



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2026

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus of Nazareth's words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ Jesus, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prelude

Sonata I

José Lidón
(1748-1827)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God – Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers in this community.

silence for reflection

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have lived only for the present, without regard for generations to come. We have sought the realms of this world, rather than your promised reign of justice and peace. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: How blessed are those whose sins are forgiven. In the mercy of almighty God, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Earth and All Stars!

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain



He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise him with a new song!

5 Classrooms and labs!
 Loud boiling test tubes!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Athlete and band!
 Loud cheering people!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

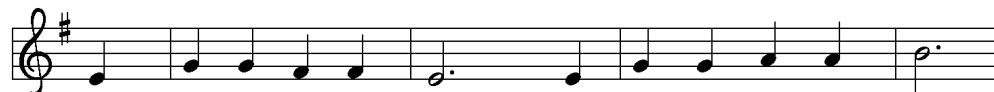
6 Knowledge and truth!
 Loud sounding wisdom!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Daughter and son!
 Loud praying members!
 Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your Church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows

Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God,
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

- P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.
- P: *Matthew Storm*, called by the Holy Spirit and trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?
- R: I do.
- P: We give thanks that *Matthew Storm* has presented himself for Holy Baptism. We should, therefore, faithfully care for him and help him every way as God gives us opportunity, that he may bear witness to the faith we profess, and that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

People of God, do you promise to nurture *Matthew Storm* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit?

C: We do.

P: *Matthew Storm*, using the words of our ancestors in the faith, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil and their empty promises?

R: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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**

P: *Matthew Storm*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



(A prayer for the Holy Spirit is said.)

P: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Matthew Storm*: 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.

C: Amen

(The sign of the cross is made on the forehead.)

P: *Matthew Storm*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

(A baptismal candle is presented.)

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

(The newly baptized is welcomed into the fellowship of the congregation.)

P: Through Baptism God has made this new brother a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.

C: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

First Lesson - Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:33-40

(sung in unison)

The psalmist asks for the Lord's guidance and promises to keep God's commandments always.

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.
³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your law;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.
³⁵Make me go in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.
³⁶Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.
³⁷Turn my eyes from watching | what is worthless;
give me life | in your ways.
³⁸Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which you make to | those who fear you.
³⁹Turn away the reproach | which I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.
⁴⁰Behold, I long for | your commandments;
in your righteousness pre- | serve my life.

Second Lesson -Romans 13:8–14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law.
Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"
and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 18:15-20

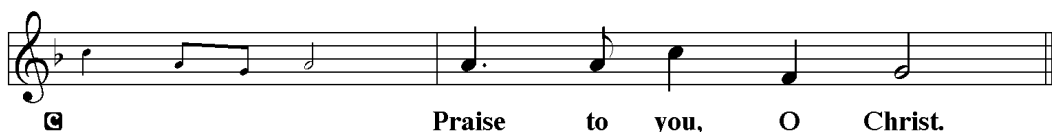
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



*Jesus of Nazareth offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the Church
as a whole—should show wrongdoers their need for repentance.*

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Hymn

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the
 2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our
 3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we
 4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful
 5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,
 world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing;
 seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;
 in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing;
 be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



give us grace and make us still.
 all the fail - ures we con - fess.
 set us free and grant us peace.
 make us stron - ger, give us faith.
 God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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The Prayers

- A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A: Hold us accountable, O God. Show your Church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other followers of the risen Christ and people of other faiths. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Help us renew the seas, the soil, and the forests, and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**

- A: Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick. Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen**

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Organ Offertory

Cantabile

Benedetto Marcello
(1686-1739)

Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a -

way from your pres-ence: and take not your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to

me the joy of your sal - va - tion:

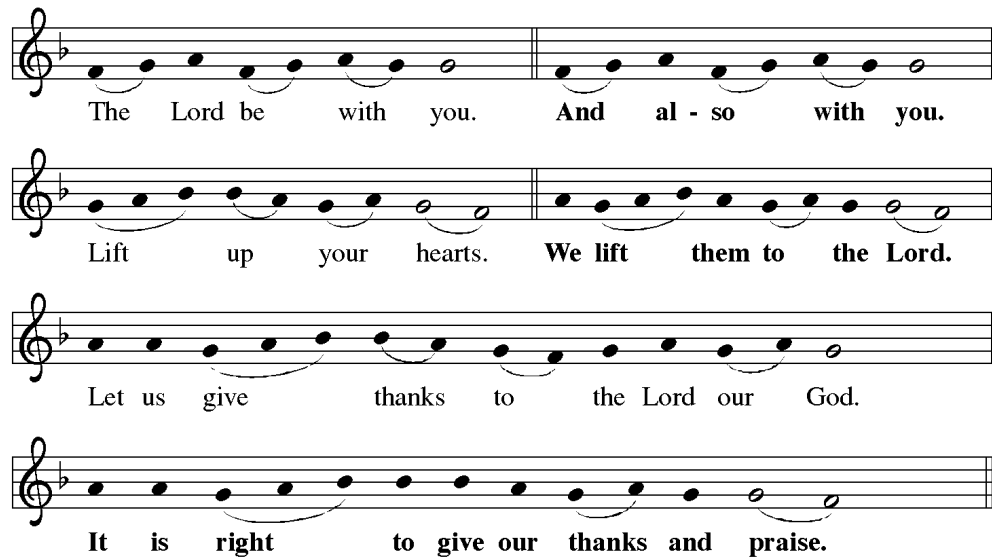
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

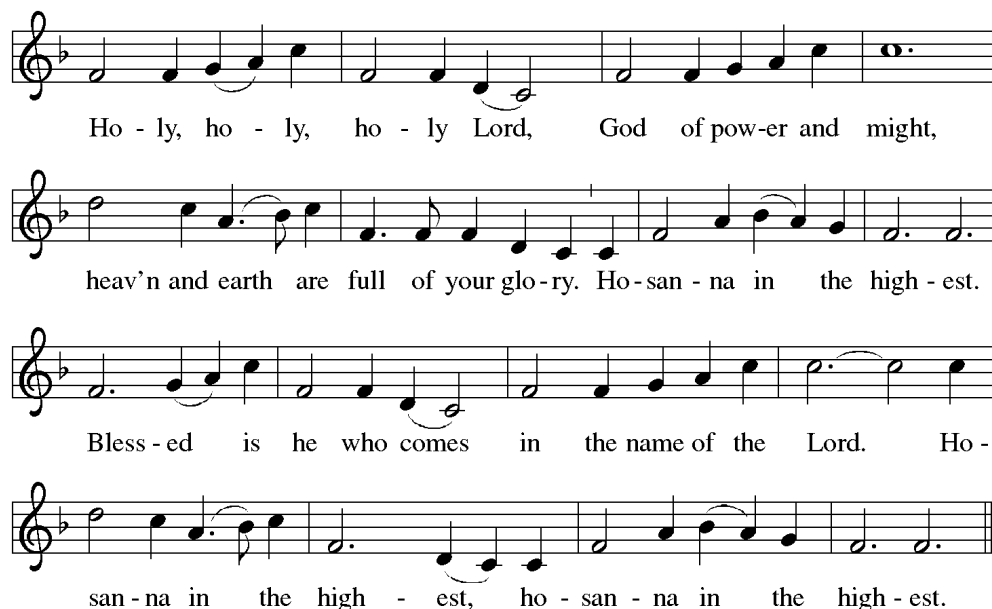
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris-tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

*Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.*

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus the Christ, our servant Lord.

C: Amen

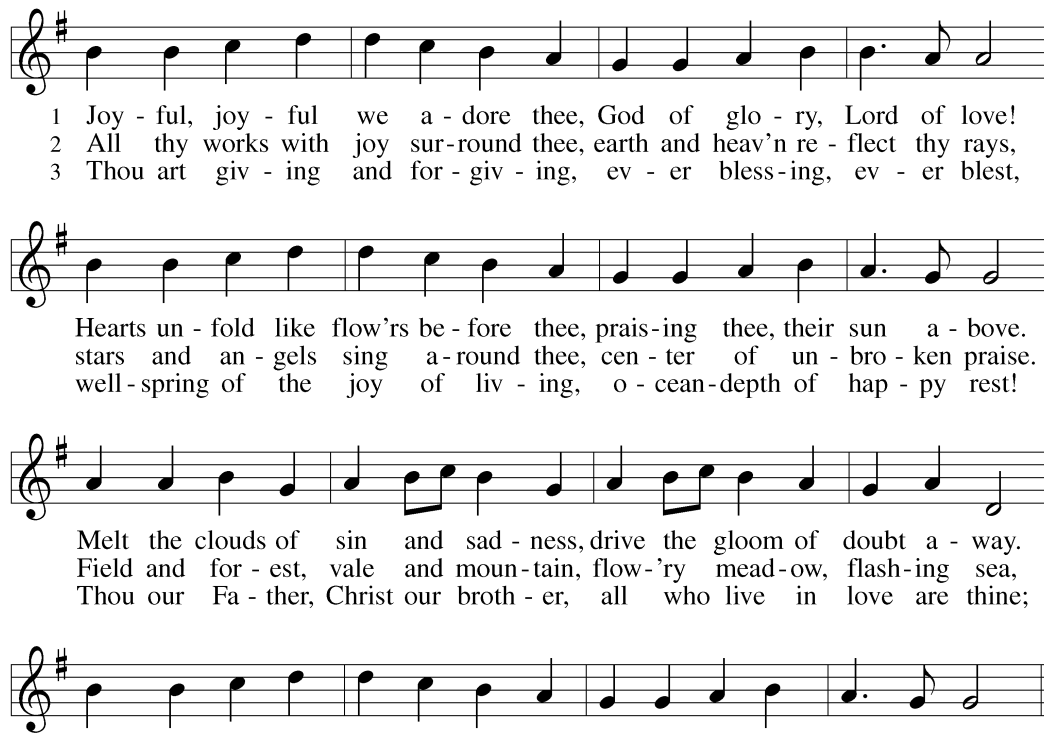
Benediction



P Almighty God, Father, **†** Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. **A** - men

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!
Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;
Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sonata in the First Tone

José Lidón



We welcome Matthew Storm Falcon into our fellowship today
through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Don Carter
in memory of his parents, Robert and Hazel.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Mae Derrick.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, September 6	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	4:00 p.m.	A Celebration of Romanian Music, Heritage, and Storytelling featuring a documentary and solo double bass recital by Michael Cretu
Monday, September 7		Church Office closed - Labor Day Holiday
	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Tuesday, September 8	1:00 p.m.	Adult Bible Study - <i>Together by Grace: Psalms</i>
	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday, September 9	10:00 a.m.	Women's Sewing Group
	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 10	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	11:00 a.m.	Sermon Discussion Group
Friday, September 11	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>Separation of Church and Hate</i>
Saturday, September 12	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild
Sunday, September 13	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion
	11:30 a.m.	Catered Brunch
	3:30 p.m.	Holy Trinity Youth
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Ellie Quillen
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
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