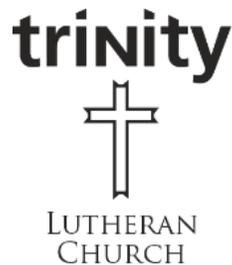


**September 7, 2025**

## **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.





Thirteenth  
Sunday after Pentecost

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**September 7, 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.*

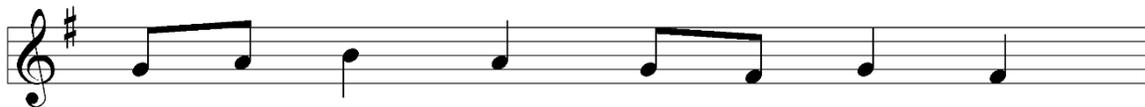
## OPENING HYMN: 422, Jesus, Lead Us On



1 Je - sus, lead us on Till our rest is won;  
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near,  
3 When we seek re - lief From a long - felt grief,  
4 Je - sus, still lead on Till our rest is won.



And al - though the way be cheer - less,  
Let not faith - less fears o'er - take us;  
When temp - ta - tions come al - lur - ing,  
Heav'n - ly Lead - er, still di - rect us;



We will fol - low, calm and fear - less.  
Let not faith and hope for - sake us,  
Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us



Guide us by your hand To our fa - ther - land.  
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.  
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.  
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, adapt.; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.  
Tune: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM (55 88 55) Adam Drese, 1620–1701.

*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: Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; 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

#### **Jeremiah 23:23-29**

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God who is only nearby, declares the Lord,  
 and not a God far away?

<sup>24</sup> Can anyone hide in secret places  
 so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord.

Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

<sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, "I have had a dream! I have had a dream!" <sup>26</sup> How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the fantasies of their own hearts. <sup>27</sup> They think they can make my people forget my name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully.

What has chaff to do with grain? declares the Lord. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like a fire? declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

## **PSALM OF THE DAY: 139A**

*READ RESPONSIVELY*

M: O Lord, you have searched me and you know me;

**C: You perceive my thoughts from afar.**

M: You discern my going out and my lying down;

**C: You are familiar with all my ways.**

M: Where can I go from your Spirit?

**C: Where can I flee from your presence?**

M: If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

**C: If I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

M: If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

**C: If I settle on the far side of the sea.**

M: Even there your hand will guide me,

**C: Your right hand will hold me fast.**

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 AND SERMON TEXT

### Hebrews 12:1-13

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. <sup>3</sup> Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>4</sup> You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin. <sup>5</sup> Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons?

My son, do not regard the Lord's discipline lightly, and do not become weary of his correction.

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves, and he corrects every son he accepts.<sup>†</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> In addition, we have earthly fathers<sup>[b]</sup> who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spirits<sup>[c]</sup> and live? <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia. (*Hebrews 4:12 cf. RSV*)

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

### Luke 12:48-53

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 12.

### C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

<sup>148</sup> But the one who did not know, and did something worthy of punishment, will be punished lightly. From everyone to whom much was given, much will be expected. From the one who was entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

<sup>49</sup>“I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already ignited. <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup> Yes, from now on there will be five divided in one household: three against two, and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

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.**

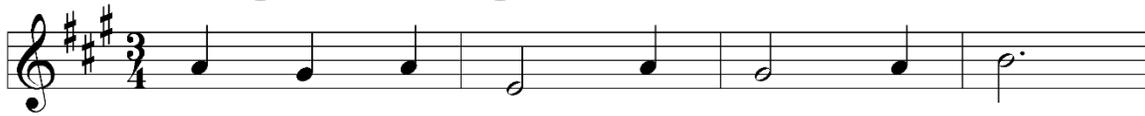
**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## HYMN OF THE DAY: 457 Fight the Good Fight



1 Fight the good fight With all your might;  
2 Run the straight race Through God's good grace;  
3 Cast care a - side, Lean on your guide;  
4 Faint not nor fear; His arms are near.



Christ is your strength and Christ your light.  
Lift up your eyes and seek his face.  
His bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.  
He chang - es not, and you are dear.



Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Life with its way be - fore us lies;  
Lean, and the trust - ing soul shall prove  
On - ly be - lieve, and you will see



Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
Christ is the path and Christ the prize.  
Christ is its life and Christ its love.  
That Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, alt.

Tune: MENDON (448 88) *The Methodist Harmonist*, New York, 1821.

## SERMON

Text: **Hebrews 12:1-13**

Theme: **Spiritual Olympics**

*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, written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music is in common time (C) and ends with 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: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

**C: Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**C: Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.**

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

*Special prayers.*

M: Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**C: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.**

## 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: 309 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He that his saints in this world rules and shields  
3 Come for - ward, then, with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields,  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,  
With heav'n - ly bread makes them that hun - ger whole,  
Be - fore your al - tar, Lord, your ser - vants bow;



Him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirs - ty soul.  
In this your feast of love be with us now.

Text: Latin hymn, 7th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: OLD 124TH (10 10 10 10) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, 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: 429 What God Ordains is Always Good



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good; His  
 2 What God or - dains is al - ways good; He  
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good; He  
 4 What God or - dains is al - ways good. Though  
 5 What God or - dains is al - ways good; This



will is just and ho - ly. As he di - rects my  
 nev - er will de - ceive me. He leads me in his  
 is my friend and Fa - ther. He will not let me  
 I the cup am drink - ing Which sa - vors now of  
 truth re - mains un - shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or



life for me, I fol - low meek and low - ly. My  
 right - eous way And nev - er will he leave me. I  
 suf - fer harm Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now  
 bit - ter - ness, I take it with - out shrink - ing. For  
 death be mine, I shall not be for - sak - en. I



God in - deed In ev - 'ry need Knows well how he  
 take con - tent What he has sent; His hand that sends  
 I may know Both joy and woe; Some day I shall  
 af - ter grief God grants re - lief, My heart with com -  
 fear no harm, For with his arm He will em - brace



will shield me; To him, then, I will yield me.  
 me sad - ness Will turn my tears to glad - ness.  
 see clear - ly That he has loved me dear - ly.  
 fort fill - ing And all my sor - row still - ing.  
 and shield me; So to my God I yield me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: WAS GOTT TUT (87 87 44 77) Severus Gastorius, 1646–82, alt.

## Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at [www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org](http://www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

Pastor Paul Mueller: 925-337-3635

**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.

**Youth Group Outing** All teens are invited to attend the next Youth Group outing 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 a short devotion. See you there!

**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 adaphora (if you don't know, you need to come), and a few other questions.

### 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.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### Women's Bible Study Starts September 13

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will meet Saturday, September 13 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll start the book "Take Heart: God's Comfort for Anxious Thoughts" by Lindsay Hausch. Copies can be found in the narthex. The Bible Study will meet the second Saturday of each month. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at [erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com](mailto:erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com).

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:pmjrmueller@gmail.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



## **A Tale of Two Mountains**

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250827/>

You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant.

Hebrews 12:18-24 (selected verses)

Close your eyes for a second and imagine this. You're standing in front of a HUGE mountain. You feel tiny—like an ant! But you're not moving any closer, because this mountain is scary.

The ground is shaking under your feet. Flames shoot up the sides. Smoke rises so thick you cough and cover your face. Thunder crashes. Lightning flashes. A super-loud trumpet blasts in your ears. And then you hear God's booming voice giving the Ten Commandments: "You shall have no other gods before me . . . You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God . . ." (Exodus 19–20).

That mountain was called Mount Sinai. It's a real place in Egypt where God gave his law (think the Ten Commandments—part of what's called the "old covenant") to Moses and the Israelites 3,500 years ago. And the main feeling there was fear—because the people knew God's law was perfect and they weren't. It reminded them that sin brings punishment and death.

But now imagine a different mountain. This one isn't scary, it's beautiful. The sun is shining. You hear singing and laughter. There's no smoke, no fire, no fear. Everyone is smiling and full of joy. Here there is life, not death. This is Mount Zion—and the Bible says this is where you belong right now because of Jesus (this is called the "new covenant").

What's the difference between the two mountains? On Mount Zion, Jesus has already done everything needed to save you. He kept the law perfectly for you. He took the punishment you deserved and replaced it with forgiveness, joy, and life that will last forever.

Because of Jesus, you don't have to be afraid. You can live forever on his mountain safe and in his mercy and love!

## Questions to Consider

If you were at Mount Sinai, which part would scare you most—fire, smoke, shaking ground, or God's booming voice? Why?

What does the "old covenant" mean? (Hint: it's about the law and the Ten Commandments.)

What's the "new covenant"? (Hint: it's about what Jesus did for you.)

Where do you see fear, condemnation, and death at Mount Sinai?

Where do you see joy, perfection, and life at Mount Zion?

Even though Jesus has already saved us, why do you think God still gives us the Ten Commandments?

**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.