

Triune Lutheran Church



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 with you through our 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 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.
- 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. We will celebrate Communion through intinction. You will be invited to come up the side aisle to the pastor who will have wafers (gluten-free available upon request). You are encouraged to keep the wafer in your hand as you go to the worship assistant with the chalice of wine. You are invited to dip your wafer into the chalice before consuming the wafer and returning to your seat through the center aisle.
- 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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the
ways**

of the world in which we live.

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

ELW 807

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

¹David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. ²David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. ³They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill.

Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart ⁴with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark. ⁵David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

^{12b}So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; ¹³and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. ¹⁴David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁵So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

¹⁶As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD. ¹⁸When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, ¹⁹and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

PSALM

Psalm 24

¹The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

²**For the LORD has founded it up- | on the seas
and established it up- | on the rivers.**

³Who may ascend the mountain | of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's | holy place?

⁴**Those of innocent hands and puri- | ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they
pledge by | what is false.**

⁵They shall receive blessing | from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of | their salvation.

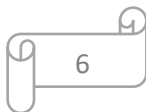
⁶**Such is the generation of those who seek | you,
O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob.**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O
ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

⁸**Who is this | King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD,
might- | y in battle!**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O
ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this | King of glory?
Truly, the LORD of hosts is the | King of glory.**



SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Mark 6: 14-29

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod,

“It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” ²³And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

ELW 805

* **Affirmation of Baptism**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**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.**

Do you believe in the God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

You have made a public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through
word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

We do, and ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for Niki Grigsby, John Kurtz, Phil Pesko, Annie Slaughter, Carol Szendel, Mardell Weiss, Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities. Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you.

In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and 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 our joy,
that we should give thanks and praise to you,
loving and gracious 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the phrase "san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est."

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gracious 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**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come! **Thanks be to God!**

COMMUNION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

*SENDING HYMN

“On What Has Now Been Sown”

ELW 550

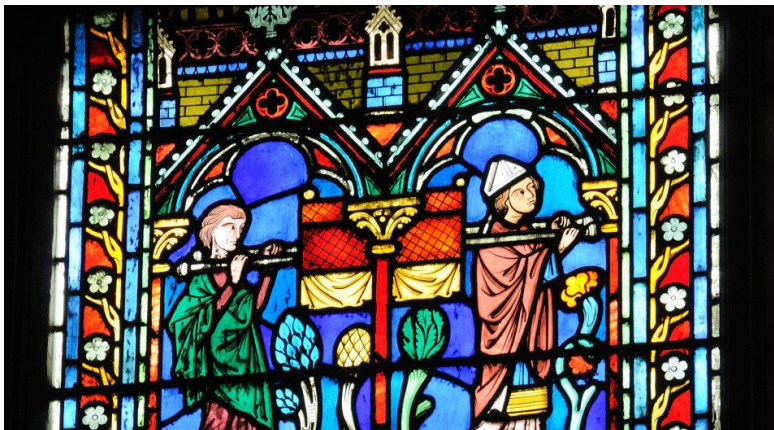
*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Ministers: *All People*
Presiding Minister: *Kathryn Rackley*
Worship Assistant: *Tina Schwab*
Organist: *Edith Schatt*
Office Manager: *Jan Piskac*



Lectionary Blog: A Day to Remember!

Much like the entrepreneurial world, the church-planting/new start world has a problem of moving from launching to scaling. Launching a new worshipping community is fun but also a *ton* of work. My good friend, Sawyer Vanden Heuvel,

started a worshipping community in Sioux Falls, S.D., called [Shepherd's Table](#), and it has been a great joy to watch from afar as it coalesces and grows.

The trick with new communities (and even those that are more established) is providing a gentle and welcoming on-ramp for people who are just coming to faith while giving believers the opportunity to grow deeper in love, service, learning and wisdom. Too often our communities are either “seeker-friendly” or “believer-oriented” (I know those terms are problematic). Pastor Sawyer and many others do a great job of creating communities that are open and accessible while at the same time being challenging and enriching.

The lectionary passages this week can, at least initially, be bewildering. David dances in a sleeveless shirt (and maybe nothing else?); Herod kills John the Baptizer. You would never preach these stories to new Christians, right? And what do these stories mean for those saints who have been walking with God and members of the body of Christ for decades? Yet I think this week is a treasure, because it allows us to practice what Paul preaches and “become all things to all people” in order to share in the blessings of the gospel ([1 Corinthians 9:22-23](#)). The passage must be read as relating to people where they are at.

After a conflict at the border, the Philistines defeated Israel and stole the Ark of the Covenant—God’s throne on earth and the container of all the commandments from Sinai ([1 Samuel 4:4-11](#)). God judged the Philistines and punished their cities that contained the ark (after seeing what happened in Ashdod and Gath, the Philistine residents of Ekron wisely suggested that the ark be given back to the Israelites). So they sent the ark back on a cart pulled by animals. When the Israelites received it, however, some foolish men of Beth-shemesh wanted to look inside, and many of them died. The Israelites then asked the residents of Kiriath-jearim, especially Abinadab, to take the ark. The men of Kiriath-jearim carried it up the hill, and the ark blessed the household of Abinadab for over 20 years ([1 Samuel 7:1](#)).

David sought to bring the ark from Abinadab’s house to the prepared site in Jerusalem. Yet he made a crucial error: David put the ark on a cart like the Philistines had. When the cart hit a bump causing the ark to almost tumble, Uzzah reached out to stabilize it. But you simply cannot touch God’s throne, and Uzzah was killed like the men of Beth-shemesh decades earlier ([2 Samuel 6:6-](#)

7). The ark was then brought to Obed-edom's house while David figured out what to do next.

Wherever we are on our journey—new seeker or seasoned follower—God's word is a gift to provide what we need to curb, mirror or guide.

Interestingly, Obed-edom was a Philistine from Gath, one of the cities that the ark had laid waste. The reader naturally expects that his house would be destroyed by the ark's presence. Yet, the opposite happens. God blessed Obed-edom and all that belonged to him ([2 Samuel 6:11-12](#)). When David heard that the ark could be a source of blessing, he had his men carry it into Jerusalem while he danced alongside it.

The early Lutheran idea of the “three uses of the law” is pretty clear here. The first use is a curb against evil behavior. Stealing and misusing God's stuff ended up in punishment for the Philistines, residents of Beth-shemesh and Uzzah. The second use of the law, to hold a mirror up to people to show their sinfulness, is especially apparent in David. He wanted to bring God's throne into his new capital of Jerusalem, but he didn't show respect or obedience to God. He needs a savior—or at least a different relationship with God. The third use of the law is to provide guidance for those who are right with God. The wise men of Kiriath-jearim and Obed-edom were guided by respect and love for God that they manifested in caring for God's throne and commandments.

Crucially, the ark, which manifests God's power, doesn't discriminate on the basis of ethnicity or national identity. Israelites and Philistines who needed to have their behavior curbed were punished. Those who needed to be humbled—even the king of the Israelites—were humbled. And those who sought to obey and honor the God who knows and loves them were guided into right behavior—again, Philistine and Israelite alike.

Wherever we are on our journey—new seeker or seasoned follower—God's word is a gift to provide what we need to curb, mirror or guide.



Cory Driver

Cory Driver is the director of L.I.F.E. (Leading the Integration of Faith and Entrepreneurship) at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. His book on wilderness spirituality, [Life Unsettled](#), is available from Fortress Press.