**Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**
- ²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

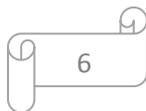
¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.



⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life!
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 12:32-40

The Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he

will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Earth and All Stars”

ELW 731

***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 God's extraordinary love, let us pray to the Holy One who is near to us always.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your whole church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with passion. Continue to equip your entire flock, including our Triune family, to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Watch over those serving in the military, including David

Schmidt, as well as first responders. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon all your precious children. Look upon those who yearn for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you, including Niki Grigsby, Jan Halishak, Richard Jakubcin, Dan & Jill Maldovan, Gloria Roderick, Dennis Schatt, Achim Schnaebel, Annie Slaughter, Stacy Szendel, Mardell Weiss, Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts now... Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon this Triune community of faith. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation, and all who care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you, including our precious Dave Wilcox. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. **Amen!**

***PEACE**

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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!

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



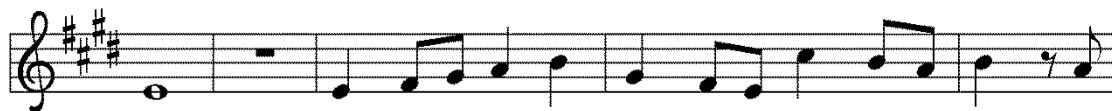
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



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.**

COMMUNION

MUSIC INTERLUDE

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may know your never-ending love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord.
Amen!

***BLESSING**

The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.
Amen!

***SENDING HYMN**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourselves!
Thanks be to God!

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Ministers: **All People**
Presiding Minister: **Pastor Brad Ross**
Worship Assistant: **Heidi Bailey**
Organist: **Edith Schatt**
Office Manager: **Jan Piskac**

Lectionary Blog: Which Readiness?

In the past few months—and, indeed, in the past few centuries—we have seen Christians of various sensibilities make and implement plans for how to influence government and church to bring about their vision for what is good, holy and life-giving. The effects of some of these plans have left Christians with differing ideals celebrating in some places and hurting in others. I don't know about you, but on my Twitter feed it seems as if there is a tremendous amount of back and forth, preparing to respond to policy adversaries. In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus talks about being ready to respond to others, but, in typical Jesus form, it looks a bit different from what most humans are doing most of the time.

The lectionary reading is a continuation of Jesus' previous teaching on the greedy rich man (indeed, for most of the summer and fall, his words will only make sense when we consider what he said in the previous readings). Jesus told a tale about a man who had an unexpectedly large harvest. The man's response, instead of generosity, was to tear down his barns to build larger ones so he could hoard literally more than he could handle. In the parable, God called this man a fool, asking him who would receive the riches that he had stored up for himself after his impending death.

As an extension of this parable, Jesus told his followers not to practice acquisitional worry—to not fret about what they would wear or what they would eat. Jesus gave examples from nature to clarify how God provides for living things that don't store up food or raiment for themselves. Instead, those who follow Jesus should look for God's kingdom and prepare for it.

How does one ready oneself for the kingdom of God? Jesus said we should practice the inverse economics of the rich man from the previous parable. We should sell our possessions and give to charity (Luke 12:33). Instead of building up for ourselves, we should be ready to meet the needs of others at every opportunity. Jesus points out that this isn't just for the good of others but for ourselves. Working for God's kingdom, rather

than our own small kingdoms, will keep humans focused on the things of God that matter and last, instead of on passing riches, power or influence over others (Luke 12:34). Instead of building up for ourselves, we should be ready to meet the needs of others at every opportunity.

Then Jesus offered a teaching that was directed mostly to those who lead and teach other Christians (according to Peter's question and Jesus' response in Luke 12:41-42). Jesus told a parable of slaves who were constantly ready to welcome their master back from a party. They remained alert and prepared to receive their master even at the most inconvenient hour. Jesus said the master would do the unthinkable: at the late hour, the master would take on the clothing of a servant and insist that the slaves practice habits of freedom by relaxing at the table and being served themselves (Luke 12:37). As another example, Jesus spoke of the need for constant readiness, not to welcome a master but to fend off an enemy (Luke 12:39). Being ready for 23 hours a day isn't helpful if a thief breaks in during the other hour, Jesus said.

With this talk of readiness, Jesus is commenting on the application of his previous message of not letting our hearts be focused on building up power and wealth. Indeed, the readiness that he commands of his followers—especially the leaders of his followers—is a willingness to give and expend oneself on behalf of others. So while the rest of the world eagerly seeks signs of wealth and power (Luke 12:30), those who follow Jesus are to take positive steps to ready themselves for Jesus by being a river of life to our neighbors.

When the world is scary and threatening, how can those of us with wealth and power give them away to be a blessing to our communities? Doing so will not only be a blessing to others, but Jesus says divesting of power and wealth is the only way to keep our hearts ready for God's kingdom.

This Lectionary Blog, and other resources for the journey of faith, are available at LivingLutheran.org.

*Cory Driver is an ELCA missionary serving as the director of graduate studies at the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo (Egypt). His book on wilderness spirituality, *Life Unsettled*, is available from Fortress Press.*

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Luke 12:15 (NLT)

Based on Luke 12:13-21



C T G O O D T G R O U N D Z A
O Y Y Z R D R I N K I Z Z P L
T D N A G H I W U X A E O R I
W O U T A F I E L Y G P I L F
W G G N T M Y S J D I R S E E
F F R E E A T E U S V N D A Y
V F I K U K L J B S R I D E S
Q O C M E R R Y D A V E I G T
V O H S Z D T W B I E S N Z Q
H L R T J A O U D R T I Q H R
P G F F S R I N G O H C C E C
G L R K C T K R H T P T G U B
T I C A W H O D Q O A G Q F A
G I X Y I X O R R W I V M M H
L K T T J N X C E B R S Q V W

JUDGE
STORE
RICH
GOOD

CROWD
EAT
FOOL
CROP

THINGS
BIGGER
DIVIDE
WATCH

BARN
LIFE
GROUND
GRAIN

GUARD
GREED
DRINK
MERRY