



Nurturing a Living Faith with Open Hearts and Serving Hands

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Introduction to the Day

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

**14th Sunday after
Pentecost
September 14, 2025
10:30 a.m.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Living Waters"
CCLI #1579266

Not on screen

WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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

"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"
CCLI #4768151

On screen

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

"He is Exalted"
CCLI #17827

On screen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,

overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Welcome to Worship at Trinity Lutheran

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we are very glad that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not a building – it is you, the people. So "church," thanks for showing up today. If you look around what you will see are imperfect people. Some with smiles, some with broken hearts, some with secrets they are ashamed to share... and yet all of us together are the "church."

We are thankful you are here. Through God's Holy Spirit we pray you hear a word of grace and hope today.

FIRST READING: EXODUS 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

PSALM 51:1-10

(Please read responsively).

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

My thoughts on the scripture
and message

SECOND READING: 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 188

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 15, beginning with verse 1. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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

CHILDREN’S TIME/SERMON

Pastor Martha HarriSon

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”

ELW #608

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 THE PEOPLE

“Hear Our Prayer”

**Hear our prayer. Hear our prayer.
God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Please pray for Dick, Wendy, Amy, Dennis, Rod, Jim,
Hal, Melissa, Donna, Cathy, Marsha, Sharon, Mary & Lester.*

OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC

“Everybody’s Got Something to Offer”
CCLI #1453143

Not on screen

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“I Saw the Light”
CCLI #45064

On screen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

WE EXTEND OUR CONGREGATION'S SYMPATHY to the families of: Elizabeth Miskella, mother of Jane Clayburgh. Please keep her family in your prayers.

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in honor of Kenneth & Lorelee Heiser on their 45th wedding anniversary (9-13-25). Given by their family.

MEDIA CENTER HELPERS - You Are Needed! We are looking for several more people to help with our media center. Today following services Colleen Peterson will stick around to allow people to see the equipment. Please consider stopping by the Tech Table immediately after worship.

"OUT OF THE DARKNESS" WALK - TODAY, join the Trinity Lutheran Team, "Into the Light" in walking the Out of the Darkness event to spread awareness and support to those who have been impacted and affected by suicide. You can still donate today. Your support is greatly appreciated!



DONATE

HANDICAP PARKING DISCUSSION - Next Sunday, Sept 21st @ 9:30 a.m., we would like your input on the handicap parking around the building. If you would like to be a part of the discussion we will meet in the conference room, or contact John ahead of time with your input. Please grab a cup of coffee and join us for a discussion.

LOAVES & FISHES - We will fill bags again for this ministry in the Quilters' Room during worship services. Thank you for your continued support!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP - We have started a Coffee Fellowship centered around coffee and conversation. If you are free around 10 am, we invite you to join us for about 20 minutes. Feel free to come a little early or relax and stay a bit longer. We are meeting Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday mornings during September. Please stop by and have a cup of coffee and a conversation.

RUMMAGE SALE - Our Fall Rummage Sale will be held November 7th-8th. We'll start accepting items on October 30th.

ONLINE GIVING - Giving has never been easier! Open your camera on your phone and scan the QR code. It will take you right to Trinity's online giving site. You can choose to give via credit card or bank account. Try it out today!



SCAN ME

SAVE THE DATE:

WND LYO YOUTH GATHERING

ASTORIA HOTEL DICKINSON ND

WANTED: YOUTH

HIGH SCHOOL - OCT 16TH - 17TH

MIDDLE SCHOOL - OCT 17TH - 18TH

JOIN US FOR:

SPEAKER: DANI VOGEL

WORSHIP PRAYER FRIENDS

MUSIC GAMES SERVICE

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday 9-14

8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
2 PM - Out of Darkness Walk at The Capitol

Tuesday 9-16

9 AM - Quilters in Quilters' Room
10 AM - Coffee Fellowship in Community Center

Wednesday 9-17

10 AM - Coffee Fellowship in Community Center
5:15 PM - Meal served in Fellowship Hall
6 PM - Worship in Sanctuary
6:40 PM - Church School, Youth Group, Confirmation

Thursday 9-18

10 AM - Coffee Fellowship in Community Center
5 PM - Mental Health Task Force in Conf. Room
6:30 PM - Council in Conference Room

Friday 9-19

10 AM - Theology & Coffee in Conf. Room

Saturday 9-20

8 AM - Men's Group in Conference Room

Sunday 9-21

8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary