

# *Triune Lutheran Church*

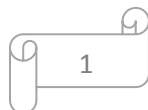


*Seventh Sunday after Pentecost*



**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

*You may make the sign of the cross as a reminder that nothing, not even sin, can separate you from God's love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

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**

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

ELW 533

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

**FIRST READING**

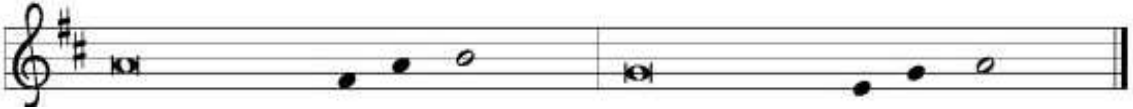
Genesis 18:20-32

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know.”

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place

and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

Word of God, word of life!  
**Thanks be to God!**



<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;  
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

<sup>2</sup>**I will bow down toward your holy temple and  
praise your name, because of your steadfast | love  
and faithfulness;**

**for you have glorified your name and your word  
a- | bove all things.**

<sup>3</sup>When I called, you | answered me;  
you increased my | strength within me.

<sup>4</sup>**All the rulers of the earth will praise | you,  
O LORD,**

**when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,  
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my  
enemies; your right | hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>**You will make good your pur- | pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do  
not abandon the works | of your hands.**

## SECOND READING

Colossians 2:6-15

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

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 11:1-13

The Gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”<sup>2</sup>He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”



<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

## **SERMON**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267



## **\*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.*

Rooted and built up in Christ, we lift up your whole church, including our Triune family. Embolden leaders to take risks for the sake of the gospel, and equip the baptized to proclaim your extravagant love for the whole world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the works of your hands, continue to tend the natural world. Make rivers and lakes, oceans and all waterways, sparkle with your radiance. Protect water sources and strengthen those who defend them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Interceding on behalf of the vulnerable, continue to care for all your precious children around the world. Inspire all rulers and governing authorities with your justice. Guide the work of legislators and public officials, that they advocate for the well-being of those they serve. Watch over those serving in the military, including David Schmidt, as well as first responders. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Open us to the cries of those who suffer, including Niki Grigsby, Jan Halishak, Charlotte Jackson, Richard Jakubcin, Dan & Jill Maldovan, Rachel Abbs O'Malley, Gloria Roderick, Dennis Schatt, Annie Slaughter, Stacy Szendel, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts now...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Buried with Christ in baptism and raised with him to new life, we give thanks for your saints who rest in your eternal presence. Join our voices with theirs as we sing of your great glory. 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**

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

ELW 536

### **\*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: God Loves Bold Requests***

I have strong memories of growing up in churches, listening to the prayers of the people and learning that prayers were simply to request that God would perform God's will. I know it's not this way in every congregation, but I was told repeatedly and disciplined to believe that humans should never ask for what we want but only for what God wants. But as I grew and began to read Scripture more, I came across examples of times when it was not only acceptable for people to ask boldly for what they wanted but to even ask God to change God's mind, if our Creator was willing (e.g., Exodus 32:9-14; Numbers 14:11-20; Amos 7:3-6; Jeremiah 26:12-19; Jonah 3:10; Matthew 26:39). In this week's lectionary readings, we have two models of bold requests.

Jesus included bold requests as the very foundation of his lessons on prayer for his disciples. In response to a request that he be a little more like his relative John the Baptizer, Jesus taught them a formal prayer. The disciples were to open by addressing God as Father, an address neither revolutionary nor particularly incendiary in first century Judaism. God refers to Godself as a parent in Scripture (Isaiah 63:16, 2 Samuel 7:14 and elsewhere), and by the beginning of the second century, an early version of the popular liturgical song "*Avinu Malkeinu*" ("Our Father, Our King") was already being recited.

After blessing God's name and asking that God's kingdom come, Jesus told the disciples to make three bold requests. First, they were to ask for their daily bread. Second, they were to ask that God forgive them their sins *because* they forgave those who were in debt to them. Make no mistake, the disciples' willingness to release others from principally

economic obligations was to be the reason for God to forego punishment for their sins, at least in this version of the prayer. Finally, Jesus told his disciples to ask God to spare them from times of trial.

But Jesus wasn't done insisting that his disciples should pray boldly. Perhaps noticing that some of them were a bit uncomfortable with the requests he was telling them to make of God, Jesus told a parable to show them how bold they should be. You have to know that few people would have intentionally left bread out overnight in Southwest Asia. Just a few verses earlier, the disciples were instructed to pray for daily bread, and it means what it sounds like. Each day households made bread for the day, and most didn't have much or anything that was wasted, especially during the heavy taxation of the Herodians for the Romans. So the idea that someone already curled up for sleep would have any bread, much less three loaves, is ludicrous. And yet, because of the shamelessness of the repeated request, the friend will give whatever is asked of him, including firing up the oven and making more bread. Jesus says God is like this friend, who is willing be roused by bold requests.

Looking back to the beginnings of the biblical narrative, Abraham also made bold requests. When he heard God's plan to interrogate the wickedness of the cities of the plain and destroy them if the report of their sin was accurate, Abraham intervened. Remember, in addition to his nephew's family, Abraham knew the people of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar, whom he had already personally rescued and brought out of captivity (Genesis 14:8-16). Abraham challenged God to not destroy the righteous with the wicked, going so far as to shame God as a potentially bad judge if God were willing to inflict collective punishment (18:25). God relented to each of Abraham's six requests to save the cities if a decreasing number of righteous people could be found there. That there were not enough righteous people to save the town notwithstanding, Abraham practiced what Jesus taught his disciples: bold conversation with God that asks for exactly what the person wants, even if it means that God might change God's mind.

A quick word as I close. Obviously, God isn't a cosmic vending machine where we can simply insert a prayer and out comes what we want. Sometimes we pray faithfully but the answer is "no." Even Jesus, who spent hours prior to his arrest asking God to remove the cup of crucifixion, apparently received a negative reply. That said, Jesus instructs those who would follow him to boldly ask for what we want. Hebrews 4:16 invites us to boldly approach the throne of grace so that we may find mercy and grace. For me, this is still a stretching task, as I am much more comfortable saying "thy will be done" than asking God to change my cup. How can we lean in to bold prayer and, in so doing, obey Jesus' instruction?

- Corey Driver (LivingLutheran.org)