

# *Triune Lutheran Church*



*3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

“Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

ELW 452

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you,  
and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the  
ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we  
may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

**FIRST READING**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

<sup>1</sup> Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven  
by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from  
Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has  
sent me as far as Bethel.”

But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I  
will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel.

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has  
sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and  
as you yourself live, I will not leave you.”

So the two of them went on.

<sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

<sup>13</sup> He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. <sup>14</sup> He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Word of God, word of life!

**Thanks be to God!**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL

Luke 9:51-62

The Gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord!

<sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village.

<sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

<sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”

<sup>59</sup> To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” <sup>60</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” <sup>61</sup> Another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” <sup>62</sup> Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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

## **SERMON**

## **OPPORTUNITY FOR REFLECTION**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

ELW 818

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in God,  
the creator of all life and beauty,  
who blesses our journey.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who lived as a friend and savior to all he met as  
he traveled,  
and who ate and laughed,  
wept and celebrated with them in love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who rides on the gentle breeze,  
who strengthens our bindings, and  
who offers hope eternal.**

**We believe in the church,  
which stands open to all travelers,  
and bears witness to the everlasting love of God.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence including Niki Grigsby, Patty Gurka, Phil Pesko, Jack Schwab, Annie Slaughter, Mardell Weiss, Clara Wilcox, and all those we name in our hearts....Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit's fruits within us and within our congregation's ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen!**

## \*BLESSING

## \*SENDING HYMN

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

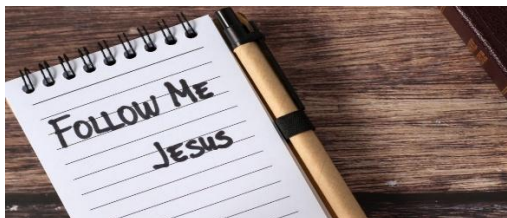
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**Lectionary blog: Strange recruiting**



There have been a lot of superhero movies in the last couple decades. Many have a recruiting scene where a leader puts together a team that will help save the day. These scenes often happen early in the middle part of the film or in a post-credit scene to prepare for the next movie in a long series (Marvel Cinematic Universe, I'm looking at you!). The recruiting scenes *don't* normally happen right before the intense climax of the movie. And the possible recruits in these movies usually have some special power or ability that will save the day, not make things worse. This week's lectionary readings have two examples of strange recruiting scenes.

The first scene is in 1 Kings. A burnt-out Elijah had given up on the Israelites. He tried to die, but God preserved his life. Elijah's complaint against God and the people he was sent to serve remained the same before and after God appeared to him ([19:10, 14](#)). Elijah was unaffected by God's words! Tellingly, he wrapped his garment around his head in a pathetic attempt to isolate his eyes and ears from the God of the universe ([13](#)). So, God announced a retirement plan: If you are so against the Israelites, Elijah, anoint these three people to kill them: Hazael over Aram, Jehu over Israel and Elisha as prophet.

This isn't what Elijah really wanted—he didn't seek national consequences. He just had hoped that his life and ministry would be easier. So, in the worst recruiting scene ever, Elijah walked by Elisha and merely threw his cloak over the man (not anointing him, as commanded). Elisha, understandably, wanted to let his folks know that he was going to be a traveling prophet now. But Elijah had no time for this and dismissed his recruit.

Elisha's response wasn't a quick goodbye either. Instead, he took the time to slaughter 12 of his family's oxen and burn the yokes, harnesses, halters and all the other implements used to help plow. Elisha then gave the meat of the cooked oxen to all the people. While we don't know their financial condition, it's likely that Elisha reduced his well-to-do family into poverty. They still owned the land but now had no way to plow it. Elisha seized, destroyed and distributed the means of production.

This was who Elisha was—a passionately destructive man (she bears!). He announced Hazael's genocidal reign to him ([2 Kings 8:7-15](#)) and finally ordered his servant to anoint Jehu at the beginning of his fratricidal reign ([2 Kings 9:1-10:31](#)). Elisha was a strange recruit indeed.

**Even when walking to his death, Jesus still recruited people who were unsure about their ability to be totally committed.**

Jesus also recruited strange folks at strange times. He sent runners to prepare a place for him in Samaria, but they were rebuffed. Why would Samaritans help someone who was going on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem? That would be like asking crusaders in the bad old days to host Muslim pilgrims on their way to the Hajj. They would be disinclined to help, to say the least.

James and John were furious at the understandable Samaritan reluctance to support a Jerusalem pilgrimage. The disciples wanted to call down fire from heaven to incinerate anyone who would deny hospitality to their Lord. However, Jesus rebuked them and simply went to another village. These were the kind of recruits that the Prince of Peace chose?

But Jesus wasn't finished recruiting. Even as he was on his way to Jerusalem to be murdered by the Romans, he still asked people to join him. This doesn't make much sense. Yes, he was going to do plenty of teaching during Holy Week. But would people really have time to get to know Jesus as he prepared for his arrest, trial and execution? Jesus thought it was worth the effort. He recruited folks who were concerned about living accommodations and were more attached to their families than to Jesus. These aren't people with burning hearts. Rather they are like me, just trying to do right by those who depend on them, while also following Jesus as well as they can.

I take great solace in the strange recruitment strategies in the lectionary readings. Elijah was meant to anoint three successors but only interacted with one—and that started with a fight! Elisha went way over the top in performing repudiation of his family. Jesus demonstrated patience with his recruited followers' inclination to violence. And even when walking to his death, Jesus still recruited people who were unsure about their ability to be totally committed. God's mission requires and invites all kinds of people, often those who make the least sense when considered from human perspectives. Thank God that we are all invited as strange recruits!



[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.