



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2026

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus of Nazareth heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our congregation extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal, we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prelude

Toccata in A Minor

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck
(1562-1621)

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor - y, praise, and love be now and ev - er giv'n



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a - vails for me.
by saints be - low and saints a - bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

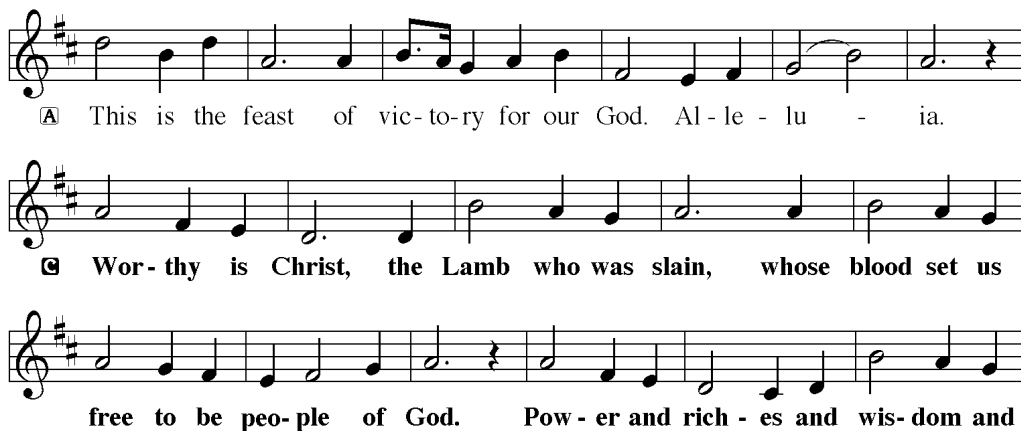
C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

Hymn of Praise



A This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

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

P: Let us pray.

ALL: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,

to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant —
⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
⁸Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

(sung in unison)

*This psalm is a prayer for God's graciousness and saving power,
and a bidding of praise by all people for God's justice and bounty.*

**May God be merciful to | us and bless us,*
show us the light of his countenance, and | come to us.
²Let your ways be known | upon earth,*
your saving health a- | mong all nations.
³Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*
let all the | peoples praise you.
⁴Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,*
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations | upon earth.
⁵Let the peoples praise | you, O God;*
let all the | peoples praise you.
⁶The earth has brought | forth her increase;*
may God, our own God, give | us his blessing.
⁷May God give | us his blessing,*
and may all the ends of the earth stand in | awe of him.**

Second Lesson - Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable,
so that while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

Paul writes: I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L: The word of the Lord.

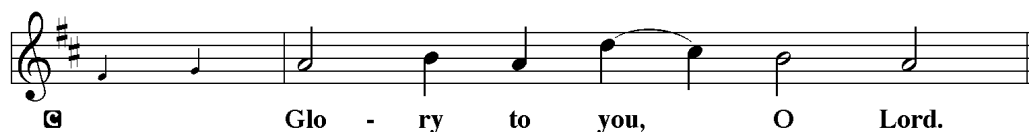
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 15:21-28

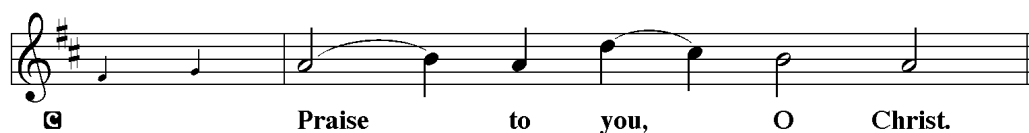
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.



Jesus of Nazareth teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be pagan and unclean approaches him for help.

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

silence for reflection

Pastor Roberts

Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
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Apostles' Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we love:

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

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.

**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**

The Prayers

- A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A: O God, for your children around the world who stream to your holy mountain, that all be united in faith and harmony. Let your Church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Help us safeguard endangered species and their habitats. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that we may provide comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: For this congregation, for visitors and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of the Christ in each new face. Draw us together in love and strengthen us in unwavering faith. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your Church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death. 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.

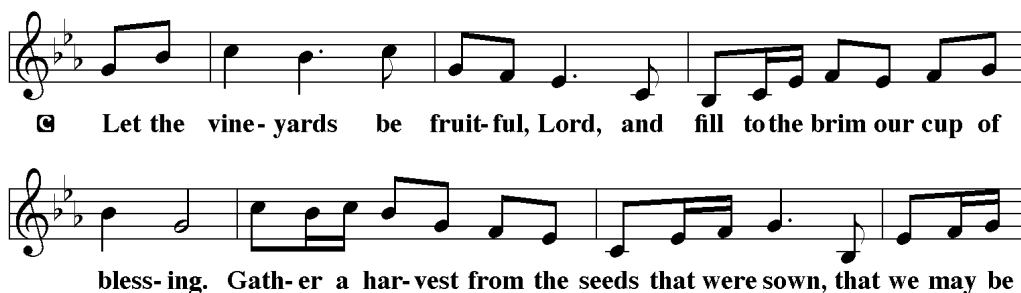
Offering

Organ Offertory

Now We Join in Celebration

arr. Kenneth Kosche
(b. 1947)

Offertory



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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 The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

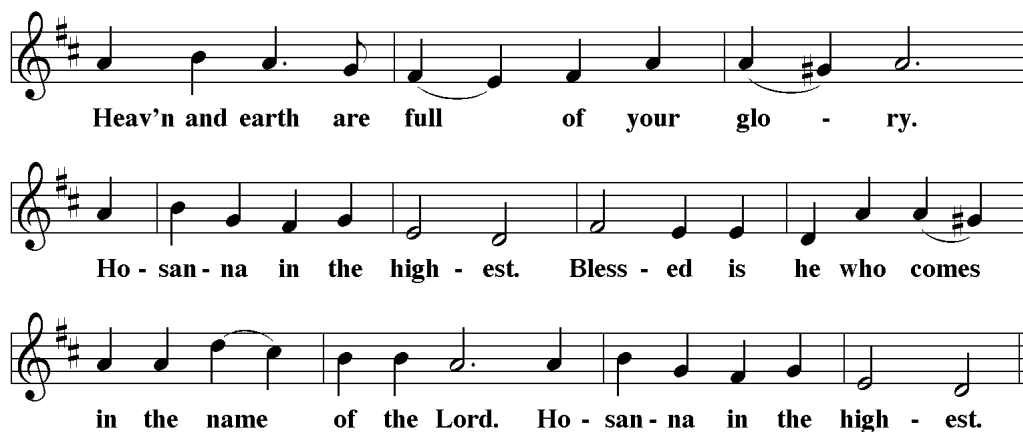
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

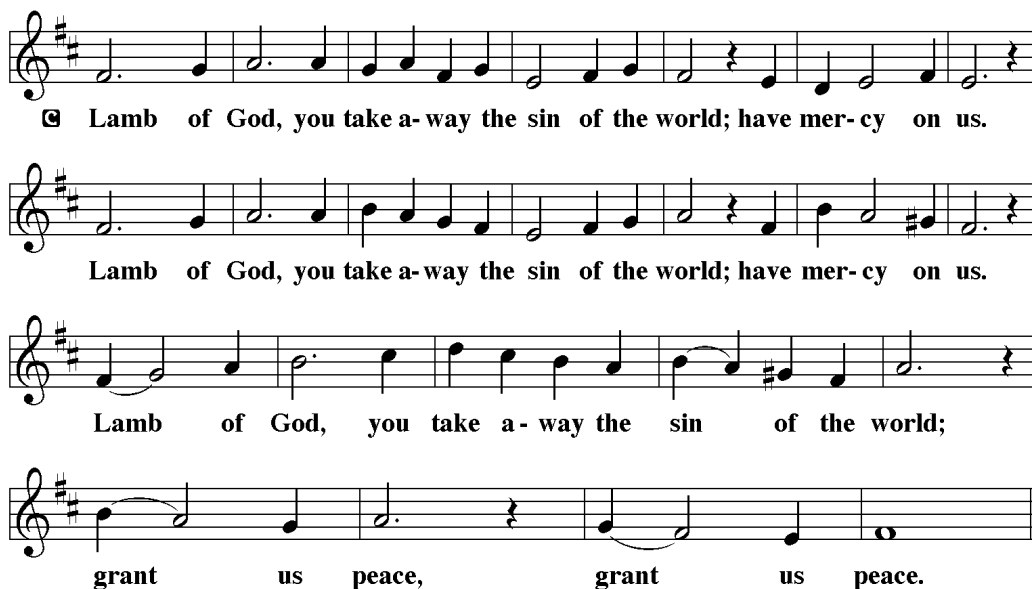


Eucharistic Prayer

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



Hymn

Now We Join in Celebration



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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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 Canticle



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev - 'ry - one what he has done.



Let ev - 'ry - one who seeks the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Benediction

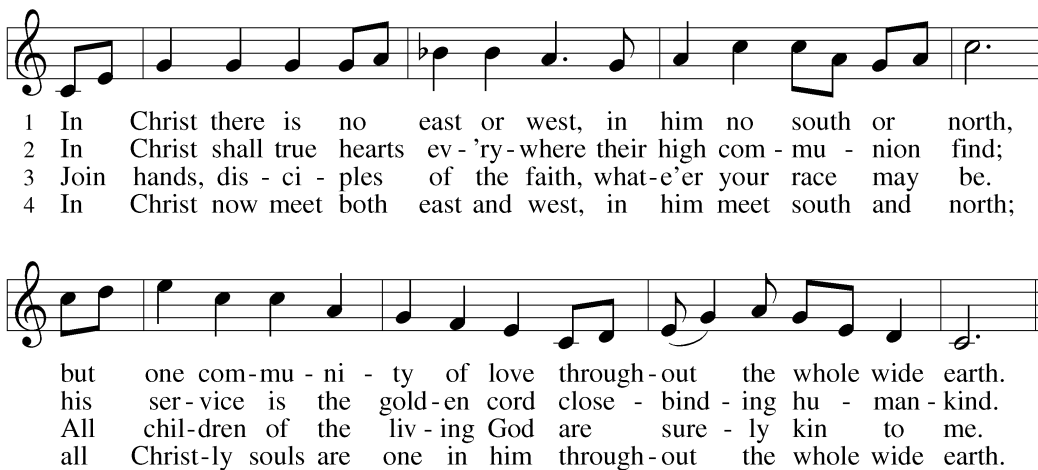


Ⓟ Almighty God, Father, † Son,
and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever.

A - men

Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West



1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ - ly souls are one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852-1941

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In Christ There Is No East or West

arr. Robert W. Jones
(1932-1997)

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, August 16	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	12:00 p.m.	Senior Youth Lunch Out (grades nine - twelve)
Monday, August 17	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Wednesday, August 19	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
Thursday, August 20	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, August 21	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Sunday, August 23	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	11:45 a.m.	Junior Youth: A Splashing Good Time (grades three - eight)

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Becky Cloud
in memory of her dad, Robert Cloud, on his birthday.

The candles are given to the glory of God by April Whalen
in memory of Herbert and Rose Ross.

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

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

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

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
Susan H. Williams
Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington