

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**New Castle, IN**  
**September 27, 2020**  
**Pentecost 17/Lectionary 26**

### **Introduction to the day**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

*Welcome in the name of Jesus! As we gather around word and sacrament as the people of God, we gather to bear communal witness to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world. As the world continues to be in the grip of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we remember in prayer those who are sick and those on the frontlines of the pandemic who care for the sick.*

*As part of our communal witness, the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church council has passed the following guidelines and code of conduct that will frame our gathering for worship as the people of God. As we gather for worship this day, our actions in relation to these guidelines and code of conduct are an important part of this communal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ—witness that is grounded in the love of God and love of our neighbor.*

*Please take time before worship to review these guidelines. In particular, please note that it is extremely important that we follow social distancing guidelines and that face coverings are worn over your nose and mouth at all times while in the building.*

*Thank you for your presence here today, and for bearing this important witness in our world at this time, for Jesus' sake.*

### **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** **Guidelines for In-person Worship**

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The following of these guidelines during our in-person gathering IS loving your neighbor.

- All individuals over the age of 65 or who have an underlying health risk, are encouraged to view worship online from home
- 6' of personal space will be expected in the entrance, the Narthex, the steps to the Sanctuary, on the pews, and in the restrooms.
- Masks will be worn by adults while in the church and during worship
- Bulletins will be placed directly on the pews
- Offering will be placed in the plates that will be set by the doors to the sanctuary
- Posters will be placed as reminders of personal hygiene practices
- Restroom doors will remain open, water fountain will be closed

- Children should remain with an adult at all times; materials for children need to be brought from home
- Dismissal will be directed by the Pastor

### **Code of Conduct**

**Do not attend church activities when you are feeling ill or running a fever.**

**Avoid close contact with non-family members:**

- Maintain 6 feet distance from non-family members.
- Do not shake hands or touch non-family members.

**Wash your hands:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

**Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**

**Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others:**

- Wear cloth face mask when indoors and other people are present.

### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### **PRELUDE**

We Bow Down—Words and Music by Twila Paris. Arranged by Mark Hayes. © Copyright 1982 Singspiration Music (a division of Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.). All Rights Reserved.

You are Lord of creation  
and Lord of my life,  
Lord of the land and the sea.  
You were Lord of the heavens  
before there was time,  
Lord of all lords You will be.

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**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.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## **MUSIC MEDITATION**

I Need Thee Every Hour—Lloyd Larson. Based on NEED by Robert Lowry. © 1999 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of the Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

I need thee ev'ry hour,  
in joy or pain.  
Come quickly and abide,  
or life is vain.  
I need thee, oh, I need thee;  
ev'ry hour I need thee!  
Oh, bless me now, my Savior;  
I come to thee!

— Annie S. Hawks (1835-1918)

## **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.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

A reading from Ezekiel.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge?” <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

*The Psalm will be read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>To | you, O Lord,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O Lord,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

## SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### OFFERTORY

*You are invited into a time of prayer and contemplation as we prayerfully consider how the gifts of our very selves, our time, and our financial resources can be given for sake of the mission of this congregation and the larger Church. Your offering of financial gifts may be placed in the trays just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. You may also give online by going to [www.holytrinitync.org](http://www.holytrinitync.org) and clicking on the button labeled "GIVE."*

*During this time, communion kits will be distributed.*

Change My Heart, Oh God—Words and Music by Eddie Espinosa. Arranged by Mark Hayes. © Copyright 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (administered by Music Services). All Rights Reserved.

You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me,  
this is what I pray.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### 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.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

## **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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*Please carefully open your communion kits.*

*The presiding minister says:*

“The body of Christ, given for you.”  
*(The communicant eats the bread.)*

“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”  
*(The communicant drinks the wine.)*

## **MUSIC MEDITATION**

Think About His Love—Walt Harrah. Arranged by Mark Hayes. © 1987 Integrity's Hosanna!  
Music/ASCAP. All Rights Reserved.

Think about his love,  
Think about his goodness.  
Think about his grace  
That brought us through.

— Don Moen

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **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.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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