

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Time after Pentecost

July 13th, 2025

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

PRELUDE: Ronnie Cung

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others,

but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness,

and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

Heal us, break our bonds,

and show us the path of life.

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus

and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✝ Christ,

and through the power of the Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN “God Is Here” verse 1,2,3, ELW 526**

***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 Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregant may be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

A reading from Deuteronomy.

⁹ The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰ when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-10

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. (Ps. 25:4)

- ¹ To ¹ you, O Lord,
I lift ¹ up my soul.
- ² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be ¹ put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ¹ over me.**
- ³ Let none who look to you be ¹ put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ¹ who are treacherous.
- ⁴ **Show me your ¹ ways, O Lord,
and teach ¹ me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your ¹ truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ¹ the day long.
- ⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from ¹ everlasting.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- ⁸ **You are gracious and up- ¹ right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners ¹ in your way.**
- ⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
- ¹⁰ **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your ¹ testimonies.**

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.¹

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷ This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly rises to greet the gospel.

ALLELUIA VERSE ELW PG 151



***GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDRENS SERMON

SERMON – Pastor Cheri Johnson

***HYMN OF THE DAY “O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate” verse 1,2,3 ELW 722**

***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.

The congregant may be seated.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests are shared from the congregation as an assistant will pass along the microphone. All are welcome to share their prayers which is followed by the Prayer Refrain.

PRAYER REFRAIN

ACS 918

Now Is the Time of Grace

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two measures of music, each starting with a measure number '1' and '2' above the staff. The lyrics 'Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.' The music ends with a double bar line.

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9

Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – (Assisting Minister)

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Saving God, awaken your church to your truth as it follows your path of love. Encourage pastors, deacons, teachers, and seminarians, and lead them as they seek to learn your ways. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Prosper the harvests of fruit-bearing bushes, trees, and plants. Uphold farmers and farm workers as they labor through summer days, and bring relief to lands that are parched with heat. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Instill in leaders of the world a strong love for their neighbors. Compel them to govern with equity and to give aid and protection to people who are vulnerable, especially strangers, migrants, and asylum seekers. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to people in need of help, comfort, and healing (*especially those from the prayer requests*). Provide protection and aid to children who are unsafe and undernourished while on summer break. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Go with all who travel and protect them from harm. Put in their paths people who offer aid. We pray especially for the safety of first responders. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks for all who have gone before us and have made your love known. Help us to follow their witness as we await our share in the inheritance of the saints. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are shared from the congregation as an assistant will pass along the microphone. All are welcome to share the “happenings” of Trinity Lutheran Community.

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING: Ronnie Cung

During Offering, special music will be performed while the offering plate is being passed. This is followed by receiving of the offerings where we stand and sing the 3rd verse of ELW 736.

OFFERTORY

v. 3

ELW 736

736

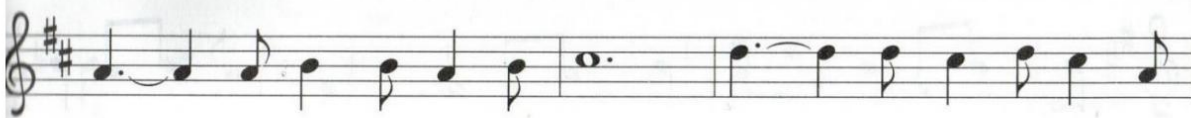
God the Sculptor of the Mountains



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 – (Assisting Minister)**

Let us pray.

**Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

Amen

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

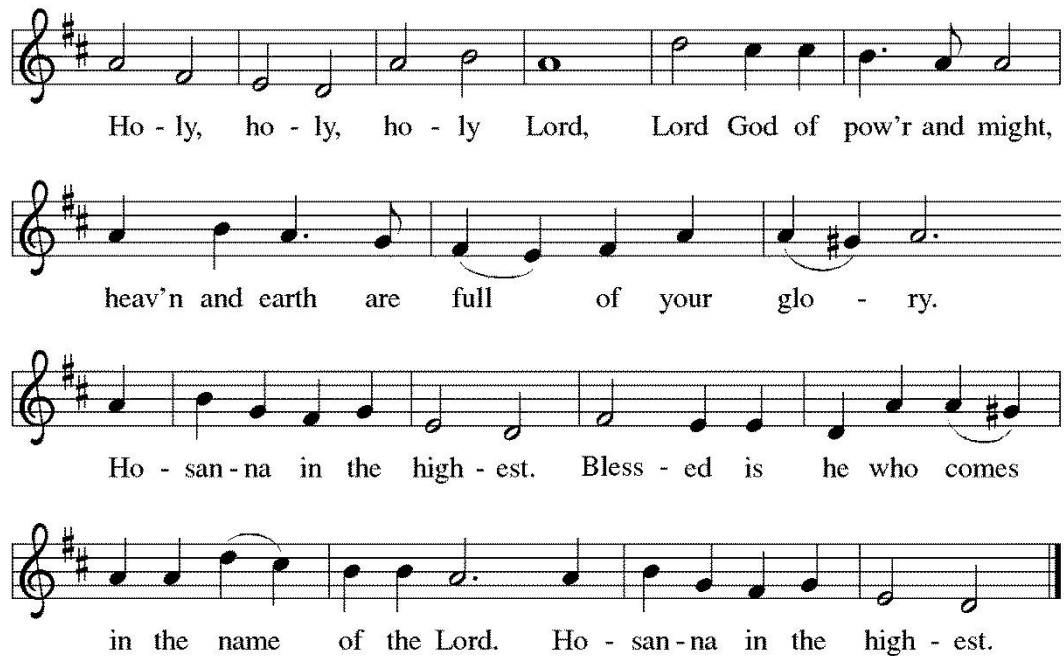
We lift them to the Lord.

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 all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remember, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the people of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Come, eat and rejoice, because at God's table, all are welcome.

***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 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.

**Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen**

***BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the spirit bless you and give you peace.

Amen

SENDING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” verse 1,2,3 ELW 836

***DISMISSAL**

Go in Peace. Live by the Spirit

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Ronnie Cung

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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).

Contact info:

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For emergency pastoral care contact:

Pr. Ed Ruble, St. Peter Lutheran Church

Cell: 269-569-4721

Email: pastor@saintpeterbc.org

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	Pastor Cheri Johnson
Assisting Minister	Kendra Witkowski-Lehman
Musician	Ronnie Cung
Sound Board	Doug Martens
Streaming	Doug Martens

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

July 13 – July 20, 2025

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

MONDAY:

TUESDAY: Freeze Pops 2:00 to 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY:

THURSDAY: Road Runners @ Olive Garden 11:30 am

FRIDAY:

SATURDAY: Pride Fest, Leila Arboretum

NEXT SUNDAY: 10:00am Worship at First Congregational Church | Brunch

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Genesis 18: 1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1: 15-28 and Luke 10: 38-42

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

July 6th – Janelle – Bob and Tina Gail; Jeff – Victims of the flooding in Texas

June 29th – Tresa – Thanks to Ronnie for sharing his heart and being a part of the Trinity family, and prayer for healing for herself during a time of pain and discouragement following a fall; JoAnn – Prayers for healing for Pauline, Anna, Stevie, Matt, Danielle, Steve and Debbie; Jeff – Prayers for children with chronic illnesses and their caretaker parents, particularly children with Juvenile Diabetes.

June 22nd – Vicki – death of a friend from cancer; Janelle – Bob and Tina Gail, a child cousin of Michelle who is very ill; Tresa – prayers of thanks for her healing; Jeff – drowning victim at Willard Beach; Tish – resuming Bible chat, for Trinity and welcome new members Heidi and Wade; JoAnn – Pauline who suffered a stroke and son, Matthew.