

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**November 10, 2024**

*Widows are visible everywhere in today's readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows' houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn't see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**\*GOD SIGHTINGS**

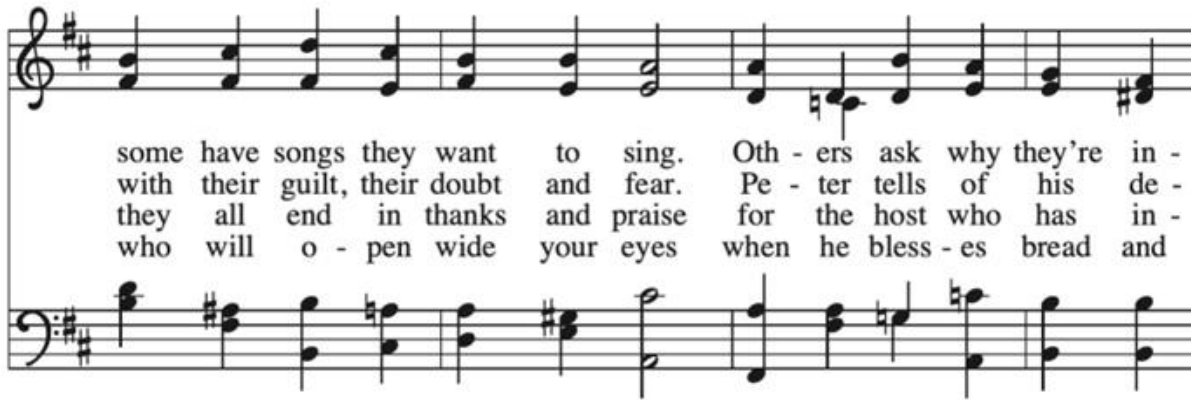
**\*GATHERING HYMN**

**ACS 977**

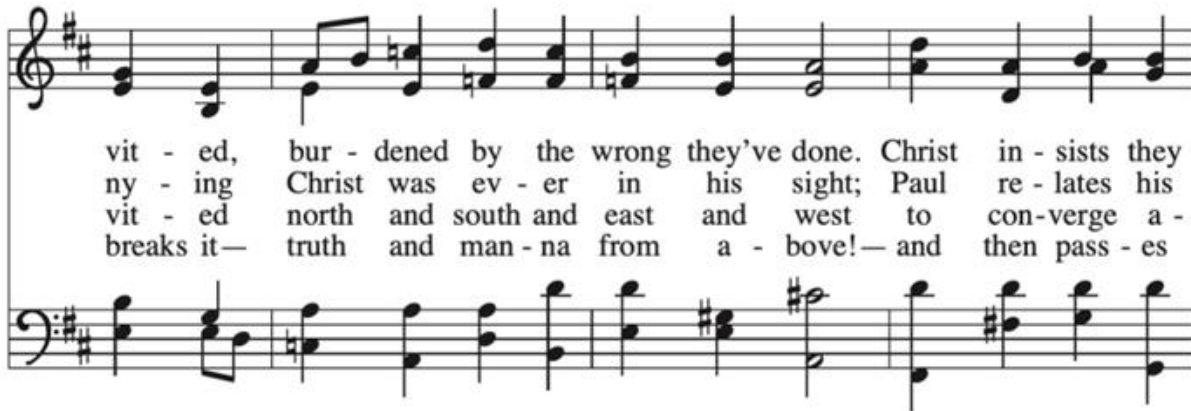
**Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table**

1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries  
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -  
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand  
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to

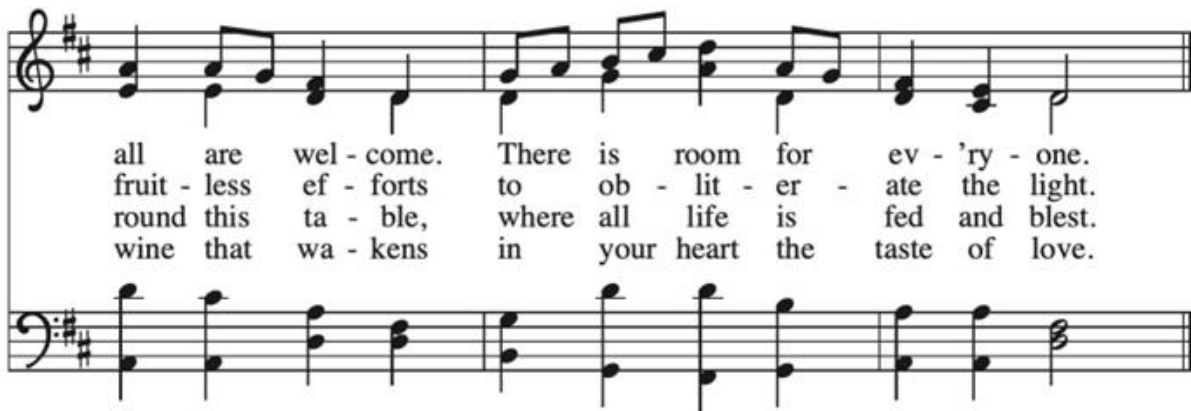
that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;  
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled  
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:  
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -  
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -  
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -  
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they  
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his  
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -  
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.  
 fruit - less ef - ferts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.  
 round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.  
 wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: COPELAND, Michael Corzine, b. 1947

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**\*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, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17**

*Naomi has lost her husband and sons, but is blessed by the love and support of her widowed daughter-in-law Ruth. Naomi is resourceful in arranging the marriage of Ruth to her wealthy kinsman, Boaz; and Ruth, the Moabite, becomes the great-grandmother to that greatest of Israelite kings, David.*

A reading from Ruth:

<sup>1</sup> Naomi said to [Ruth,] “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. <sup>2</sup> Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

<sup>4:13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup> The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

A Word for God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 146**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup> **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup> **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,  
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

- <sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- <sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**
- <sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.
- <sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- <sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 9:24-28**

*The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.*

A reading from Hebrews:

<sup>24</sup> Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; <sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

A Word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

736

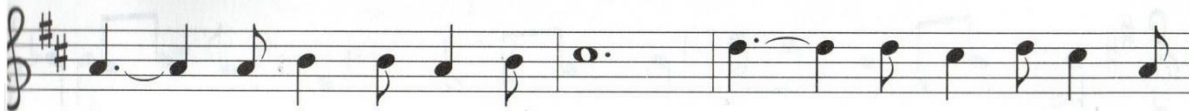
# God the Sculptor of the Mountains



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 12:38-44**

*After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup> As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup> and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup> They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

<sup>41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

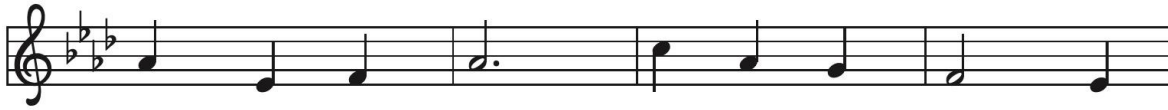
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

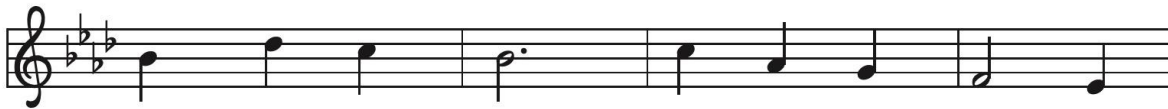
# God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

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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**



## 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: "God of grace," You are invited to respond: **Receive our prayer.***

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

God, as we speak the words of Jesus we thank you that chaos becomes order, hearts turn to you, relationships are healed, the poor become fed, and your children find a place with you. Our journey is paved with blessings and open opportunities to share your word and impact lives forever. God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

Lord, in the mighty name of Jesus fill our hearts with peace and joy. Help us to carry a calm spirit and radiate joy to those around us. Thank you for your gift of peace. God of grace,

**Receive our prayer.**

God, we worship and honor you. Thank you for the beauty you created in the sky above us and the world around us. Praise you for your steadfast love and remind us of your great mercies so we may share your praises. God of grace,  
**Receive our prayer.**

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill in us a heart for service and a passion for justice. We pray especially for Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme and their pastor, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman. God of grace,  
**Receive our prayer.**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER REFRAIN**

**v. 3 after**

**ACS 1067**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

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:

**Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.**

**By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

736

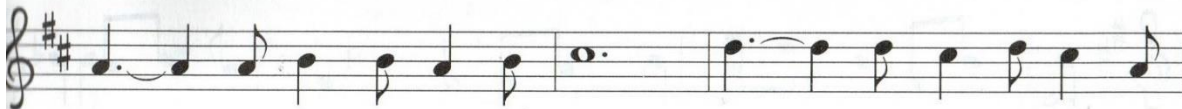
### God the Sculptor of the Mountains



4 God the un - ex-pect-ed in - fant, God the calm, de-ter-mined



youth, God the ta - ble-turn - ing proph - et,



God the re - sur-rect - ed truth: you are pres - ent ev - 'ry



mo - ment, we are search - ing; meet us now.

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Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **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.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

### **\*COMMUNION**

*This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.*

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Holy God,**

**you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.**

**Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

God all mighty,

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

# Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

*Refrain*



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**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:***

Pastor	Rev. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister	Linda Hermann
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	Ellis Cutler
Streaming	Doug Martens
Prayers	Linda Hermann

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Cell: 805-458-6074

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Church Office

Office: 269-963-5356

**Sermon transcripts can be found at: [www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons](http://www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons)**



**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY**  
**November 10-17, 2024**

**TODAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3:30pm Swahili Worship Service

**MONDAY:**

**TUESDAY:** 1:00pm Facebook Live Bible Chat

**WEDNESDAY:** No Bible Chat | 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY:**

**FRIDAY:**

**SATURDAY:**

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour | 3:30pm Swahili Worship Service

Pastor Kjersten is out of town this week, Tuesday to Sunday, at the Fall ELCA Church Council meeting. She is available by phone or email.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

**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.*

November 3: Janelle – Rod Tungate, Tracy Barons; Tresa – safety for Daniel as he travels; Tish – Barry and all the family of Kathy Chapman.

October 27: Joann – DJ, Roger; Vicky – family of Lois; Janelle – Rod Tungate, Tracy Barons; Tresa – Stephanie, Gloria, and John; Wayne – celebration for Kendra and Chase’s 5<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

October 20: Michelle – for her health and for the loss of one of her staff; Janelle – Rod Tungate; JoAnn – DJ, family of Kathy Chapman; Connie – Tish.

**SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER**

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme and their pastor, Rev. Haley Vay Beaman. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://www.feastofvictory.org/>.

Our prayer partner for next week is Immanuel Lutheran Church in Allegan and their pastor, Rev. Chris Laughlin. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://immanuellutheranallegan.org/>.