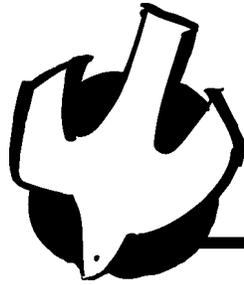


September 14, 2025



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 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: 358, How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, My
4 By you my prayers ac - cept - ance gain Al -
5 O Je - sus, Shep - herd, Guard - ian, Friend, My



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
shield and hid - ing place, My nev - er - fail - ing
though with sin de - filed; Sa - tan ac - cus - es
Phroph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my Life, my



heals our wounds, And drives a - way all fear.
hun - gry soul And to the wea - ry, rest.
trea - sury filled With bound - less stores of grace.
me in vain For God calls me his child.
Way, my End, Ac - cept the praise I bring.

6 I praise in weakness from afar— 7 Till then I would your love proclaim
How cold my warmest thought! With ev'ry fleeting breath;
But when I see you as you are, And may the music of your name
I'll praise you as I ought. Refresh my soul in death.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Tune: ST. PETER (CM) Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877.

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the sixth staff.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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

Proverbs 9:8-12

⁸ Do not warn a mocker, or he will hate you.

Warn a wise person, and he will love you.

⁹ Give advice to a wise person, and he will become even wiser.

Teach a righteous person, and he will add to his learning.

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning^[a] of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding,

¹¹ because through me your days will be multiplied,
and years will be added to your life.

¹² If you are wise, you are wise to your own advantage.
But if you scoff, you alone will bear the consequences.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 72

Read Responsively

M: Endow the King with your justice, O God,

C: The royal Son with your righteousness.

M: He will defend the afflicted among the people

C: And save the children of the needy.

M: He will endure as long as the sun,

C: As long as the moon, through all generations.

M: He will be like rain falling on a mown field,

C: Like showers watering the earth.

(Continued on Next Page)

M: All kings will bow down to him,

C: And all nations will serve him.

M: All nations will be blessed through him,

C: And they will call him blessed.

M: Praise be to the Lord God, who alone does marvelous deeds.

C: May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

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

Philemon 1:1, 10-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon, our dear friend and coworker,....

...¹⁰ I am appealing to you on behalf of my child Onesimus.^[a] I became his father while I was in chains. ¹¹ There was a time when he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. ¹² I have sent him (who is my very heart) back to you. Welcome him.^[b] ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might serve me in your place while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that your kindness would not be the result of compulsion, but of willingness. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a while: so that you would have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but as more than a slave, as a dear brother. He certainly is dear to me, but he is even more of a dear brother to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ And if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, have written this with my own hand: I will repay it—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I am asking for a favor from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (*1 Timothy 1:10b cf. NIV*)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all that he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his wealth with reckless living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He would have liked to fill his stomach with the carob pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, and I am dying from hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up, go to my father, and tell him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'"

²⁰ "He got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, hugged his son, and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick, bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.' Then they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "His older son was in the field. As he approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant told him, 'Your brother is here! Your father killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ The older brother was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

²⁹ "He answered his father, 'Look, these many years I've been serving you, and I never disobeyed your command, but you never gave me even a young goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours arrived after wasting your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. ³² But it was fitting to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found.'"

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: 389, Rock of Ages Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide
2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, Sim - ply to
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye -



my - self in thee; Let the wa - ter and the blood
thy law's de - mands. Could my zeal no res - pite know,
thy cross I cling; Na - ked, come to thee for dress,
lids close in death, When I soar to worlds un - known,



From thy riv - en side which flowed Be of sin the
Could my tears for - ev - er flow, All for sin could
Help - less, look to thee for grace. Foul, I to the
See thee on thy judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges,



dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
not a - tone; Thou must save and thou a - lone.
foun - tain fly— Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!
cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in thee!

Text: August M. Toplady, 1740–78, alt.
Tune: TOPLADY (77 77 77) Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872.

SERMON

TEXT: Luke 15:11-32

THEME: Learning a Lesson

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: **We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

C: **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

(Continued on the Next Page)

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

M: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

M: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers

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

Silent prayer.

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

Amen.

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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.

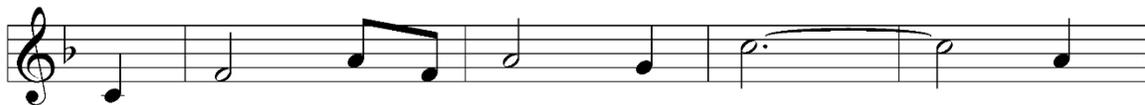
C: Amen.

Be Seated

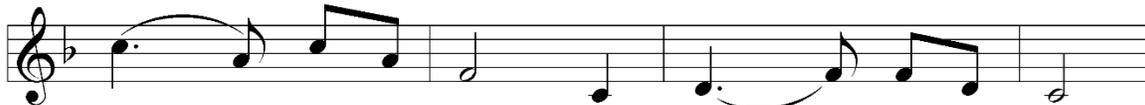
CLOSING HYMN: 379, Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures. He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and por - tion be
grace has brought me safe thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.
As long as life en - dures.
And grace will lead me home.
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.
Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

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 (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.

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.

Trinity Youth Group Outing - September 27th

All teens are invited to attend on Saturday, September 27! We will meet at 11am at Locust Shade Park in Triangle to enjoy the Warrior Challenge Course and nearby amenities, and to have a picnic and short devotion.

Bring your lunch and a friend!

Drinks and desserts will be provided.

Please text 703-951-6120 to RSVP by Wednesday, Sep. 24th, 2025.

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 1st

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.



Grace for All!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250903/>

My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism. James 2:1(EHV)

He was one of the poorest people in town. His coat was old and stained. His shoes were held together with duct tape. And he didn't smell the best.

It took a while, but he finally accepted the pastor's invitation to come to church. And when the pastor came out to greet the people at the beginning of the service, he immediately noticed something. His guest was sitting right next to one of the wealthiest men in town.

But that's not what God noticed that Sunday.

What God noticed was two equally sinful human beings sitting together, confessing their sins and hearing the same message of forgiveness—grace for all!

That's what James tells us in today's verse: "My brothers, have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ without showing favoritism."

There are lots of differences between your friends at school. Some are loud, some are quiet. Some are tall, some are short. Some are superfast, and others are supersmart. Noticing differences isn't wrong—God made us all special in different ways! But what's wrong is when we start thinking: "That person is more important . . . and that person doesn't matter as much."

God wants you to look at your rich friend, your funny friend, your serious friend, your smelly friend, your friend who struggles with reading, and your friend who is really good at sports all the same way—as unique dear souls who need Jesus. Just like you. We all have the same problem that has consequences. We are all sinners who deserve to be separated from God for all eternity in a real place called hell.

But here's another similarity: Jesus died for the rich and the poor, the popular and the unpopular, the person with the rusty old car and the one with a shiny new Tesla. That's grace for ALL!

Remember that guest at church? He did notice he was sitting next to one of the wealthiest men in town. But the most important thing he remembered was this: They stood side by side, confessed their sins and heard the best news in the world, "Your sins are forgiven."

That's grace for all!

Questions to Consider:

What are some differences you notice between your friends? (Think about personality, talents, appearance, etc.)

What's something that's the same about all your friends—no matter how different they are?

Have you ever caught yourself thinking one person is more important than someone else? What happened?

What did this devotion teach you about how God wants you to look at the people in your life?

When are you most tempted to show favoritism? (Like choosing teams, making lunch buddies, picking seats?)

Think about a worship service at your church. What parts remind you that everyone there—no matter how different—are all really the same?

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.