

# **Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA**

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**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 24, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

**Live streaming on Facebook and YouTube (Trinity LutheranSparta)**

**Our worship service will also be recorded  
and will be available on our website [www.tlcsparta.org](http://www.tlcsparta.org)**



## Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Temple Talk – 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – Adell Morton

Ringling of the Bell

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **✝** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: Take My Life, That I May Be**

**ELW #583**

**\*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.**

**KYRIE:**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



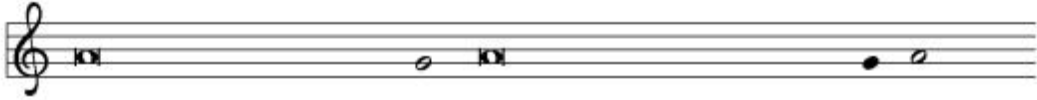
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.

## \*Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8**

- <sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.
- <sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**
- <sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.
- <sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**
- <sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.
- <sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.**
- <sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30**

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in

Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



This is the Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter [Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying,

‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**ELW #588**

**\*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.**



### **\*Prayers of Intercession**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

**L:** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you**

Offering – *“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35)

**\*Offertory: We Are an Offering**

**ELW #692**

**\*Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*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.**

**\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn: The Lord Now Sends Us Forth**

**ELW #538**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Attendance for Sunday, September 17: 136**

**For September 17:**

**General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$7353.01**

**Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$607.31**

<b><u>September 24, 2023</u></b>	<b><u>October 1, 2023</u></b>
<b>Greeters:</b> Gary & Sharon Nelson	<b>Greeter:</b> Kristine Tock
<b>Reader:</b> Holly Larson	<b>Reader:</b> Kristine Tock
<b>No communion</b>	<b>Communion:</b> Terry & Joyce Putman and Kristine Tock
<b>Music:</b> Virginia Bolin	<b>Music:</b> Adell Morton <b>Special Music:</b> Alleluia Choir
<b>Coffee Fellowship – Server:</b> Judy Schure	<b>Coffee Fellowship – Server:</b> Julie Ender
<b>Flower Pick Up – Friday, Sept. 29:</b> Brenda Degenhardt	<b>Flower Pick Up – Friday, Oct. 6:</b> Gary & Carol Haskins
<b>Pew Restocking – Month of Sept.:</b> Linda Erickson	<b>Pew Restocking – Month of Oct.:</b> Phil & Diane Dammen
<b>Money Counting – Sept. 25:</b> Alton Ask-Audrey Zebell-Janell Moskonas	<b>Money Counting – Oct. 2:</b> Carol Thorsen-Adell Morton- Brenda Degenhardt-Donna Boland
<b>Altar Team – Month of September:</b> Carol Thorsen & Pauline Haug	<b>Altar Team – Month of October:</b> Linda Erickson & Carol Thorsen
<b>Food Pantry:</b> September 26: Diane Dammen & Jolene Breitenfield September 27: Dennis & Carol Glaman	<b>Food Pantry:</b> October 4: Alice Olson & Audrey Zebell
<b>Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery:</b> <b>September 29:</b> Morrow Home: Evelyn Rust Rolling Hills: Carol Thorsen	<b>Nursing Home Bulletin Delivery:</b> <b>October 6:</b> Morrow Home: Edie Habhegger Rolling Hills: Gary & Betty Peterson