



Stay on the Lord's Side

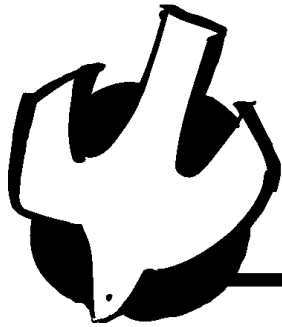
September 15, 2024

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

- **Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!
- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: Faith in Christ equips us to prevail against every evil. We worship following *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 200, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to
4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one
de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.
He holds the field for - ev - er.
One lit - tle word can fell him.
The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.
Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

Stand

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY - KYRIE

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.

C: Amen.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,
you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of nine staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (F).

(Continued on Next Page)

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEST

1 Kings 18:21-39

Then Elijah said to all the people, "How long will you stagger around on two crutches? If the LORD is God, follow him. If Baal is God, follow him." But the people did not answer him a single word.

²² Then Elijah said to the people, "I am the only one left of the LORD's prophets, but the prophets of Baal total four hundred fifty men. ²³ Provide two bulls for us. Let them choose one bull for themselves and cut it up and place it on the firewood, but they are not to light the fire. I will prepare the other bull and place it on the firewood, but I will not light the fire. ²⁴ Then you will call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers with fire, he is God."

All the people said, "This proposal is good."

²⁵ Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull, and you go first because there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god. But do not light the fire."

(Continued on Next Page)

²⁶ So they took the bull which had been given to them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, "Baal! Answer us!" But there was not a sound. No one answered. So they staggered around the altar which they had made.

²⁷ When noon came, Elijah mocked them: "Shout louder! He is a god, isn't he? He may be deep in thought or busy or on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and will wake up!" ²⁸ So they cried out with a loud voice, and according to their practice they cut themselves with daggers and spears until their blood flowed. ²⁹ After noon, they kept up a prophetic frenzy until the time of the evening sacrifice, but there was no sound. No one answered. There was no response.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." So they came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come and had proclaimed, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² He built the stones into an altar in the name of the LORD. Around it he made a trench big enough to hold about twenty-five pounds of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut up the bull, and placed it on the wood.

Then he said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the sacrifice and on the wood." ³⁴ Then he said, "Do it again." So they did it again. Then he said, "Do it a third time." So they did it a third time. ³⁵ The water flowed all around the altar. It even filled the trench.

³⁶ When the time of the evening sacrifice had arrived, Elijah the prophet stood up and said, "O LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and that I have done all these things by your word. ³⁷ Answer me, LORD! Answer me so that this people will know that you, O LORD, are God and that you are turning their hearts back to you."

³⁸ Fire from the LORD fell on the sacrifice and on the wood, the stones, and the dirt. It even licked up the water in the trench. ³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell on their knees and said, "The LORD, he is God! The LORD, he is God!"

PSALM OF THE DAY: 146

Read responsively

M: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

C: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

M: Do not put your trust in princes,

C: in mortal men, who cannot save.

M: Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

(Continued on Next Page)

M: The LORD gives food to the hungry,

C: the LORD sets prisoners free.

M: The LORD gives sight to the blind,

C: the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

M: The LORD watches over the outcast

C: and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

M: The LORD remains faithful forever.

C: He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-18

Christians fight the Evil One in the power and defense that the Lord provides.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can stand against the schemes of the Devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³For this reason, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to take a stand on the evil day and, after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand, then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness fastened in place, ¹⁵and with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace tied to your feet like sandals. ¹⁶At all times hold up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil One. ¹⁷Also take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸At every opportunity, pray in the Spirit with every kind of prayer and petition. Stay alert for the same reason, always persevering in your intercession for all the saints.

SEASONAL VERSE

M: Alleluia! Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia!
(Romans 15:4)

Stand

GOSPEL

Mark 9:14-27

Jesus overpowers evil.

When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them, and some experts in the law were arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people in the crowd saw Jesus, they were very excited and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?"

¹⁷ One man from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who has a spirit that makes him unable to speak. ¹⁸ Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

¹⁹ "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied. "How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you? Bring him to me."

²⁰ They brought the boy to Jesus. As soon as the spirit saw him, it threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell on the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

"From childhood," he said. ²² "It has often thrown him into the fire and into the water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

²³ "If you can?" Jesus said to him. "All things are possible for the one who believes."

²⁴ The child's father immediately cried out and said with tears, "I do believe. Help me with my unbelief!"

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was quickly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit. "You mute and deaf spirit," he said, "I command you to come out of him and never enter him again!"

²⁶ The spirit screamed, shook the boy violently, and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many of them said, "He's dead!" ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him up, and he stood up.

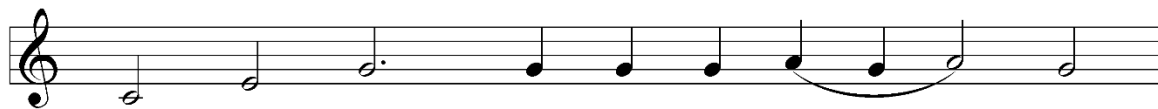
M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: It's Time to Fight!

HYMN OF THE DAY: 455, Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you,
 2 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish,



O Chris - tians, lest the foe de - stroy you, For Sa - tan
 And keep them that they nev - er per - ish Whom you have



has de - signed your fall. Wield God's Word, a weap - on
 pur - chased with your blood. Let new life to us be



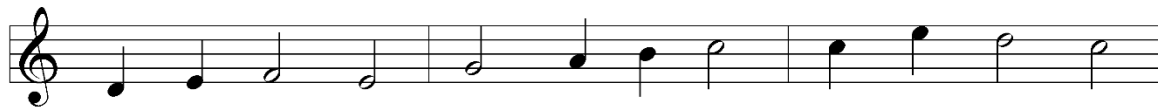
glo - rious; A - gainst each foe you'll be vic -
 giv - en That we may look to you in



to - rious; Our God will set you o'er them all.
 heav - en When - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell— Here is Im - man - u - el!
 Your Spir - it on us pour That we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield To Christ, our shield,
 Hearts o'er - flow - ing; And then shall we, From sin set free,



And we as con - qu'rors hold the field.
 Sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Wilhelm E. Arends, 1677–1721, abr.; tr. John M. Sloan, 1835–after 1890, alt.
 Tune: WACHET AUF (898 898 664 448) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

SERMON

TEXT: 1 Kings 18:21-39

Theme: Stay on the Lord's Side

Stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register in the pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord God, we thank you for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, your Son, and for the promised graces we have received through him. We thank you that through his perfect life and his obedience to death on the cross, we have been granted cleansing and pardon for all our sins.

We thank you that in his resurrection we have the promise of everlasting life and that in his ascension to the right hand of your majesty, we have the assurance that he continually intercedes for us.

Help us believe and trust in him, love and serve him, that in all our thoughts, words, and actions we may manifest his spirit. Rebuke our selfishness, and subdue our self-indulgence. Deepen our sympathies, strengthen our hope, and confirm us in our faith.

Dwell in our homes, O Lord, and let the trust of our families be centered in you alone, so that no difficulty, trial, or adversity will rob us of the conviction that you are our helper in every time of need. Relieve the afflictions of the weary and ill, and dry the tears of all who are troubled and sorrowful. Lead them to look to you as the unfailing spring of healing and hope.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special prayers

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends his Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M. Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

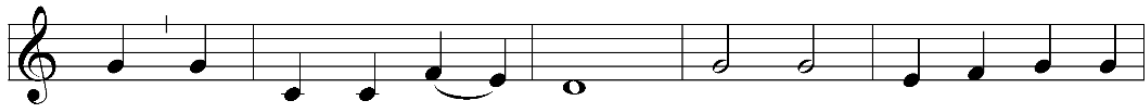
M. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



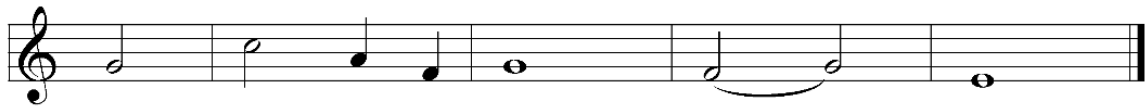
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



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



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

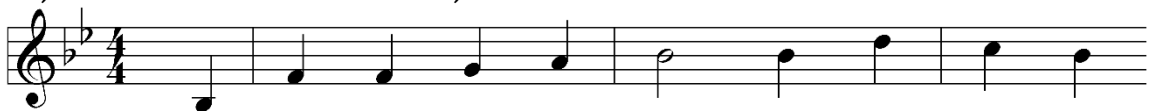


world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 419, If God Himself Before Me, Verses 1-4



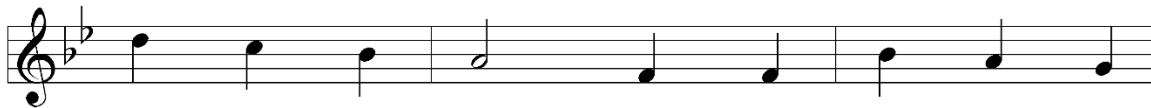
1 If God him - self be for me, I may a
 2 This I be - lieve, yea rath - er, Of this I
 3 I build on this foun - da - tion: That Je - sus
 4 He can - celed my of - fen - ses, De - liv - ered



host de - fy; For when I pray, be - fore
 make my boast, That God is my dear Fa -
 and his blood A - lone are my sal - va -
 me from death: He is the Lord who clean -



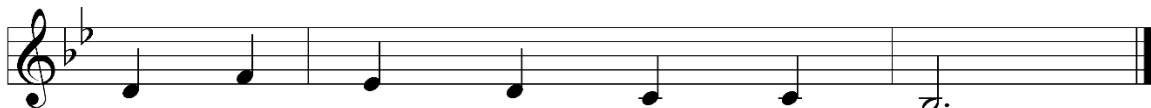
me My foes, con - found - ed, fly. If Christ,
 ther, My friend who loves me most, And that,
 tion, My true, e - ter - nal good. With - out
 ses My soul from sin through faith. In him



my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from
 what - e'er be - tide me, My Sav - ior is
 him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less
 I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on



a - bove, What foe or what dis - as -
 at hand Through storm - y seas to guide
 on earth; The gifts I have from Je -
 my way; In him I am not fear -



ter Can drive me from his love?
 me And bring me safe to land.
 sus A - lone have price - less worth.
 ful Of God's great Judg - ment Dav.

Stand

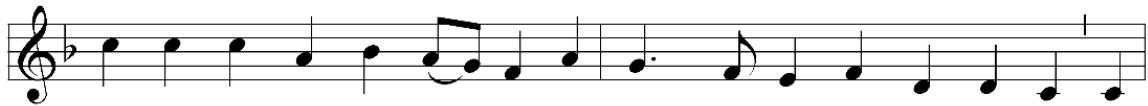
THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: 449, Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; In his
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird or star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them his grace he
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.
spares them; In his might - y arms he bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Caroline V. Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958. © Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America.
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Tune: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA (LM Trochaic) Swedish folk tune, 19th century.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Change of Time for Trinity Book Club's next meeting: We will now meet at 4pm on Saturday, October 26, at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries. We'll be discussing *A Song Unheard* by Roseanna M. White. All are welcome to join us! If you have questions, ask Rachel Kovaciny.

Bible Class, Sunday School, and Catechism Schedule

Today we return to two worship services (8:30 and 11:00), with Bible class and Sunday School running from 9:45-10:45. (Bible class is "The Holy Spirit and His Work.") Catechism instruction also begins today, from noon until about 1. (Everyone is welcome to attend Catechism for a review. Please let pastor know if you're planning to attend so he can order you a copy. Each lesson will also be repeated on Tuesday nights at 7 in the Fellowship Hall.)

September Sunday School Service Project

Through the end of the month our Sunday School will be collecting books, food, and hygiene items for Trinity's Little Free Library. Please look for the bin in the narthex and know that all contributions are most useful and welcome by our neighborhood.

Wine and Word Bible Study – Sept 19

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying The Apocrypha with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. The study of follows the study guide for *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes* (available from Northwestern or Concordia Publishing Houses and other booksellers). You can also follow the readings at apocrypha.org. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 19

Saturday, October 19, will be the date of Trinity's Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat outreach event from 3-4pm in our parking lot. If you're planning on hosting a trunk, please let pastor know. We could also use a couple of volunteers to host a Welcome Table, and one or two for traffic control. If you have any questions or could help out in either of those ways, please speak to pastor also. If you can't make it to host a trunk but would like to contribute, candy donations are welcome.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



Listen for the LORD's Gentle Whisper

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20230814/>

Do you ever feel down in the dumps? Has it ever happened that you've tried your hardest and done your best, but your plan—and seemingly everything else!—doesn't work out the way you hoped? This can happen to God's children. It can happen to his little children and his big kids too.

It once happened to a man named Elijah. He was God's prophet, a person who tells God's Word to God's people. He was so down about how things were going that he even prayed that he would die. Wow! What was going on with Elijah?

During his life there were many people who weren't listening to God's Word. They weren't believing what God said, and they weren't living like God's children. The king and queen, who were supposed to be encouraging God's people and supporting his prophets, were getting rid of them and replacing them with false prophets and false gods. Elijah thought he was the only believer left. And now, the royal couple was after him too. Elijah had been so faithful to the LORD and to his job of speaking the LORD's Word, but it just didn't seem to be working.

Elijah was down in the dumps.

Then the LORD appeared to him. Elijah saw and heard powerful forces of nature. But was the LORD in those show of forces? Were the displays of mighty power meant to get Elijah back to work? Did the holy LORD use a scary threat to set him straight? Nope. God revealed himself in a gentle whisper. By this gentle whisper Elijah was reminded who the LORD is, the God of free and faithful grace. By this still, small voice the LORD reminded Elijah that he gets his kingdom work done through simple promises of forgiveness and salvation in a meek Messiah. By this quiet word he reminded Elijah that he changes hearts and wins them to himself through the Spirit's power, not through mighty signs. Elijah had a change of heart, and then he went back to work.

What does God use to get us out of the dumps? What does he do to give us renewed courage and strength? The same thing. In a gentle whisper he tells us that Jesus is our Savior. In a still, small voice he reminds us that we are still his children and he is still with us. In his own quiet Word he says, "I love you, and I always will. And that's what matters most."

Questions to Consider

Who was God's prophet in this story?

What was wrong with him?

What is a prophet?

Why was Elijah down in the dumps?

Describe a time you were down in the dumps. Why does that happen to you?

What part of God's Word does he want you to use to help yourself and others when you get down about life in this world?

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.