TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26th, 2026

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

PRELUDE "What is this place" LBW 524

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.

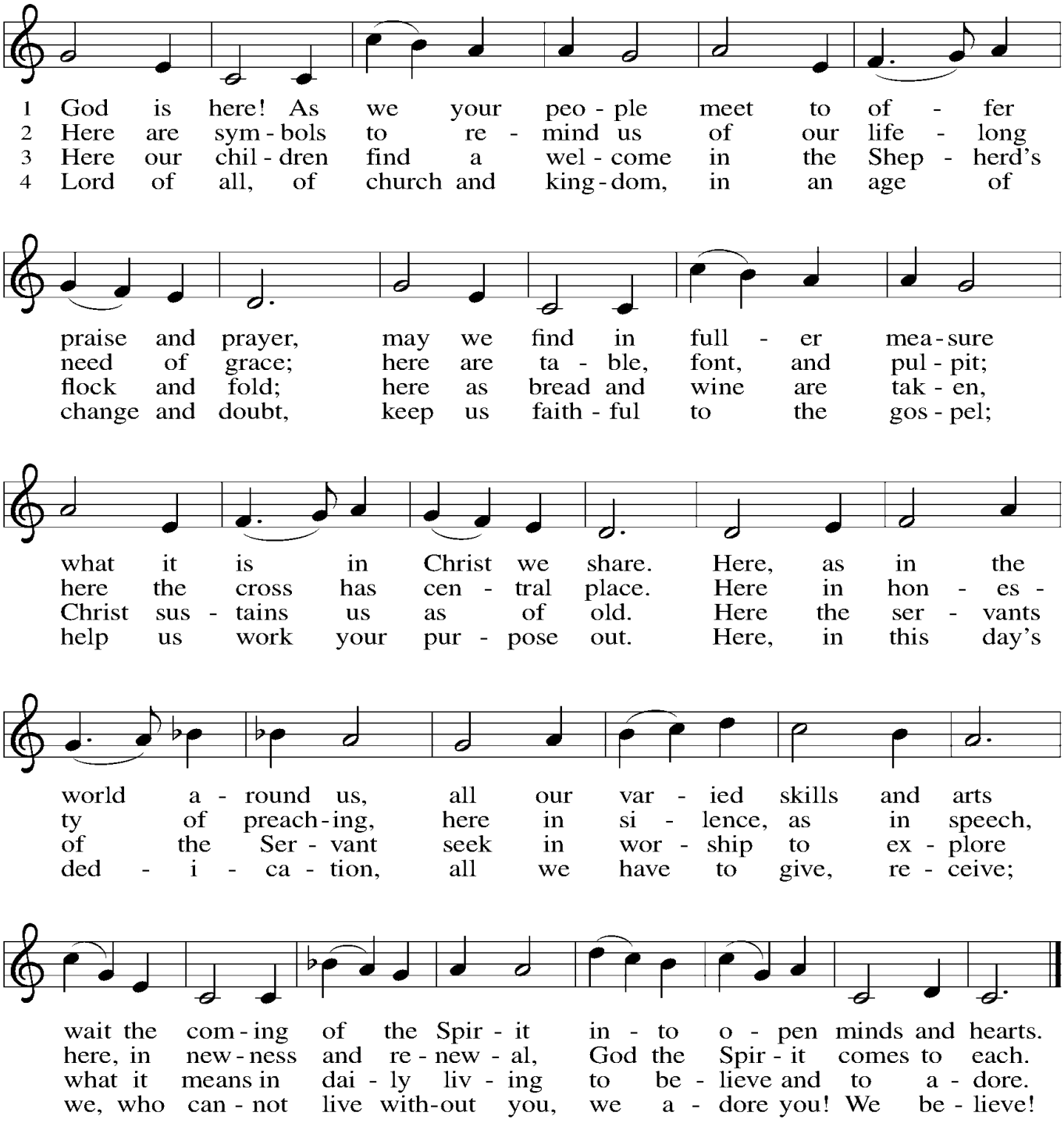
Compassionate God,

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.

***GATHERING HYMN** **v1,2,3,4** **ELW 526**

God Is Here!



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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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.
Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

FIRST READING: Genesis 29: 15 – 28

Leah and Rachel become Jacob's wives.

A reading from Genesis:

15 Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for
nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" 16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the
elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel
was graceful and beautiful. 18 Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for
your younger daughter Rachel." 19 Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I
should give her to any other man; stay with me." 20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and
they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.
21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is
completed." 22 So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. 23 But in
the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. 24 (Laban
gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) 25 When morning came, it was Leah!
And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for
Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" 26 Laban said, "This is not done in our country—
giving the younger before the firstborn. 27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you
the other also in return for serving me another seven years." 28 Jacob did so and completed her
week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

[1] Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.
[130] **When your word is opened | it gives light;**
it gives understanding | to the simple.
[131] I open my | mouth and pant
because I long for | your commandments.
[132] **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,**
as you always do to those who | love your name. R
[133] Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.
[134] **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,**
and I will keep | your commandments.
[135] Let your face shine up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.
[136] **My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep your teaching. R

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

A reading from Romans:

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. [27] And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

[28] We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

[31] What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? [32] He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? [33] Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at

the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. [35] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? [36] As it is written,

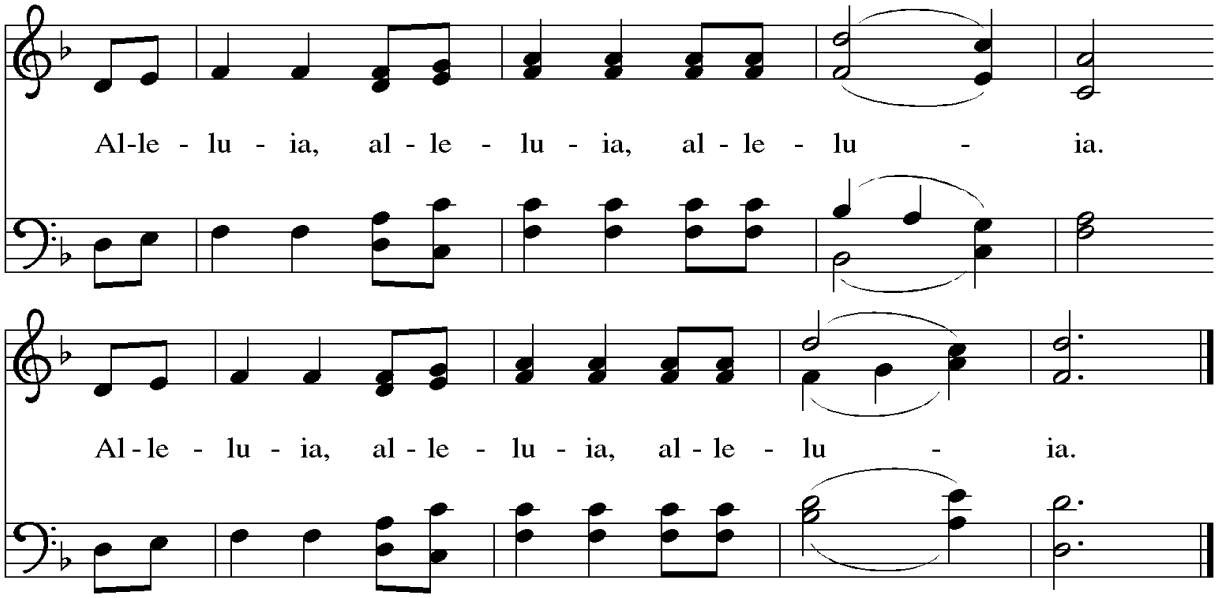
"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

[37] No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Gospel Acclamation



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

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
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***GOSPEL – Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;[32] it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

[33] He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

[44] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
[45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; [46] on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
[47] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; [48] when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. [49] So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous [50] and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[51] "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." [52] And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of the Lord.

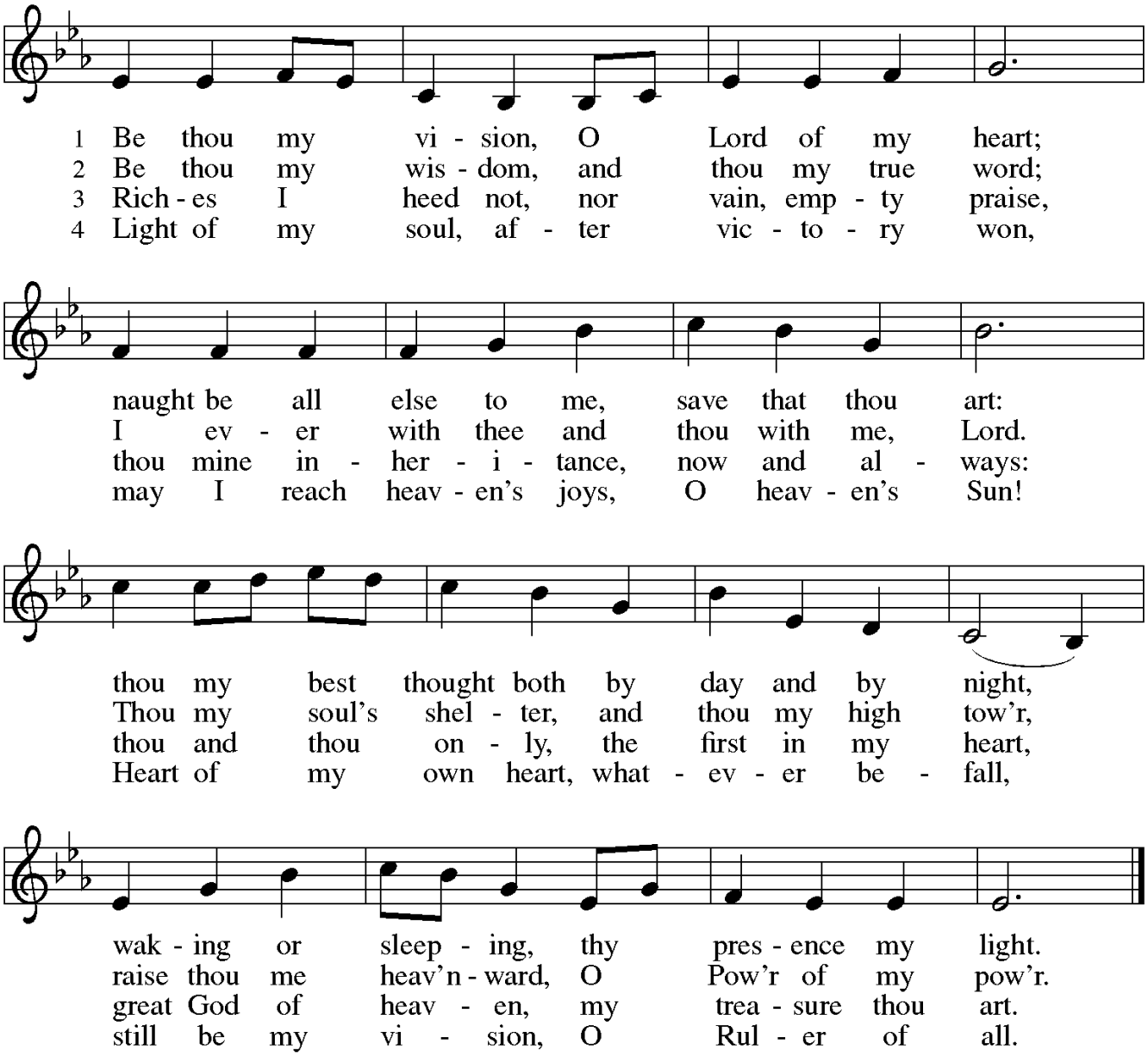
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **V 1,2,4** **ELW 793**

Be Thou My Vision



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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

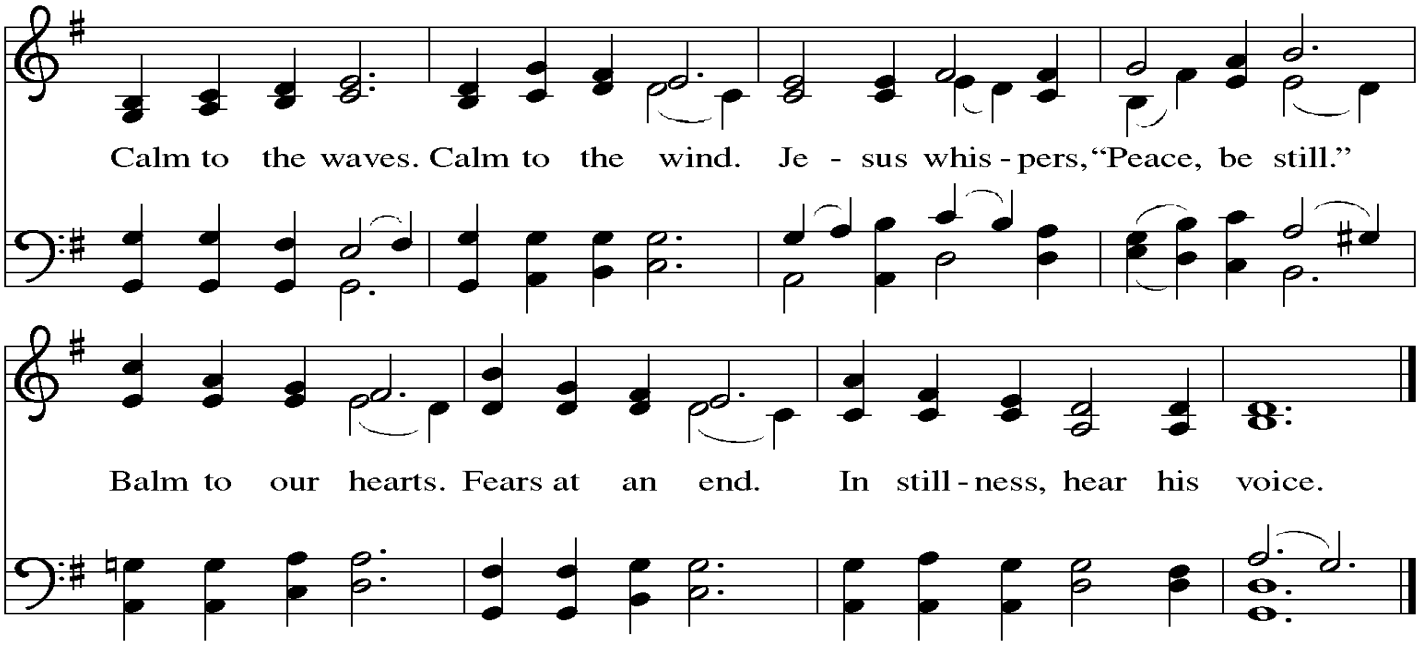
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of 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 **verse 3** **ELW 403**

Calm to the Waves



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
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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 wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty.
hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our congregation, for our sister congregation Bethlethem Lutheran in Traverse City with their pastor the Rev. Paul Busekist and for First Congregational's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. 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.**

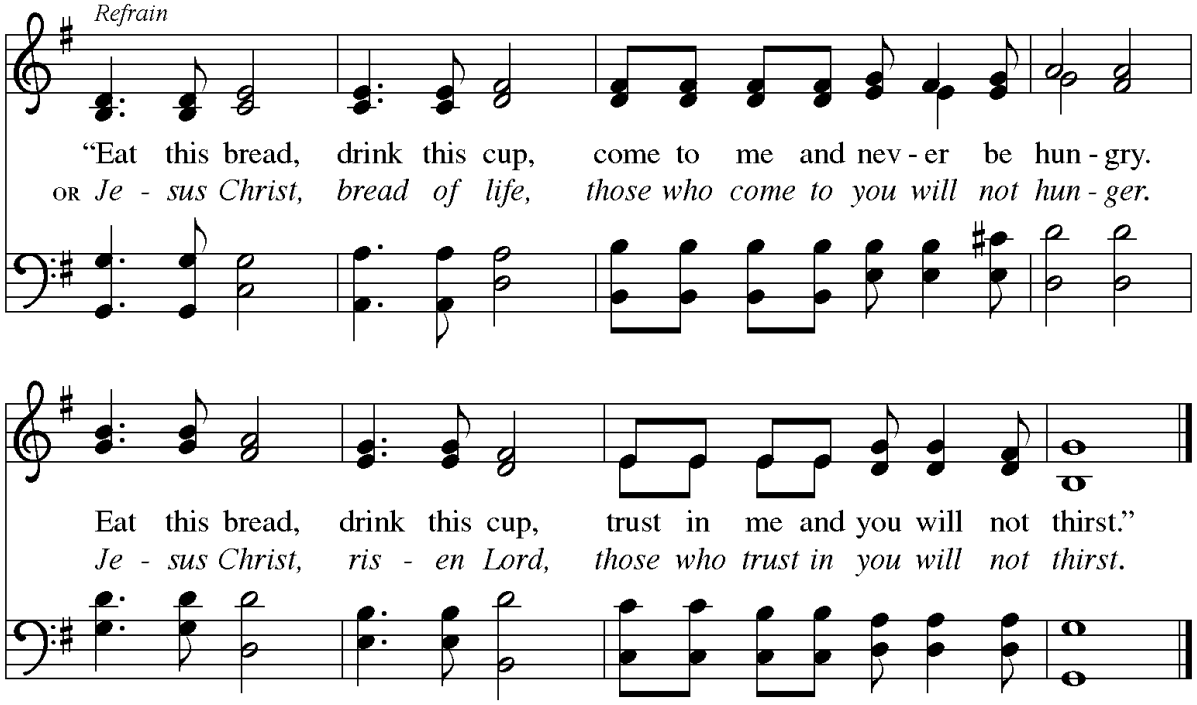
You are invited to share your offering as you enter the sanctuary. An offering plate is located in the center aisle near the back the sanctuary.

OFFERING PEFORMANCE: Come Fill our Hearts ELW 528

***OFFERTORY** **ELW 472**

Eat This Bread

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life



Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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***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

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

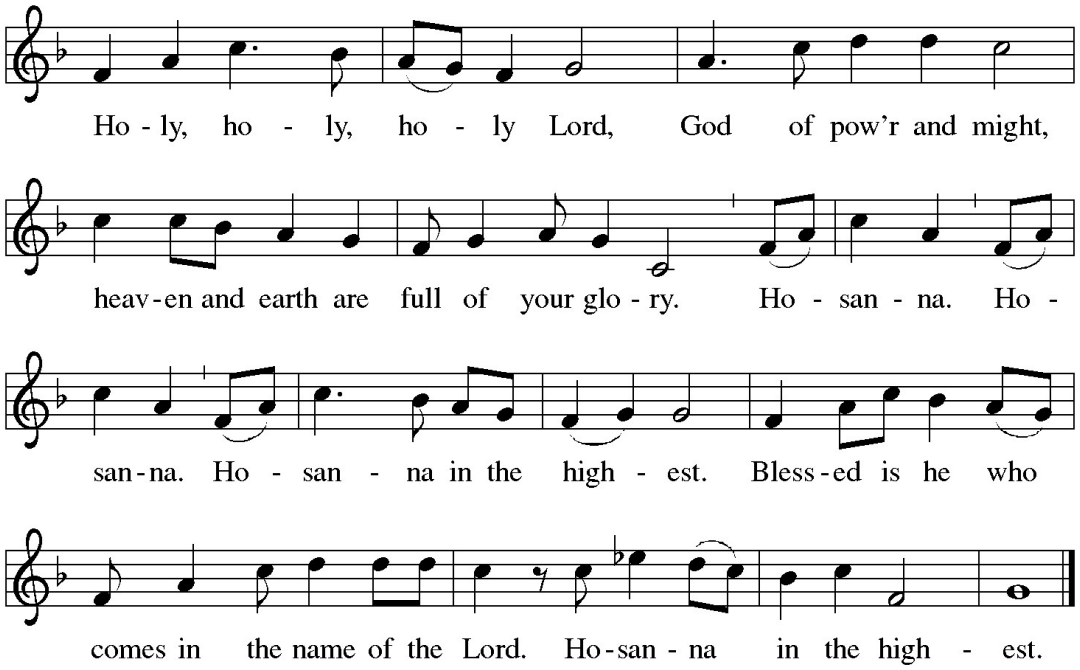
Lift up your hearts.

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, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love.

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**

Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

***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**

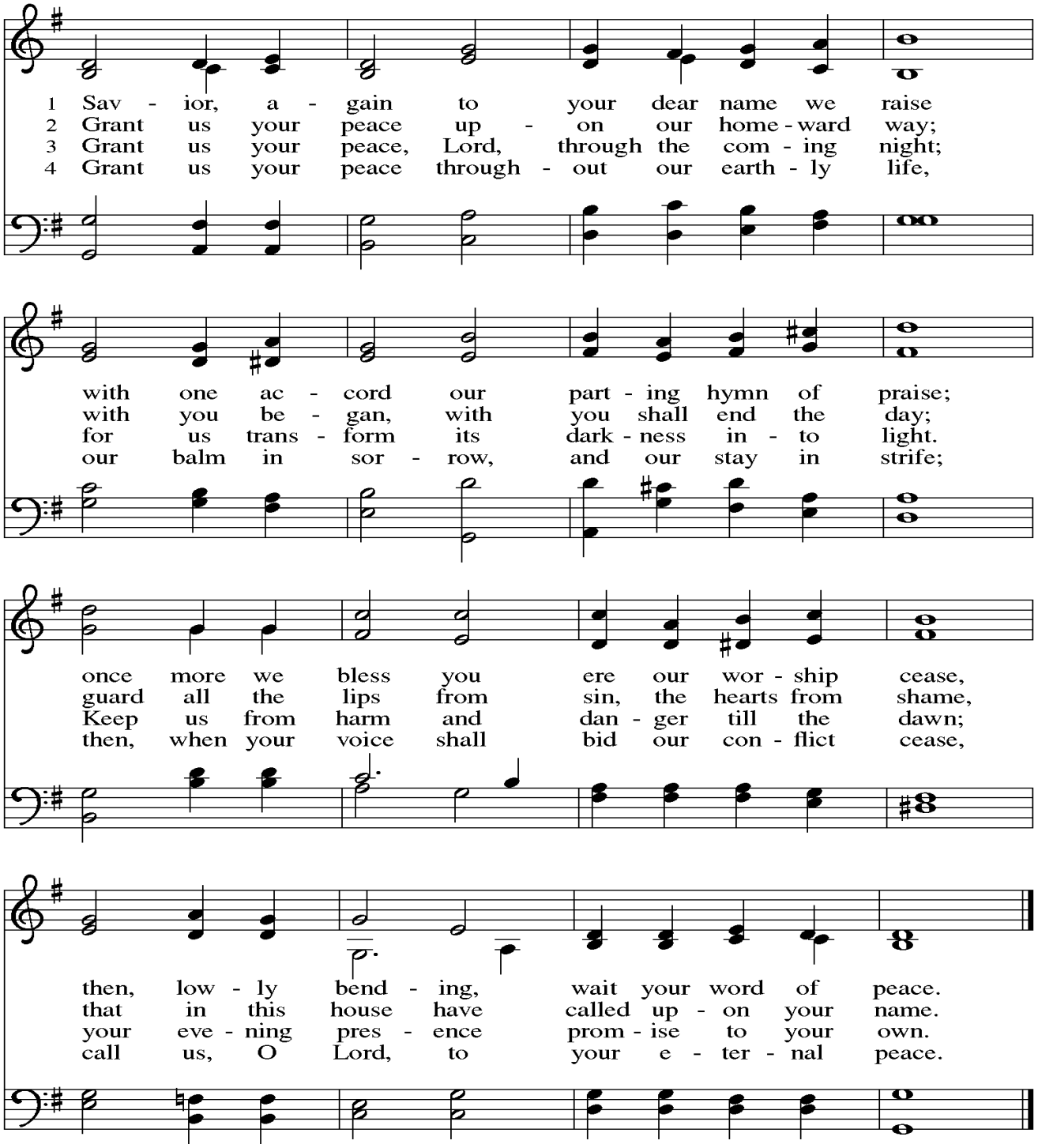
Let us pray.

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

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

***SENDING HYMN** Savior, Again to Your Dear Name **v 1,2,5 ELW 627**



Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.
Music: ELLERS, Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE ELW 525 "You are Holy".

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2055 E. Columbia Avenue
Battle Creek, MI 49014
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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!!

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: Reverend Nate Craddock
Assisting Minister: Doug Martens
Sound Board: John Kolodizieizyck
Streaming: Quentin Valenzuela
Music Director: Ronnie Cung

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

July 26 – August 2, 2026

TODAY: 11:00 am Worship, Coffee Hour
MONDAY: 10:30 Yoga
TUESDAY: 10:30 Yoga; 2–4, Freeze Pop Tuesday; 7 Council
WEDNESDAY: 12 AA
THURSDAY:
FRIDAY: 10:30 Yoga
SATURDAY:
NEXT SUNDAY: **11:00 am,** Worship, Coffee Hour

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 55: 1 – 5; Psalm 145: 8 – 9; 14 – 21; Romans 9: 1 – 5 Matthew 14: 13 – 21

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 19: Tresa: Art's family as they travel for reunion.

July 12: Janelle: Amber, Ginesa; **Connie:** Penny; **Doug M:** Carla; **Eileen:** Melissa, Jennifer, David, Wayne, Gwen

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

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!!