



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2026

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering, yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus of Nazareth's words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship, we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in D Major

Antonin Dvořák
(1841-1904)

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

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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.**

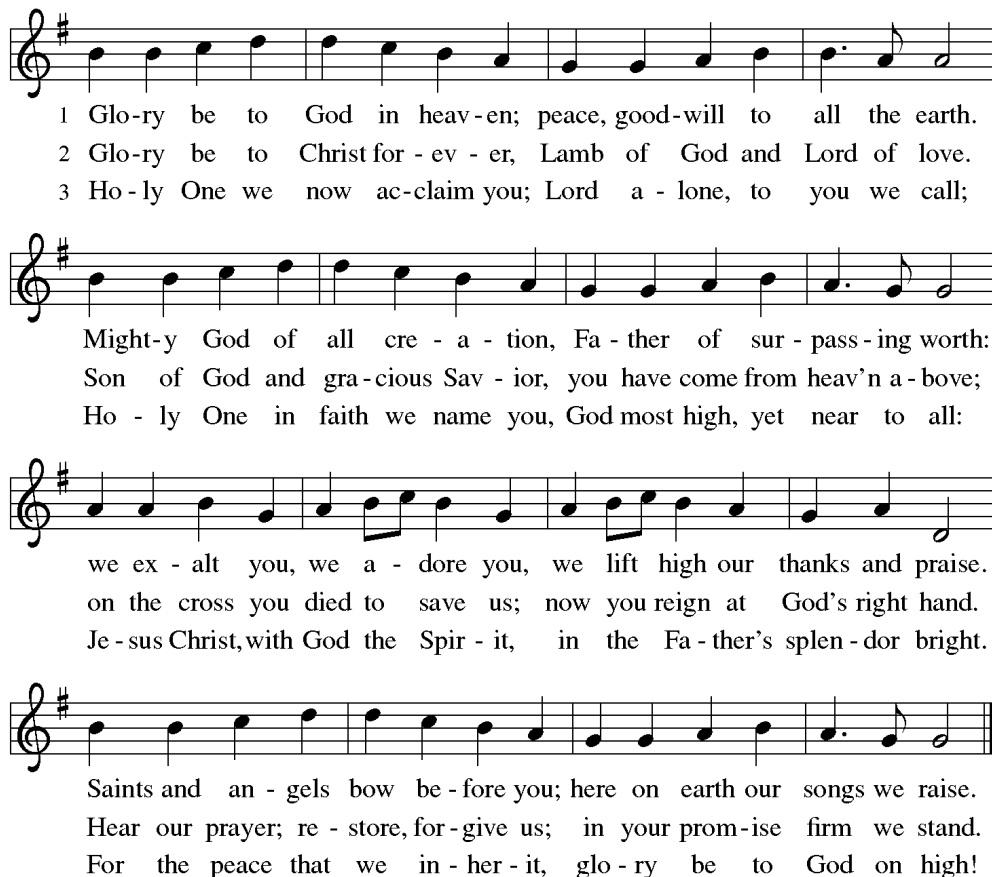
Kyrie



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



P: Let us pray.

ALL: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Jeremiah 15:15–21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words: "I am with you."

- ¹⁵O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
- ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.
- ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.
- ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
- ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.
- ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

This psalm is a plea for justice by one who serves the Lord well.

**Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;*
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.**

**²Test me, O | LORD, and try me;*
examine my heart | and my mind.**

**³For your love is be- | fore my eyes;*
I have walked faith- | fully with you.**

**⁴I have not sat | with the worthless,*
nor do I consort with | the deceitful.**

**⁵I have hated the company of | evildoers;*
I will not sit down | with the wicked.**

**⁶I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,*
that I may go in procession | round your altar,**

**⁷singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving*
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.**

**⁸LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell*
and the place where your glo- | ry abides.**

Second Lesson - Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While followers of the risen Christ cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

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.

Holy Gospel - Matthew 16:21-28

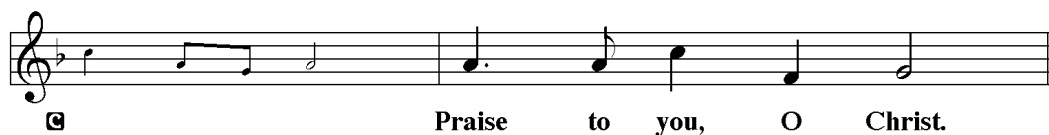
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.



After Peter confesses that Jesus of Nazareth is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on (after Peter's confession), Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

The Reverend Becky Cloud

silence for reflection

Hymn

Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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 believe:

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: For the Church in every land, O God, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ Jesus. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Inspire us to provide relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Help us support efforts to ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that we remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.
A: For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the Church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

Offertory

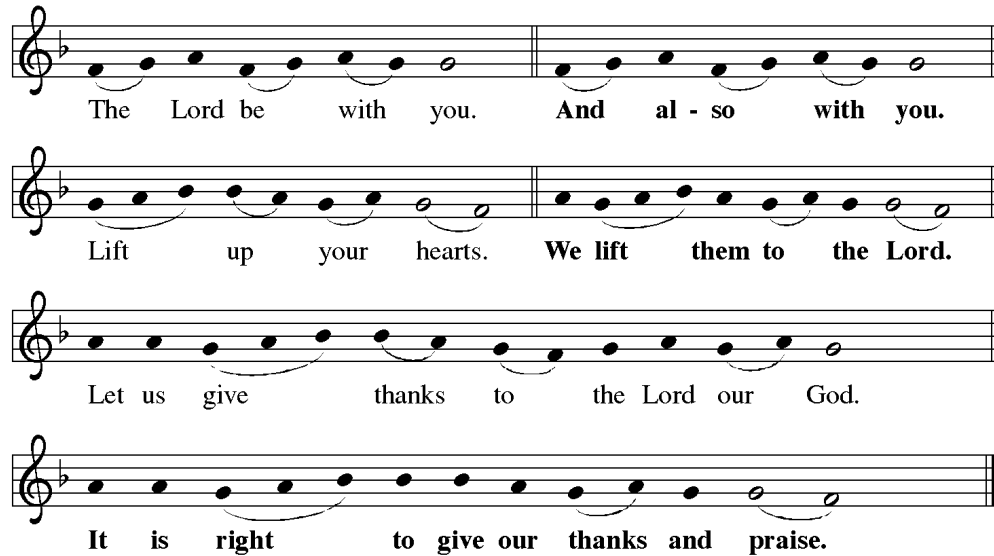
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

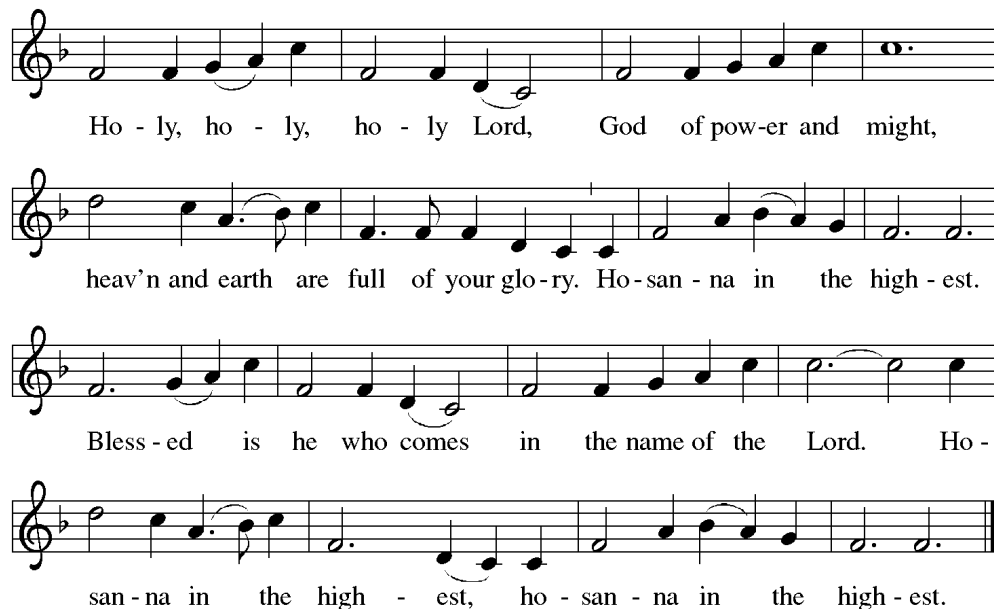
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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.*

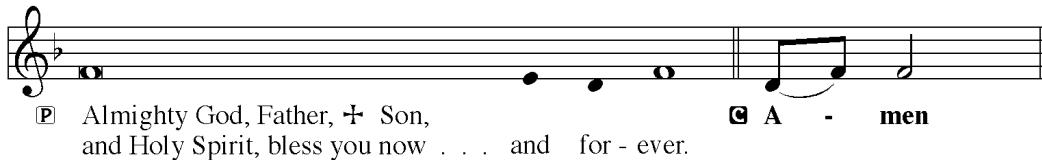
Post-Communion Prayer

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



Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Refrain:

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
<i>Refrain</i> | 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
<i>Refrain</i> |
| 2 Led on their way by this triumphal sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine.
<i>Refrain</i> | 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.
<i>Refrain</i> |
| 5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
<i>Refrain</i> | |

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lift High the Cross

arr. John G. Barr
(1938-2024)

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, August 30	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	3:00 p.m.	A Gathering for Widows and Widowers
	5:00 p.m.	Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve)
Monday, August 31	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Wednesday, September 2	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 3	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, September 4	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
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

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The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Diane Kizer
in honor of Dennis Roberts and the people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Carol Barclay in honor of Kim Barclay's birthday.

Our appreciation to The Reverend Becky Cloud for preaching and presiding at worship today.
She is a retired United Methodist pastor who is active in the life of Holy Trinity.
Pastor Roberts is on vacation.

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