

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

7th Sunday after Pentecost

July 12th, 2026

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

Amen.

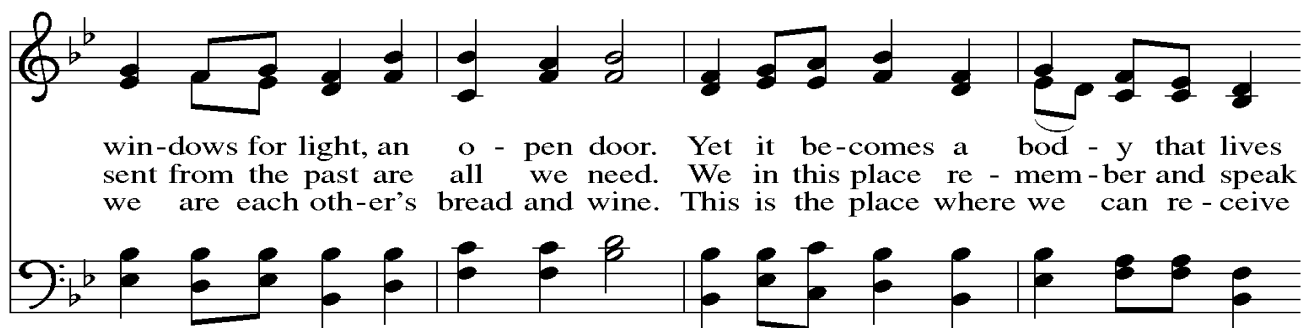
What Is This Place



1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,



win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive



when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis, b. 1933; tr. David Smith, b. 1933

Music: A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; arr. Adrian Engels, b. 1906

Text and arr. © 1984 TEAM Publications, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

A reading from Isaiah:

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 65:[1-8]9-13

Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

- ⁸ You are to be praised, O ¹ God, in Zion;
to you shall vows ¹ be fulfilled.
- ² **To you, the one ¹ who answers prayer,
to you all ¹ flesh shall come.**
- ³ Our sins are strong- ¹ er than we are,
but you blot out ¹ our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your ¹ courts to dwell there!
They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness ¹ of your temple. R**
- ⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of ¹ our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans ¹ far away.
- ⁶ **You make firm the mountains ¹ by your power;
you are girded a- ¹ bout with might.**
- ⁷ You still the roaring ¹ of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor ¹ of the peoples.
- ⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your ¹ marvelous signs;
you make the dawn and the dusk to ¹ sing for joy. R**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God
is ¹ full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide ¹ for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth ¹ out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and ¹ bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year ¹ with your goodness,
and your paths over- ¹ flow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be ¹ rich for grazing,
and the hills be ¹ clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- ¹ selves with
grain;
let them shout for ¹ joy and sing. R

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

A reading from Romans:

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement

of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***GOSPEL – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc., 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***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

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song



1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch-es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Text and music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-703197.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need. The following responses will be used after each petition: **Hear our prayer.***

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our life, you give us the same Spirit by which you raised Christ from the dead. Set our minds on that Spirit whenever fear or condemnation overwhelm throughout the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our host and table, we pray for children who hunger and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, and for local concerns. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our source, tend this congregation, our sister congregation Immanuel Lutheran in Sutton's Bay with their pastor the Rev. Jonathan Reid and First Congregational with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may visitors find refreshment among these congregations. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout history. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith especially Bishop Nathan Söderblom, whom the church commemorates today. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

You are invited to share your offering as you enter the sanctuary. An offering plate is located in the center aisle near the back the sanctuary.

OFFERING PERFORMANCE:

Eat This Bread
Jesus Christ, Bread of Life

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com.
800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Text from Oxford Book of Carols, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-703197.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray:

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

Amen

*** WORDS TO LOVE BY**

SLOW ME DOWN, LORD

Give me, amid the confusion of the day,
the calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tensions
of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music
of the singing streams that live in my memory.
Help me to know the magical,
restoring power of sleep.
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations –
of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend, to pat a dog,
to read a few lines from a book.

Remind me each day
of the fable of the hare and the tortoise,
that I may know
that the race is not always to the swift –
there is more to life than increasing the speed.
Let me look upward
into the branches of the towering oak and know
that it grew great and strong
because it grew slowly and well.

Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send
my roots deep in to the soil of life's enduring values
that I may grow toward the stars
of my greater destiny.

Richard Cardinal Cushing

***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**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

Text © 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS026027.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2055 E. Columbia Avenue

Battle Creek, MI 49014

269-963-5356

tlcbattlecreek.org

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 strengthened in the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

As we worship, you're invited to light a candle at the cross on the left wall at any time music is playing or we are singing. This is a way of praying with our bodies and the elements – as we light a flame, we lift up our concerns, gratitude, or whatever else we carry in our hearts.



The Council has a goal of better advertising Trinity and all the things going on in our congregation. One way to reach this goal is to increase our presence on Facebook by having more folks see our posts. If you are on Facebook and you have not already followed Trinity, please do so and then "Like", "Comment" and "Share" our weekly service and any other happenings. THANKS!!



Mark Your Calendars: Saturday, July 18, is the date of the annual Battle Creek Pride Fest at Leila Arboretum. The event runs from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm and Trinity has a table. Please see Gloria Kolodiziezyck to sign up for a two-hour block of time to volunteer manning our table and sharing the good news that everyone is safe here!

Contact Info: 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 in worship today:

Preaching: Tresa Garver

Assisting Minister: Scott Schindehette

Sound Board: S. Wheeler

Streaming: John Kolodiziezyck

Music Director: Ronnie Cung

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

July 12 – July 19, 2026

TODAY: 11:00 am Worship, Coffee Hour

MONDAY: 10:30 Yoga

TUESDAY: 10:30 Yoga; 2–4, Freeze Pop Tuesday

WEDNESDAY: 12 AA

THURSDAY: 11:30 Road Runners @ Suipi's

FRIDAY: 10:30 Yoga

SATURDAY: 11 – 7 Pride Fest

NEXT SUNDAY: 11:00 am, Worship, Coffee Hour

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 44: 6 – 8; Psalm 86: 11 – 17; Romans 8: 12 – 25; Matthew 13: 24 – 30, 36 – 43

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 5: Janelle: Linda Stacey, Ginesa, Aubrey; **Eileen:** James Henry, Doug and all the helpers at Trinity, Jennifer, Melissa; **Tresa:** Thanks for Art

June 28: Janelle: Tina Gale, Rod Tungate; **Eileen:** Melissa, Jennifer; **Tresa:** Angela, Art

June 21: Janelle: Tina Gale, Jerry Woody; **Tresa:** Jeff & Diane, Eddie; **Christine:** Aubrey

June 14: Connie: Linda; **Janelle:** Jerry Woody, Jennifer Lockmiller; **Mary:** Tish; **Eileen:** Jennifer; **Doug:** Eileen; **Tresa:** Thanksgiving for Daniel and Trinity; **Kendra:** Zander

The Franklin Food Pantry desperately needs to have its shelves restocked. The items needed are: Canned goods, soups, fruits, vegetables; also, cereal, juice, boxed milk, toilet paper and soap. Cash donations are also appreciated. Please drop off any donations at church placing them in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks!!
paper and soap. Cash donations are also appreciated. Please drop off any donations at church placing them in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks!!