

Triune Lutheran Church

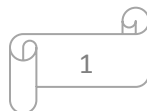


Third Sunday after Pentecost



**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!



- Everything is printed in the bulletin (no hymnals will be used). You are invited to speak the **bold print**, as well as sing along with the hymns and psalm, but we ask you to do so softly.
- 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 by your chair in small containers with lids. We ask you leave them as is 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.
- Bathrooms are available in the hallway.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

**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.

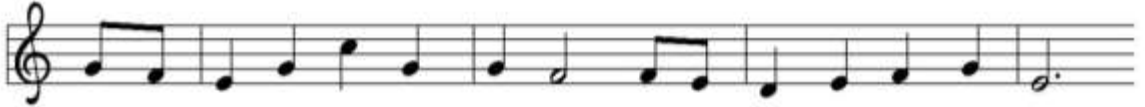
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

“We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”

ELW 451



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives,
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig
from the lofty top of a cedar;
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one
from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain.

²³On the mountain height of Israel
I will plant it,
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest
winged creatures of every kind.

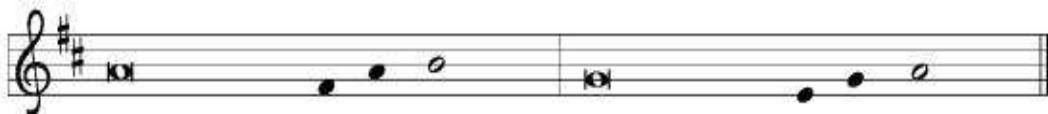
²⁴All the trees of the field shall know
that I am the LORD.
I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.

I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 92:1-4,12-15



¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your
hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

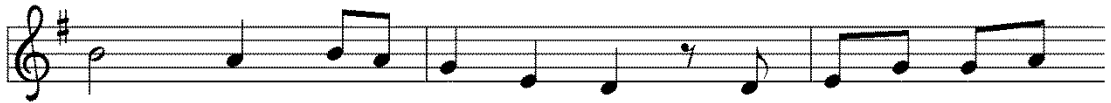
SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

ELW 726





1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain

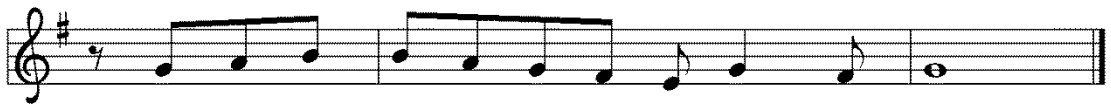
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us unite before God in prayer, responding to each petition with the words, “Grant us your life.”

A brief silence.

Holy God, Fount of blessings, strengthen your whole church: that the seeds of faith which you plant take root and grow; that congregations that are emerging from the pandemic re-gather in safety; and that you bless your children in Ethiopia and other places that are experiencing great distress. O Giver of all goodness, **grant us your life.**

Continue to nourish your creation: that the trees and plantings in national forests be protected; that farms around the globe be safeguarded from drought, flood, and pestilence; and that wild animals thrive in the habitat they need. O Giver of all goodness, **grant us your life.**

Watch over all the nations: that world leaders care for those in greatest need; that all prejudices cease; that the might of hate be halted; that the displaced find a welcome homeland; and that peace reign between all peoples. O Giver of all goodness, **grant us your life.**

We long for health and wholeness: for countries where COVID-19 is accelerating and vaccines are not available; for relief agencies, that the hungry be fed; for those who are beaten down by poverty and homelessness;

for those who are suffering from climate disasters; for any who are sick, including Cathy Gallagher, Lenny George, Richard Jakubcin, Harriet Joyce, Donna Matter, Dan & Jill Maldovan, Brian Roderick, Gloria Roderick, George Tomaselli, Mardell Weiss, Dave & Clara Wilcox. O Giver of all goodness, **grant us your life.**

For all who have died in the faith, and for those whom we remember here before you, we offer our thanks, gracious Redeemer. For all who will die today, we ask your mercy. And at the end, that we join with all your people in the perfection of your presence. O Giver of all goodness, **grant us your life.**

To you we pray, O God, our Source, Sovereign, and Strength, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

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.

***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 (use for meditation and prayer)

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

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever!

Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

“Spread, Oh Spread, Almighty Word”

ELW 663



1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav - en's gifts ex - tend to all.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath - ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!
Thanks be to God.

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Lectionary Blog: The Spirit is Always Working



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The anointing of David by Samuel on the stained glass at St. Etheldreda by Charles Blakeman (1953).

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20;
2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4:26-34

The Lectionary Blog is based off the semicontinuous reading option for the lectionary, so the first reading and psalm are different than what we use in worship.

This week's Hebrew Bible passage tells the story of God choosing a king after Saul's fall from grace.

Saul was physically huge and the most attractive man in Israel (1 Samuel 9:2). He looked the part of a king, to be sure. But when God gave him specific orders, he second-guessed them, to near catastrophe for his people centuries later (Esther 3:5-6). For this reason, Saul was abandoned by the Spirit of the Lord, who had previously been with him (1 Samuel 16:14).

Samuel had been Saul's friend and confidant up to that point. While he also abandoned Saul, he grieved for his friend's punishment (1 Samuel 15:35). God also felt sorry that Saul had been made king over Israel. But then God roused both Godself and Samuel out of mourning (1 Samuel 16:1) and set to work picking a new king.

The men of Bethlehem, being associated with the disfavored king, were terrified to see Samuel coming. They only relaxed after he confirmed that he was coming in peace. Crucially, Samuel told them to make themselves holy, while he set to the task of making Jesse and his sons holy. I'm not exactly sure what this means, but it sets the stage for a sacrifice and some performance, which is going to be out of the ordinary and probably strange in the people's eyes (which is what "holy" means after all—"weird" or "strange").

Samuel regarded Jesse's sons as they passed before him, thinking that Elaiiv, who was apparently physically impressive like Saul, must surely be the new anointed one (1 Samuel 16:6). But God responded that, while humans look at the outside of a person, God considers the heart. All of Jesse's sons passed before Samuel and were passed over in turn.

Finally the youngest, who apparently looked a bit strange, passed in front of Samuel. He had red skin (or more likely red hair—1 Samuel 16:12 and Genesis 25:25), beautiful eyes and was very pretty (1 Samuel 16:12). This boy seemed a bit too gorgeous to be considered kingly. If we imagine that David had the look of a physically impressive,

masculine king, we miss the point of the passage, especially 1 Samuel 16:7. Saul and Eliav weren't exactly hard on the eyes, but David seems to have been embarrassingly attractive, and not in a stereotypically masculine way. But apparently this pretty boy was exactly what God wanted. God told Samuel to rise up and anoint David. And from that day, the Spirit of the Lord rested on him.

Skipping ahead to Jesus' parable, we are told that the kingdom of heaven is like a seed planted in a field. Without further intervention from the farmer, the seed germinates and grows, producing stalk, head and individual grains. Then as soon as the grain is mature, it is cut and harvested.

This is an apt parable for thinking about the kingship during the prophethood of Samuel. God's Spirit picked Saul because he looked like a leader (1 Samuel 9:2, 10:24). But when he failed to live up to his promise, God felt sorry. But then God immediately set out to anoint a new king. The Spirit led Samuel to anoint a red-haired boy with beautiful eyes, not a rugged-looking manly man. We aren't told anything about David's height, ever, unlike Saul who was a head taller than everyone in Israel. What we do know is that David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14): a lover, a poet and a warrior.

Just because God felt grieved by a terrible, idolatrous, disobedient leader doesn't mean that the Spirit stopped working. Like a seed, God's spirit-filled kingdom is planting, growing, harvesting and replanting all the time, even when everything around seems horrible and disappointing. Sometimes people who look like traditional, patriarchal leaders disappoint by making great shows of devotion but not actually obeying God's word.

The great news is that God raises up those who may seem inappropriate choices to the world, or the opposite of a macho leader, to make a point that God's concern is not with outside appearances but with obedient hearts that will press on in doing the work of God's Spirit.



Cory Driver is the director of both the Transformational Leadership Academy of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and the Southern Ohio Synod's Leadership Academy. His book on wilderness spirituality, Life Unsettled, is available from Fortress Press. Cory lives with his family in Indianapolis.