

Sunday, September 13, 2026
The Sixteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

Trinity Lutheran Church
10:00am: Meadowlawn
1801 62nd Ave N
727-822-3307



 WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

 PRELUDE

 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Justified by God's grace through faith,
let us acknowledge our sin.

We take time to consider our actions and choices.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness ✠ and the promise of eternal life.

Amen.



GATHERING HYMN *Awake, O Sleeper*

ELW 452



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress



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.



HYMN OF PRAISE

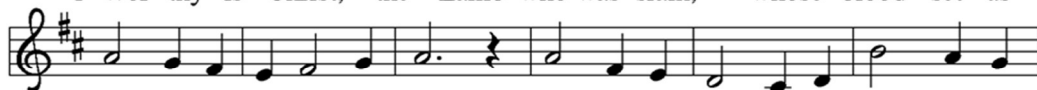


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

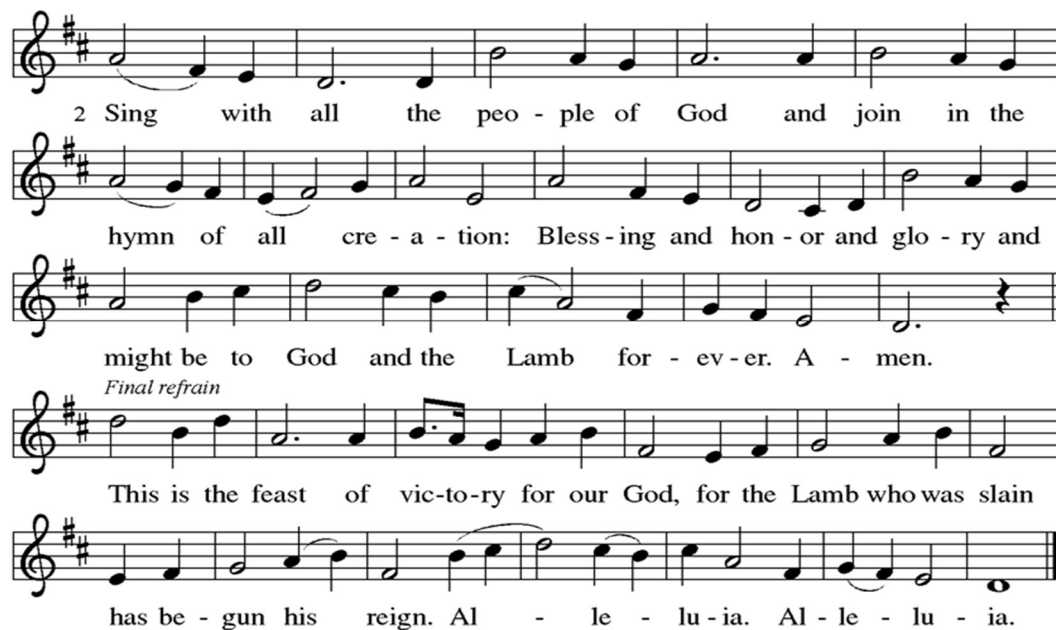


strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy, you are an inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



INTRODUCTION TO READINGS



FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

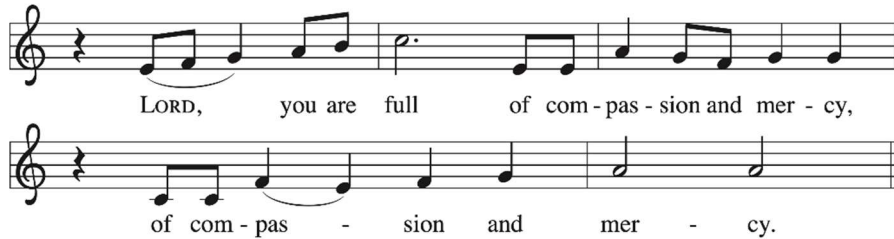
¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM: Psalm 103:6-13

The accompanist will play the refrain once as introduction and then all will join in singing; and will repeat the sung refrain when indicated by "R"



⁶ O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel. **R**

⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

⁹ you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities. **R**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord. **R**



SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: We have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous; your sins are forgiven on account of his name. (1 John 2:1, 12)

Congregation repeats "Alleluia"



GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

The good news of God's love according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.



SERMON

A brief period for silent meditation will follow at the conclusion of the sermon.



HYMN OF THE DAY *Before the Waters Nourished Earth*

ACS 1049



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - in³ed morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody

Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress



THE 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.**



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident of being heard.

After each petition:

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Hear our prayers, and grant whatever else you see we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



ELW 721



THE SHARING OF PEACE

Instead of putting a donation in the offering plate during the anthem, you can use the QR code to make a contribution on the church website; or you can mail an offering to the church.

OFFERTORY HYMN *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

Good -ness is stron - ger than e - vil; love is stron - ger than hate;
 light is stron - ger than dark - ness; life is stron - ger than death; vic - t'ry is
 ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us. Vic - t'ry is
 ours, vic - t'ry is ours, through God who loves us.

Text: From *An African Prayer Book*, Desmond Tutu, b. 1931
 Music: GOODNESS IS STRONGER, John L. Bell, b. 1949



OFFERING PRAYER

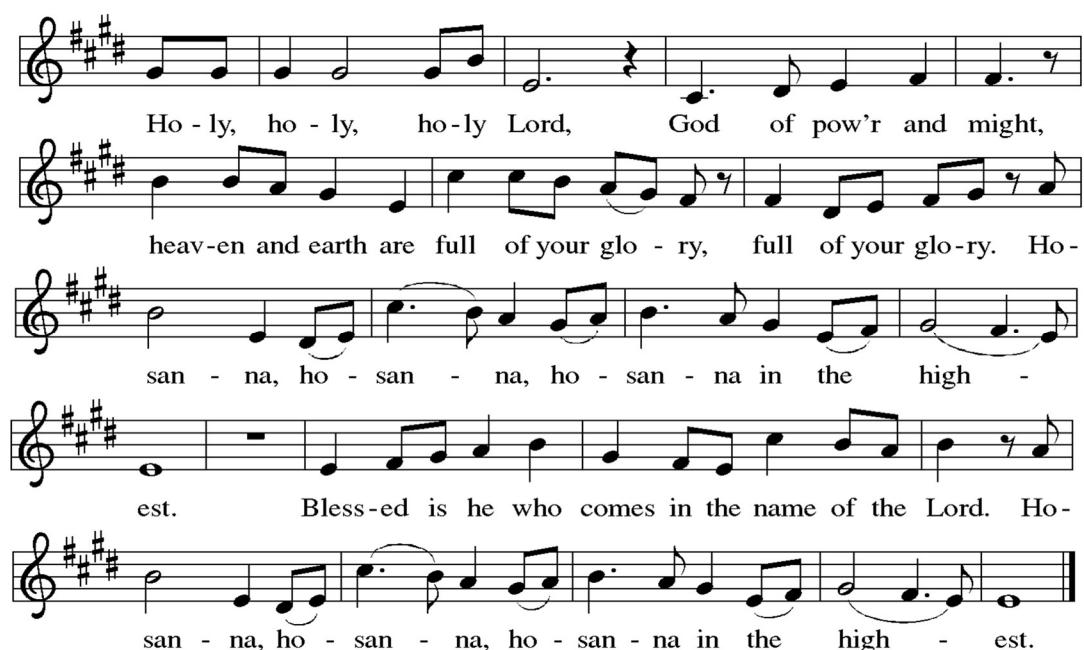
God of creation,
all blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service for you and in love to our neighbors.
Amen.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

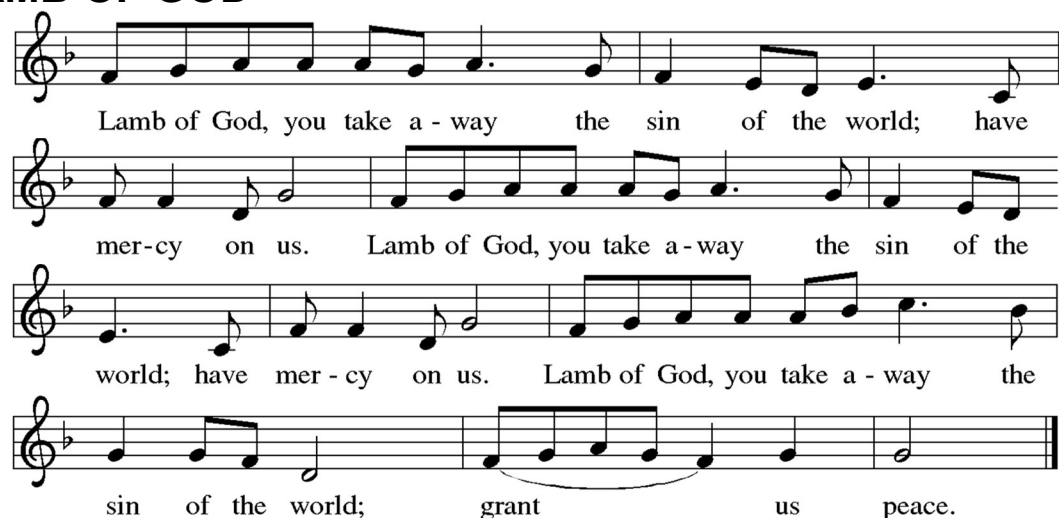
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites us to his table.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW 606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored.
in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,
But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.
as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us to serve a
needy world. Make us signs of liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

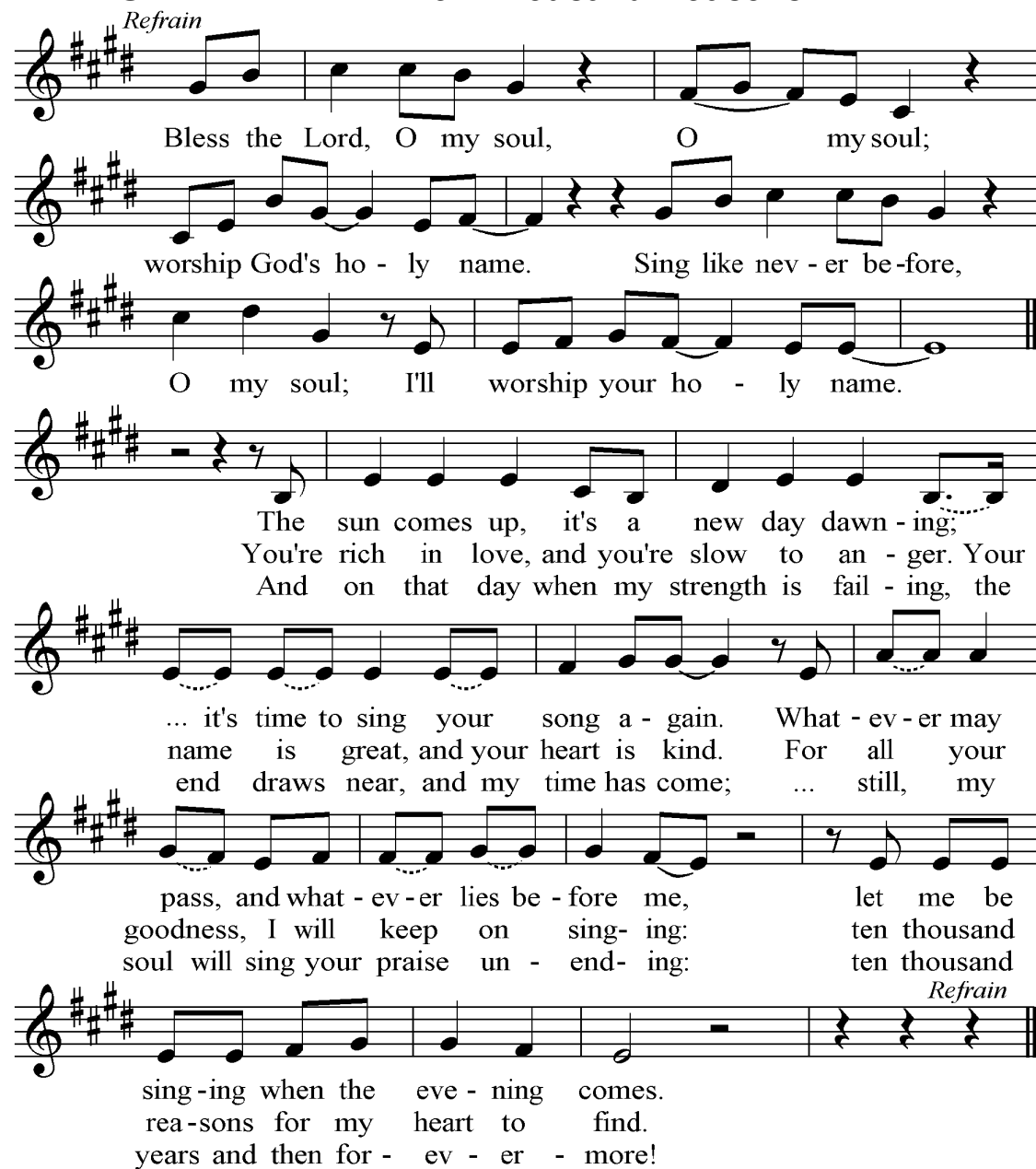
May the God of love, hope, and grace draw you closer together in the body of Christ, grant you strength and joy through the Holy Spirit, and bless you ✠ now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Ten Thousand Reasons

ACS 1097

Refrain



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
worship God's ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,
O my soul; I'll worship your ho - ly name.
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing;
You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the
... it's time to sing your song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name is great, and your heart is kind. For all your
end draws near, and my time has come; ... still, my
pass, and what - ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be
goodness, I will keep on sing- ing: ten thousand
soul will sing your praise un - end- ing: ten thousand
Refrain
sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
rea-sons for my heart to find.
years and then for - ev - er - more!

Text and music: Matt Redman, b 1974, and Jonas Myrin, b 1982
Text and music ©2011 Thankyou Music/Atlas Mountain songs

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love.
Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE [Livestream ends]



Please join us for a time of fellowship immediately after worship.

Thank you to those serving this month: (MLC) = Meadowlawn Campus (DTC) = Downtown Campus

Date	Loc	Time	Lector	Communion Assistants	Flower Sponsor	Dedication
09/06/26	MLC	10:00 AM	Marty Snapp	Margarita Rodriguez, Gary Bartelt	In anticipation of the arrival of JJ & Tyler's baby boy	
09/13/26	MLC	10:00 AM	Terri Craig	Phil Rearick, Aimée Fox	In Celebration of Adair's First Communion	
09/20/26	MLC	10:00 AM	Phil Rearick	Frances Guido, Marty Snapp	The Bartelts	All the family's birthdays
09/27/26	MLC	10:00 AM	Betty Herzhauser	Violet Prepost, Margarita Rodriguez	F. Guido	For the Glory of God

Birthdays this week:

09/14 - Amy Mueller
09/16 - Adair Hamilton

Anniversaries this week:

– None –

This Week's Calendar of Events:

Today (09/13)

9:00am – City Church Worship (DTC Sanctuary)
10:00am – Trinity Worship (MLC Sanctuary)
11:00pm – Fellowship Hour (MLC CommUNITY Rm)
11:30pm – Education Hour (MLC CommUNITY Rm)
7:00pm – St. Augustine Group (MLC Library)

Monday (09/14)

Bulletin Items Due

11:30am – WELCA/Women of Grace (MLC CommUNITY Rm)

Tuesday (09/15)

1:00pm – Staff Meeting (MLC Library)

Wednesday (09/16)

9:00am – Quilting Circle (MLC CommUNITY Rm)
11:30am – Community Meal (DTC 3rd Floor)
1:00pm – Grace & Games (DTC 2nd Floor)
6:00pm – Bible Study (MLC CommUNITY Rm)

Thursday (09/17)

6:30pm – Vocal Choir Practice (MLC Sanctuary)

Friday (09/18)

9:30am – TLC Pantry (DTC 1st Floor)
9:30am – Dolores Food Pantry (MLC CommUNITY Rm)
6:00pm – Film & Faith (MLC CommUNITY Room)

Saturday (09/19)

9:00am – Hope Chest (MLC Thrift Store)
9:00am – Suncoast Conf (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church)

Prayer List:

For those suffering from cancer:

Jim Tallon
Whitney & Greg Corrigan
Rick Jackson
Frank Durilla
Rev. Ernest Knoche
Ron Oughton
Bob Sockrider
Frances Guido
Susan Herzhauser

For those homebound:

Lorna Holder
Shirley Taylor
Betty Aker
Judy Milanese
Petra Young
Sally Evans

Note: These prayer requests are active for 3 months unless a shorter timeframe is requested.

For those needing strength or healing:

Mike Lederhouse	Shakira
Maureen Morris	Jill Boos Martin
O'cerion Johnson Jr.	Linda Gascon
Janet Crim	Pr. Tom Snapp
Paula Smith	Will Diefel
Vickie Clark	Serenity Baker
Luke Mendenhall	Willie Rodriguez
Guy Smith	Eliza Walker
Joyce Dare	Margarita Rodriguez
Linda Miles	Gretchen Frederick
Bob & Irma Kay	Jerry Barnard
Corinne	Rodger Nelson
Leonard	Jennifer Rhoads
Robert & Brenda Meredith	Duane Bork
Brian Schutzbach	

For those grieving the loss of a loved one:

The family & friends of Pete Regan
The family & friends of Barbara Hann
The family & friends of Cecil Miles
The family and Friends of Pastor Joe Conner



	Curr Month (as of 09/10/26)	YTD Actual (as of 09/10/26)	YTD Budget (through 09/30/26)
Income	22,222.61	289,406.96	213,479.43
Expenses	(8,144.99)	(341,152.41)	(341,285.27)
Net	14,077.62	(51,745.45)	(127,805.84)

Cash available in Bank Accounts:	110,000.95
Balance in Investment Accounts:	740,599.80

Welcome, visitors! Please tell us something about yourself.

Fill out the form below or scan the provided QR Code to contact us digitally.



TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Today's Date:

09/13/26

Name and Address

Email

Phone

Home church, city, and state

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests:

- ☐ I'm visiting: ☐ First time ☐ Repeat
☐ I just moved here
☐ Please add me to your email list(s)
☐ Pastor's weekly announcements, etc.
☐ Office's Monthly Newsletter, etc.

Digital Contact Card:

