

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
8th Sunday after Pentecost
July 14, 2024

John the Baptist spoke truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

PRELUDE

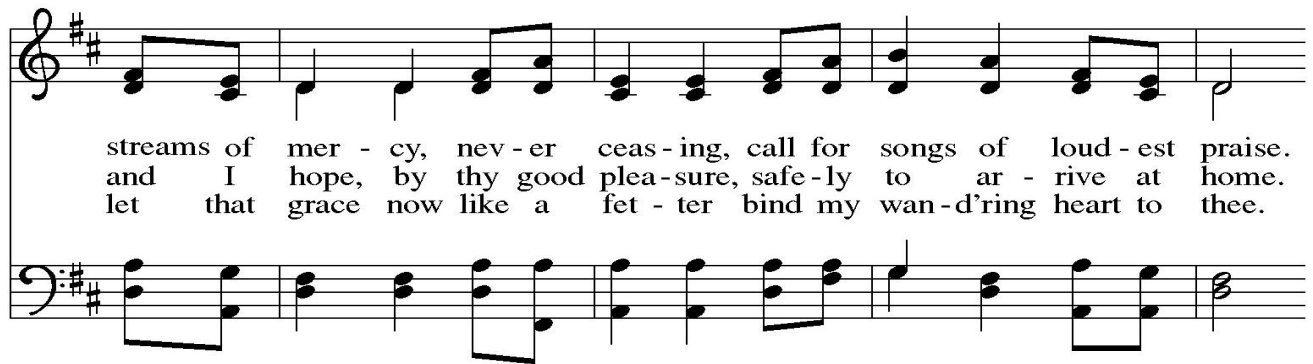
WELCOME

***GOD SIGHTINGS**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



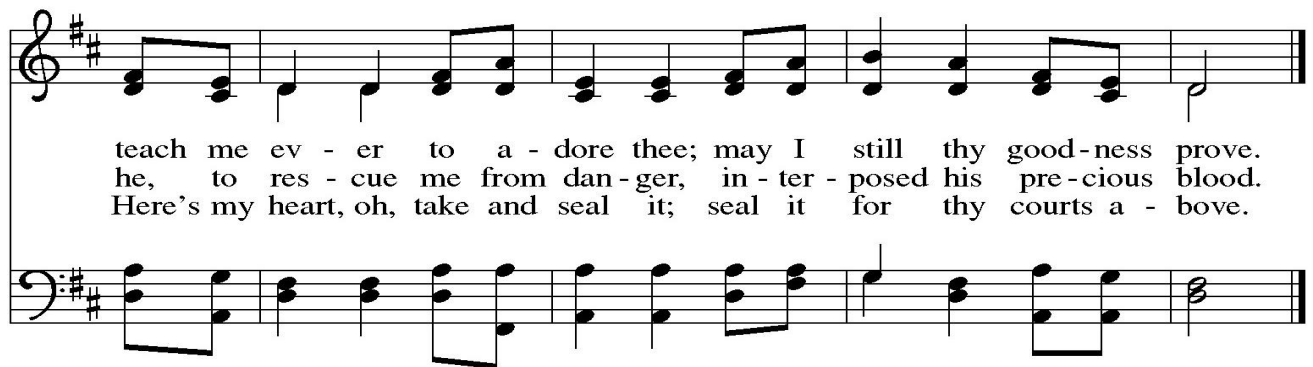
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Amos 7:7-15

⁷ This is what [the Lord God] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;

⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land.'

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

A Word for God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

- ⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.
- ⁹ Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land. R
- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- ¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway. R

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

736

God the Sculptor of the Mountains

1 God the sculp-tor of the moun-tains, God the mill-er of the

sand, God the jewel-er of the heav-ens,

God the pot-ter of the land: you are womb of all cre-

a-tion, we are form-less; shape us now.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954
 Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940
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***GOSPEL – Mark 6:14-29**

As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist’s martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Let Justice Flow like Streams

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar - kling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776
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*APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER REFRAIN

v. 1 before, v. 3 after

ACS 1067

For the Wholeness of the Earth



1 We lift this prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this
2 We turn our lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our
3 Give thanks to God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to



prayer for the whole-ness of the earth. We lift this prayer for the
lives to the whole-ness of the earth. We turn our lives to the
God for the whole-ness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the



whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it spin-ning in you?
whole-ness of the earth. Can you feel it ris - ing in you?

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: WHOLENESS OF THE EARTH, Bret Hesla

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In God our longing can find rest, for we can bring all our prayers and hopes. Each prayer will end: "Merciful God." You are invited to respond: **receive our prayer.***

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be written and customs to be observed that protect the most vulnerable. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. (*We pray especially for . . .*) In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve and build up local communities (*ministries may be named*). Nurture our partnerships with other community organizations (*organizations may be named*). In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you (*especially*). In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. In your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. Today we pray especially for Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Saginaw, and their pastor, Rev. Andreas Teich.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER REFRAIN

v. 3 after

ACS 1067

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

v. 3

ELW 736

736

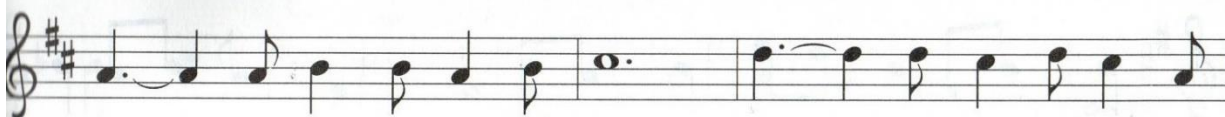
God the Sculptor of the Mountains



3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the plant - er of the



wheat, God the reap - er of the har - vest,



God the source of all we eat: you are host at ev - 'ry



ta - ble, we are hun - gry; feed us now.

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954

Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

***WORDS TO LOVE BY**

Where Jesus is...there is joy, there is peace, there is love.
And that is why he made himself the Bread of Life
 To be our life of love and joy.
 No one else can give what he gives,
 and he is there all the time.
 We have only to realize that.

Dear Jesus,
**Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go,
Flood our souls with your spirit and life.
Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly
 that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.
Shine through us
And be so in us
That every soul we come in contact with
 may feel your presence in our soul.
Let them look up and see no longer us
but only Jesus.
Stay with us
And then we shall begin to shine as you shine,
so shine as to be light to others.
The light, O Jesus will be all from you.
None of it will be ours.
It will be you shining on others through us.
Let us thus praise you in the way you love best
 By shining on those around us.**

**Let us preach you without preaching
not by words but by our examples
by the catching force
the sympathetic influence of what we do
the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to you. Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

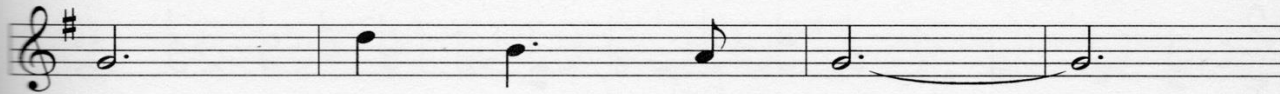
***BLESSING**

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SOCIETY, JUSTICE

We Are Called

R 251



1 Come! Live in the light!
 2 Come! O - pen your heart!
 3 Sing! Sing a new song!



Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are
 Show your . . . mer - cy to all those in fear! We are
 Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will



called to be light for the king - dom, to
 called to be hope for the hope - less so all
 reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 ha - tred and blind - ness will be . . . no more.
 sis - ters and broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -



ath - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

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WE ARE CALLED, David Haas

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2055 E. Columbia Avenue

Battle Creek, MI 49014

269-963-5356

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:

Preacher	Laurie Swanson
Assisting Minister	Gloria Kolodizieizyck
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	Ellis Cutler

Contact info:

Church Office: office@tlcbattlecreek.org

Office: 269-963-5356

While Pastor Kjersten is away, Pastor Ed Ruble from St. Peter Lutheran Church is available for pastoral care. You can reach Pastor Ed at 269-569-4721.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

July 14-21, 2024

TODAY: 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: 2-4pm Freeze Pop Tuesday

WEDNESDAY:

THURSDAY: 11:30am Roadrunners

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY: Pride Festival @ Leila Arboretum

NEXT SUNDAY: 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a; Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing Pastor Kjersten. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.

July 7: JoAnn Rusan – friend, Debbie, first granddaughter, Gia and Barbara, Janelle – Rod Tungate and Tracy, Connie Everson – cousin, Roseann, Tresa Garver – Thanksgiving for Art’s 84th birthday and 30 years of family together, and Stephanie, Wayne Walentowski’s sister-in-law, Jill, Anderts’ neighbor, Don Garrett and great nephew Colton undergoing leukemia treatment and Tori for two cousins, 11 and 18 years old who have been mistreated.

June 30: Linda Hermann – Dr’s family and Andy, JoAnn Rusan – first granddaughter born this week, Wayne Walentowski’s sister-in-law, Kathy – her missing dog, Janelle – Rod Tungate, Doug and Eileen Martens’ great grandchild’s second birthday, Great nephew of Diane and Jeff Andert – Colton being treated for leukemia and Tresa Garver – all police officers.

June 23 Kathy Chapman for health and anticipated surgery, Great nephew of Diane and Jeff Andert diagnosed with leukemia and Pastor Kjersten and the Sullivan baby .

SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Saginaw, and their pastor, Rev. Andreas Teich. Learn more about their ministry at:

<https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviourLutheranSaginaw/>.

Our prayer partner for next week is Resurrection Lutheran Church in Saginaw, and their pastor, Rev. Andreas Teich. Learn more about their ministry at:

<https://www.facebook.com/resurrection.l.church/>.

