



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2026

In today's second reading, the apostle Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet, we do sin against one another, and Jesus of Nazareth's challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in Holy Baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Prelude

Praeludium in E Minor

Nicolaus Bruhns
(1665-1697)

ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais-es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res-cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

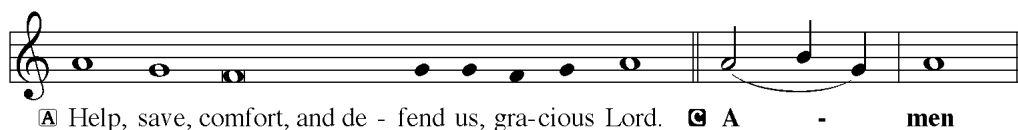
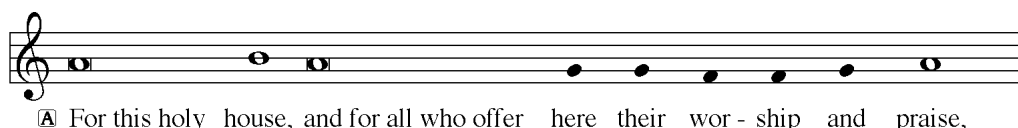
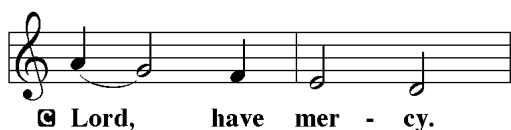
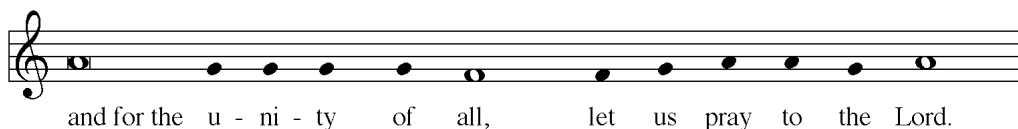
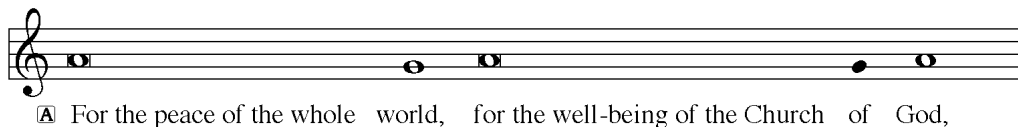
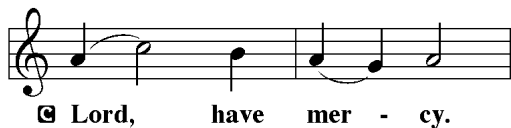
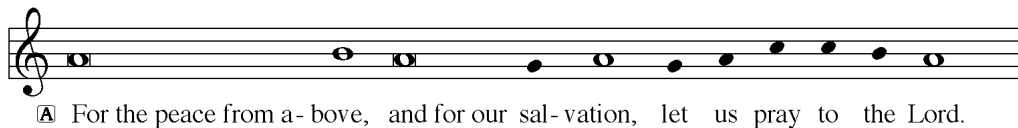
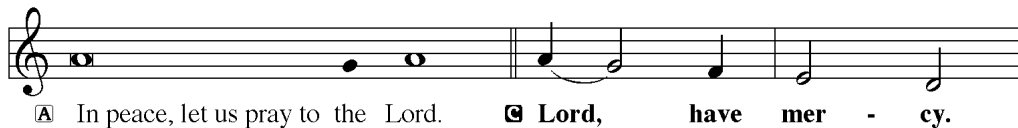
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

Greeting

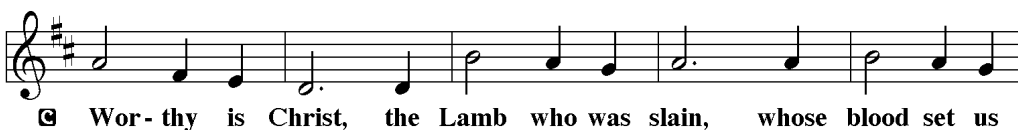
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



Hymn of Praise



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: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death, the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore

please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13

(sung in unison)

The psalm is a hymn of blessing in thanksgiving for healing forgiveness and for all the Lord's acts of compassion and justice.

¹**Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name.**

²**Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and forget not | all his benefits.**

³**He forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your infirmities;**

⁴**he redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and | lovingkindness;**

⁵**he satisfies you | with good things,
and your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.**

⁶**The Lord ex- | ecutes righteousness
and judgment for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷**He made his ways | known to Moses
and his works to the chil- | dren of Israel.**

⁸**The Lord is full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and | of great kindness.**

⁹**He will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will he keep his an- | ger forever.**

¹⁰**He has not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor rewarded us according | to our wickedness.**

¹¹**For as the heavens are high | above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon | those who fear him.**

¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far has he removed our | sins from us.**

¹³**As a father cares | for his children,
so does the Lord care for | those who fear him.**

Second Lesson - Romans 14:1–12

The Christ-following community in Rome has significant struggles with diversity. Here, Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For

we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The word of the Lord.

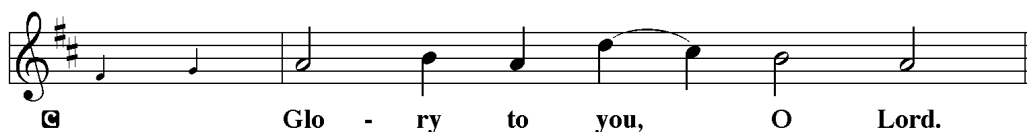
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

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

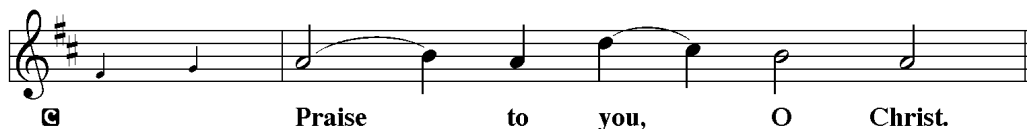


When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus of Nazareth responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



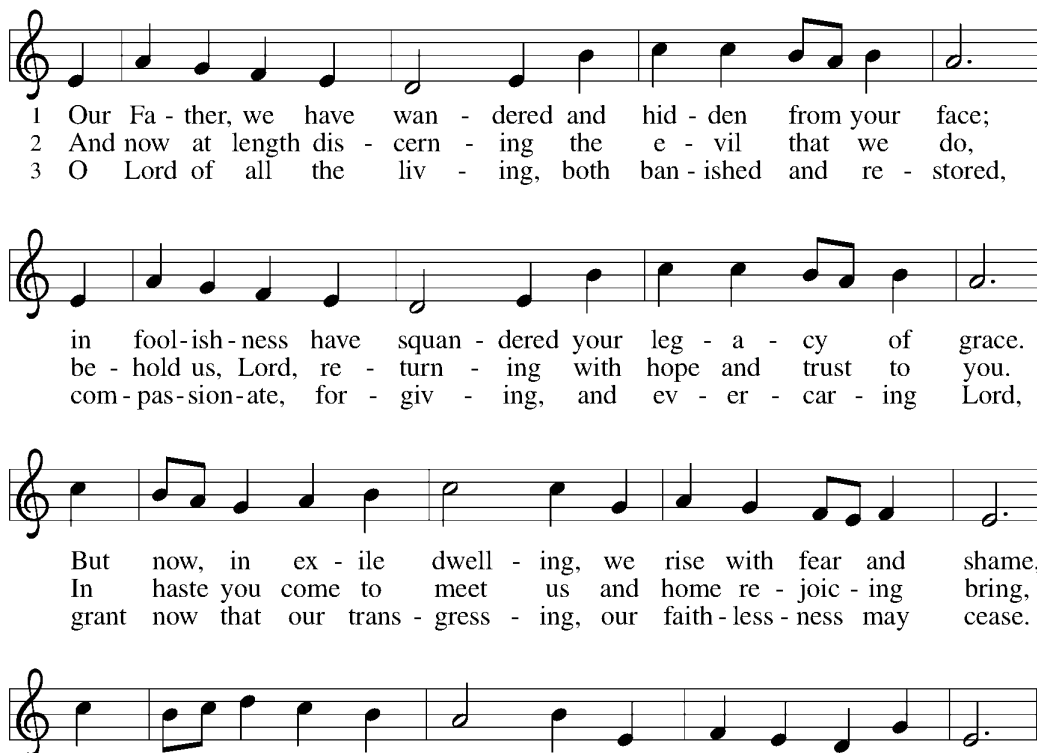
Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par-don, and in peace.

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,

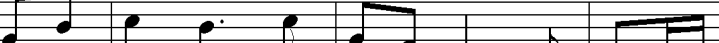
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers

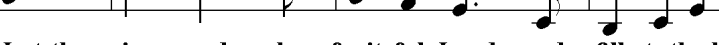
A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: O God, we pray for the Church. Bless the diverse missions and ministries of congregations around the world, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be experienced and understood. Merciful God,

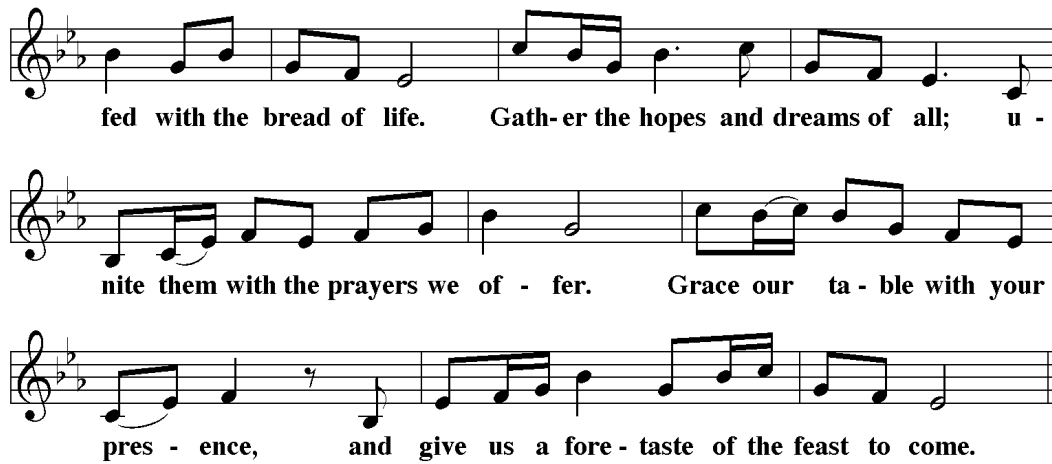
C: receive our prayer.



 ☩ 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



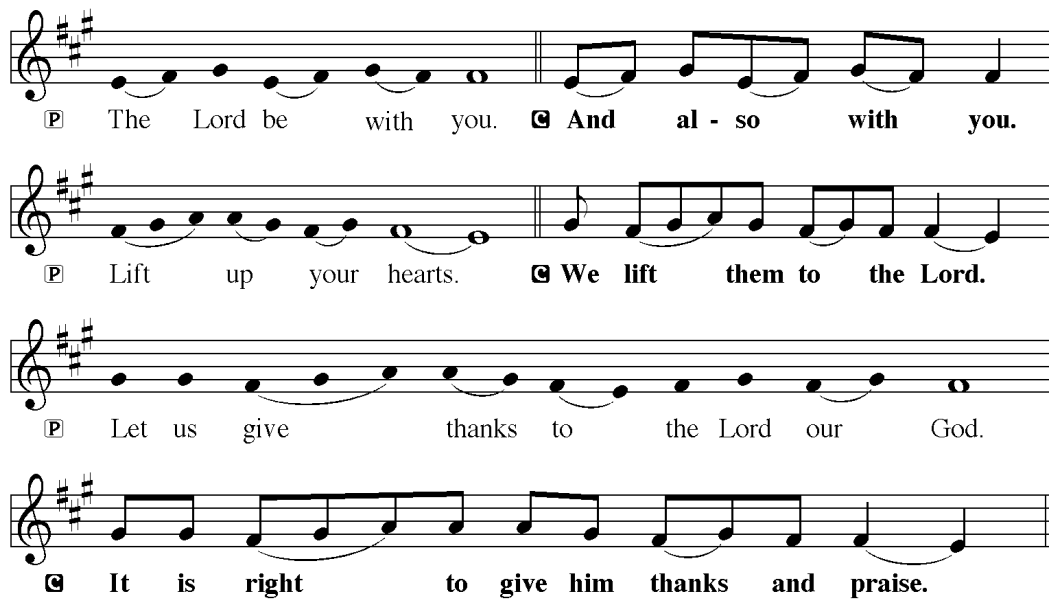
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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

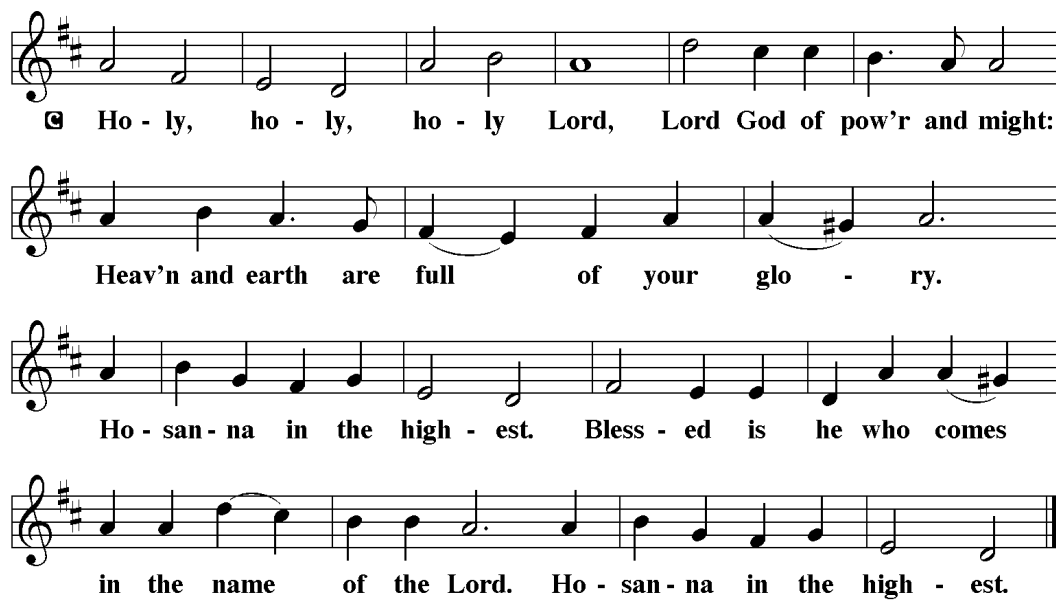
Great Thanksgiving



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



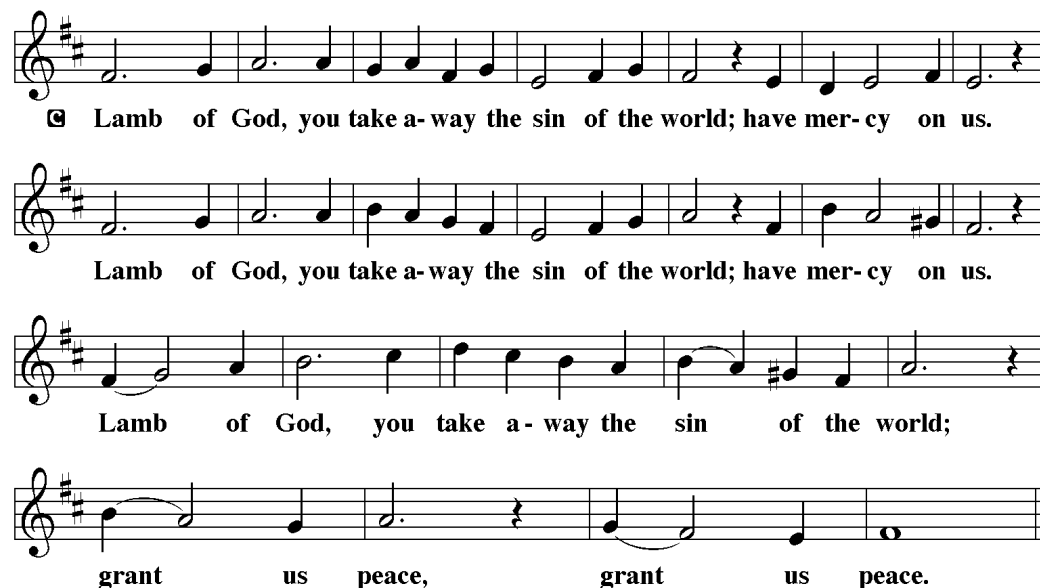
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Now the Silence



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



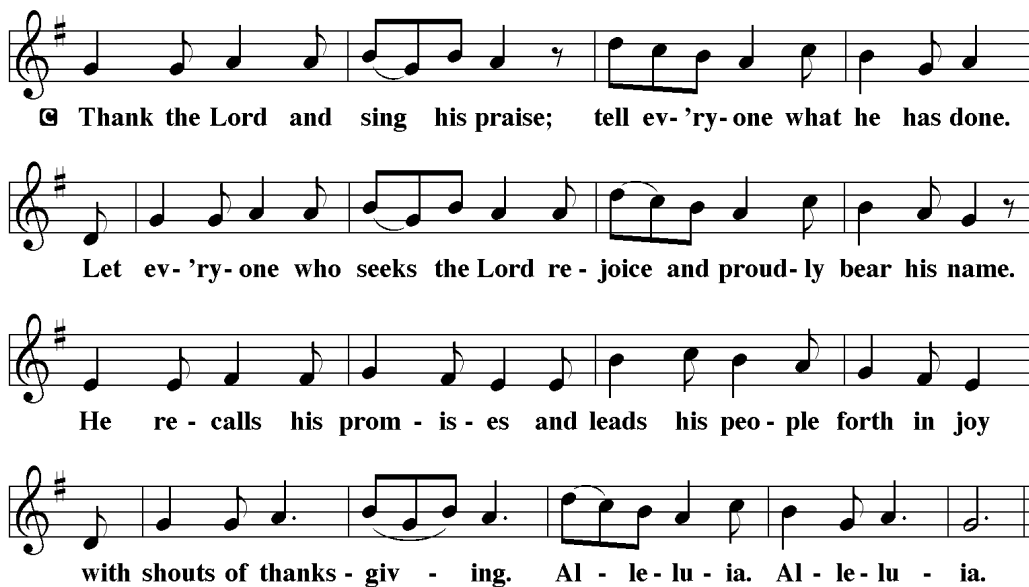
Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

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.

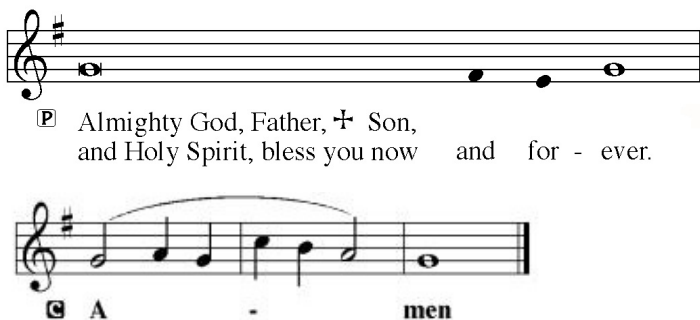
Post-Communion Prayer

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 Thee Is Gladness



1 In thee is glad-ness a - mid all sad-ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my heart.
2 If he is ours, . . we fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or death.



By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav-en, thou the true re-deem-er art.
He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can change them with a breath.



Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou break - est. Who trusts thee sure-ly
Where-fore the sto - ry tell of his glo - ry with heart and voic-es;



has built se - cure - ly and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
all heav'n re - joic - es in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!



Our hearts are pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
We shout for glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught us can sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praeludium in E Minor

Nicolaus Bruhns



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ida Proco
in memory of her mother's birthday.

The candles are given to the glory of God by April Whalen
in honor of Bruce Gerlich's birthday.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

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 (grades three - twelve)
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class (grades six and above)
Monday, September 14	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Bible Study - <i>Connecting with God</i>
Tuesday, September 15	9:30 a.m.	Apfelstrudel Making
	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, September 16	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Ministry (age three - grade five)
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 17	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	11:00 a.m.	Discussion Group - <i>First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God</i>
Friday, September 18	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>
Sunday, September 20	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	12:00 p.m.	Holy Trinity Youth (grades three - twelve)
	5:00 p.m.	Thomas Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Third Sunday Program - <i>From Poplar Forest to Florida</i>

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

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

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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

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