



Rejoicing in Heaven

October 5, 2025

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.



A stylized black and white logo of a dove in flight, facing right, with its wings spread. The dove is positioned to the left of the text.

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025

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: Pastor Paul Mueller

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: 564, There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed
whole; There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to
heal the sin-sick soul. 1 Some-times I feel dis-
2 If you can-not preach like
cour-aged And think my work's in vain, But
Pe-ter, If you can-not pray like Paul, You can
Refrain
then the Ho-ly Spir-it Re-vives my soul a-gain.
tell the love of Je-sus And say he died for all.

Text: African-American spiritual, abr.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD (Irregular) African-American spiritual.

Stand

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



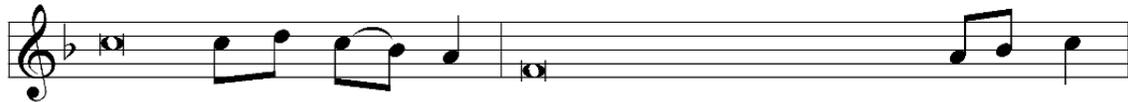
C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

(Continued on Next Page)



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: 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

Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Listen to this, you who trample on the needy
 to wipe out the oppressed from the land,

⁵ who say, "When will the New Moon be over so that we can sell grain?
 When will the Sabbath end so that we can open the grain bins?"

Then we will make the bushel^[a] smaller and make the shekel weight heavier.^[b]

We will cheat with dishonest scales.

⁶ We will buy the poor for silver
 and the needy for a pair of sandals.
 We will sell the chaff with the grain."

⁷ The Lord swears by the Pride of Jacob,
 "I will never forget any of their deeds!"

PSALM OF THE DAY: 51A

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: Have mercy on me, O God,

C: According to your unfailing love.

M: Wash away all my iniquity,

C: And cleanse me from my sin.

M: For I know my transgressions,

C: And my sin is always before me.

M: Against you, you only, have I sinned

C: And done what is evil in your sight.

M: Surely I was sinful at birth,

C: Sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

M: Hide your face from my sins,

C: And blot out all my iniquity.

M: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

C: And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

M: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

C: and to the Holy Spirit,

M: as it was in the beginning,

C: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 2:1-8

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all those who are in authority, in order that we might live a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is good and pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this testimony, I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I speak the truth;^[a] I am not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument.

VERSE OF THE DAY

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 cf. NIV)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Luke 15:1-10

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 15.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³He told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls together his friends and his neighbors, telling them, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’ ⁷I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or what woman who has ten silver coins,^[a] if she loses one coin, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found the lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: 728, Jerusalem the Golden



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There



know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The

(Continued on Next Page)

bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
 clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
 song of them that feast. To God en - throned in

end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
 bring us To that dear land of rest Where
 glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The

midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.
 sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
 Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

This twelfth century hymn, first conceived by Bernard of Cluny, depicts an idyllic, heavenly scene. The hymn is gloriously set to the English folk tune THAXTED.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century
 Tune: THAXTED (76 76 76 D) Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt.

SERMON

Text: **Luke 15:1-10**
 Theme: **Rejoicing in Heaven**

Stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'CREATE IN ME'. It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final note of the piece is a double bar line.

Be Seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your 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: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: **Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:**



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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: 304, Jesus, Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
 4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
 5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
 in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
 Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
 Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
 Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By your blood and bitter passion,
 For these words I do believe—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
 Even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: 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: 571, From Greenland's Icy Mountains



1 From Green-land's i - cy moun - tains, From In - dia's
 2 What though the fra - grant breez - es Blow soft o'er
 3 Can we whose souls are light - ed With wis - dom



cor - al strand, Where Af - ri - ca's bright foun - tains
 dis - tant isles, Though ev - 'ry vis - ta pleas - es,
 from on high, Can we to those be - night - ed



Roll down their gold - en sand, From man - y an an - cient
 Yet sin the land de - files. In vain with lav - ish
 The lamp of life de - ny? Sal - va - tion! Oh, sal -



riv - er, From man - y a palm - y plain, They call us
 kind - ness The gifts of God are strown; The hea - then
 va - tion! The joy - ful sound pro - claim Till each re -



to de - liv - er Their land from er - ror's chain.
 in their blind - ness Bow down to wood and stone.
 mot - est na - tion Has learned Mes - si - ah's name.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.
 Tune: MISSIONARY HYMN (76 76 D) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Pastor Paul Mueller: 925-337-3635

Sixth Annual Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 18 – Trunks Needed!

Saturday, October 18 3-4pm (Rain Date October 25), will be the date of Trinity's Sixth Annual Trunk or Treat outreach event in our parking lot. You can help by **hosting a trunk, helping at the Welcome Table, or helping direct traffic!** If you have any questions or could help out in either of those ways, please speak to pastor or Bruce Knox. If you can't make it to host a trunk but would like to contribute, candy donations are welcome. Use the QR Code below to sign up!



You're invited to join the Trinity Book Club! Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 1 at 9:30 am at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries. We'll be discussing a Christian suspense novel, *Woman in Shadow* by Carrie Stuart Parks.

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:45am The next series is "your Questions; Scripture's Answers", based on the book by Prof. John Brug. We'll start out with how God gave us His Bible, look at a few puzzling parts of the Bible, then go into adiaphora (if you don't know, you need to come), and a few other questions.

Wine and Word Bible Study – October 16th

The Wine and Word Bible Study is **studying the book of EXODUS** and 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. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine (or other drink of choice) 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.

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 Steven Douglas. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



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 Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's 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 Bev Ohlendorf know.

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 925-337-3635 or pmjrmueller@gmail.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



The Secret to Being Rich

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250924/>

But godliness with contentment is great gain. *1 Timothy 6:6*

Here's a wild thought: God wants you to be rich.

Not in cash. Not in gift cards. But in contentment.

Paul writes, "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). In other words? Being rich isn't about what's in your wallet. It's about what's in your heart.

Most people think if they just had a little more, then they'd be happy. More money. More stuff. More success. But Paul warns that chasing wealth doesn't bring freedom, it brings chains.

"Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs" (1 Timothy 6:10).

Think about that. They thought they were gaining. Instead, they lost. Money made them restless. Greedy. Trapped.

But then Paul offers a different way: "Put your hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Be rich in good deeds, generous, willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:17-18).

This is the secret to real wealth: Not hoarding but giving. Not chasing more but resting in enough. The richest person in the room? The one who trusts God and lives with open hands who can only give because God's grace has already given us everything.

So, what are you chasing? Take a look at your Savior—you already have more than enough!

Questions to Consider

What is something you're really thankful to God for today? (big or small)

How can you share what you have with someone else out of love for Jesus?

Why does contentment (being thankful for what you have) make us richer than money ever could?

How can you use what you have—time, talents, or things—to bless others?

How does Jesus' grace-given generosity change our hearts?

Think of a way that helps you keep your focus on eternal treasure this week.

It is the mission of



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.