



Nurturing a Living Faith with Open Hearts and Serving Hands

502 N 4th St. Bismarck, ND 58501 ~ 701-223-3560 ~ www.trinitybismarck.com ~ pudwill@trinitybismarck.com

Introduction to the Day

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!

9th Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2026
8:30 a.m.



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

ELW pg. 116

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 SONG

"Gather Us In"

ELW #532

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

ELW pg. 203

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Song"

ELW pg. 204b

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. 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: 1 KINGS 3:5-12

Bob Wefald, reader

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.” ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

PSALM 119:129-136 *(Please read responsively).*

¹²⁹ Your decrees 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 gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
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 upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

My thoughts on the scripture
and message

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.

²⁶ 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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”

ELW #512

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, chapter 13, beginning with verse 31.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [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 TIME/SERMON

Pastor Martha HarriSon

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Eat the Bread of Teaching"

ELW #518

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

"Seek Ye First"

WOV #783

Please pray for Amy, Rod, Melissa, Hal, Ken, Betty, Jan, Dwight, Donna, Carol, Mark, Blair & Marsha.

OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING RESPONSE

"Praise God, from the Whom All Blessings Flow"

ELW #884

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW pg. 206

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

ELW pg. 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW pg. 208

COMMUNION & COMMUNION MUSIC

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

SENDING SONG

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

WOV #721

DISMISSAL

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in memory of Jerry Leer, and G.O. and Gay Leer, given by Julie Leer.

CARAMEL ROLLS - Our first fundraiser for the Out of Darkness Walk is **TODAY!** We are serving caramel rolls between services. The cost is a freewill donation.

OUT OF DARKNESS WALK - Our Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force will be sponsoring a team for the Out of Darkness Walk again this year. The walk is on Sunday, September 13th, at the Capitol Grounds. The Out of Darkness Walk raises funds and awareness for suicide prevention. Please join our team! All are welcome! Follow this link for more information on how to join us: <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/393805>. You can also make an online donation at this page as well.

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

*Best wishes to the following youth who are
affirming their baptism at 10:30 today!*



9th Graders:

Boston Keney
Will Larson



THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday 7-26

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

Tuesday 7-28

9 AM - Quilters in Quilters' Room
4 PM - Property Committee in Conf. Room

Wednesday 7-29 CHRISTMAS IN JULY

6 PM - Christmas Worship outside at Peace Chapel
6:35 PM - Meal served in Fellowship Hall

Friday 7-31

10 AM - Theology and Coffee in Conference Room

Saturday 8-1

10 AM - Grief Group in Conference Room

Sunday 8-2

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

