

Triune Lutheran Church



Fourteenth 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

***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**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

ELW 879

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ” ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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.

The Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord!

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

“This Is My Father’s World”

ELW 824

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God,
who loves us and wants us to
love each other. This is our God.**

**We believe in Jesus,
who cared for children and
held them in his arms. He wanted a world
where everyone could live together in peace.
This is Jesus Christ.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who keeps working with us until everything is
good and true. This is the Holy Spirit.**

**We can be the church,
which reminds people of God because we love
each other. This we
believe. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain including Norelle Gress, Niki Grigsby, Patty Gurka, Phil Pesko, Jack Schwab, Annie Slaughter, Mardell Weiss, Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts.....

Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God 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;
by whom you pour forth your extravagant bounty upon your
whole creation.

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.

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 Jesus to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

As supper was ending, Jesus 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.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so may your people be gathered from the ends of the
earth,
that all may be fed with the bread of life
and live into the abundance of your love.

Through Christ all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty God, 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.**

***FRACTION ANTHEM**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body, for we all share in
the one bread.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you.
Eat and rejoice.

COMMUNION

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,
Open our hearts to your presence.
Align our lives with your Dream.
Grow our souls in love,
That we may become a community of welcome,
A people of courage,
And the Body of Christ in the world.

Let our light shine brightly as a beacon in the night.
Amen!

***BLESSING**

***SENDING HYMN**

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God

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Lectionary blog: Repentance and joy

One of my favorite parenting practices that my partner introduced with our kids is “making it right.” When I was a kid, apologizing for doing the wrong thing was usually enough. That is, unless we broke something—then we would have to help pay to fix it (still sorry about that remote I threw ...). But every time my kids do something that hurts someone else, especially physically or emotionally, they must make it right.

They start by apologizing, but then they have to do some good, with a greater impact than the injury ([Exodus 22:1-9](#)). This is repentance. Apologizing is all well and good. But repentance is reorienting oneself from traveling away from love *and* taking steps toward love. My kiddos don’t just apologize for the wrong they do. They also take steps to make it right and reengage in kindness toward their siblings. Instead of ending the incident in sorrow and embarrassment, they reengage in acts of kindness. And, thanks to my partner’s wisdom, the kids get back to kindness and joy quickly.

The lectionary passages this week are all about the joy of repentance.

The classic text describing the joy of repentance is Jesus’ parables about lost things. This week, we read the first two parables (the two wayward sons and their neglectful father is the third parable in the set). In these parables, Jesus makes a strong *kal v’homer* (“light and heavy”—similar to *a fortiori*) argument that if humans know how to celebrate the return of lost things, how much more does heaven and the divine court know how to celebrate the return of wayward humans? Just as a shepherd calls together his friends to rejoice in the finding of a lost sheep, and a woman calls together her friends to celebrate the finding of a lost coin, the joy of heaven is magnified by one who repents (more than by the 99 who don’t need to do so). Jesus told these parables to help his Pharisee interlocutors understand the joy that God derived from tax collectors and sinners being welcomed into repentance.

Friends, there is joy in heaven for repentance!

The author of 1 Timothy also celebrates the joy of repentance. The writer acknowledges that he was a blasphemer and violent aggressor, acting in unbelief. In fact, the author goes so far as to say that he is the foremost sinner! But Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners! So, instead of leaving the writer merely feeling sorry, Jesus pressed him into service. The one who was once violently opposed to Jesus’ movement has now been found to be faithful. Again, this is repentance. The author didn’t just tell Jesus he was sorry—he went about performing the work of repentance. Where once he persecuted Jesus, he began to serve Jesus’ mission.

Even the psalmist declares the joy of repentance. David's repentance for his evil actions could not be in undoing the murder and rape that he had perpetrated. Instead, once he tasted the joy of God's salvation and mercy, his repentance was to teach God's ways to his fellow wrongdoers and literally help his fellow sinners return/repent ([Psalm 51:13](#)).

In the last example from this week's texts, it is God who repents. Exodus 32 is one of at least 13 times in Scripture that God repents. The Israelites had used the wealth that God insisted the Egyptians should pay them in retribution for their years of slavery to construct an idol. God was, rightly, offended by their lack of faithfulness. God rejected the people, handing over ownership to Moses, and prepared to smite them. Moses interceded, however. He reminded God of the divine promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, as well as arguing that the Egyptians would mock God. Upon hearing this, God repented from the evil that God had planned.

Systematic theologians will get themselves tied up in knots trying to explain away God's repentance here and in many other passages. Fine, and fun for them if they enjoy it! Some will take the word of the false prophet Balaam in [Numbers 23:19](#) over Moses, Samuel, Jonah and others. We all have choices in interpreting the vast library of Scripture. For me, this, and all the other passages where God repents, underscore the preciousness of repentance. God is not embarrassed to demonstrate turning away from anger and violence toward forgiveness and embrace. Isn't that what we long for in God's grace? God turns away from just punishment for the violence and anger we perform to give us underserved forgiveness and embrace.

Friends, there is joy in heaven for repentance!



[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 [God, Gender and Family Trauma: How Rereading Genesis can be a Revelation](#) was released in March 2025 by Fortress Press.