



## Crown of Righteousness

**November 16, 2025**



Twenty-Third  
Sunday after Pentecost

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**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:**

**Leader:** Luke Hendricks

# 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: 377, Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice, Verses 1-4



1 Dear Chris - tians, one and all, re - joice, With  
2 Fast bound in Sa - tan's chains I lay; Death  
3 My own good works a - vailed me naught, No  
4 But God be - held my wretch - ed state Be -



ex - ul - ta - tion spring - ing, And, with u -  
brood - ed dark - ly o'er me. Sin was my  
mer - it they at - tain - ing; My will a -  
fore the world's foun - da - tion, And, mind - ful



nit - ed heart and voice And ho - ly rap - ture  
tor - ment night and day; In sin my moth - er  
gainst God's judg - ment fought, No hope for me re -  
of his mer - cies great, He planned my soul's sal -



sing - ing, Pro - claim the won - ders God  
bore me. Yet deep and deep - er still  
main - ing. My fears in - creased till sheer  
va - tion. A Fa - ther's heart he turned



has done, How his right arm the vic - t'ry  
I fell; Life had be - come a liv - ing  
de - spair Left naught but death to be my  
to me, Sought my re - demp - tion fer - vent -



won. How dear - ly it has cost him!  
hell, So firm - ly sin pos - sessed me.  
share And hell to be my sen - tence.  
ly; He gave his dear - est trea - sure.  
they May live with you for - ev - er."

*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 e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes or bars.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: God, our refuge and strength, have mercy on your Church, as we come in prayer before you. Answer us not in judgment on our sins, but in peace and forgiveness; 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

### Deuteronomy 10:12-22

<sup>12</sup> So now, Israel, what is the Lord your God asking of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, <sup>13</sup> to keep the commandments of the Lord and his statutes that I am commanding you today for your own good.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the heavens and the heaven of heavens, <sup>[a]</sup> the earth and everything that is on it—these belong to the Lord your God. <sup>15</sup> Still, the Lord attached himself to your fathers, loved them, and he chose their descendants after them (that's you!) from all peoples, as it is today.

<sup>16</sup> So cut away the tough shell of your sinful nature, <sup>[b]</sup> and do not be stubborn any longer.

<sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is God of Gods and Lord of Lords, the great God, the mighty one and the awesome one, who does not show favoritism and does not take a bribe. <sup>18</sup> He carries out justice for the fatherless and widows. He loves the alien who dwells among you and gives him food and clothing. <sup>19</sup> So you are to love the alien, because you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

<sup>20</sup> Fear the Lord your God, serve him, cling to him, and take your oaths in his name.

<sup>21</sup> He is your glory. He is your God, who performed for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

<sup>22</sup> When your fathers went down to Egypt, they numbered seventy people, but now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars of the sky.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: 119B

*Read Responsively*

M: Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees;

**C: Then I will keep them to the end.**

M: Give me understanding, and I will keep your law

**C: And obey it with all my heart.**

M: Direct me in the path of your commands,

**C: For there I find delight.**

M: Turn my eyes away from worthless things;

**C: Preserve my life according to your Word.**

*(Continued on Next Page)*

M: Fulfill your promise to your servant,

**C: So that you may be feared.**

M: How I long for your precepts!

**C: Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

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

### **2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18**

<sup>6</sup>You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing. ...

<sup>16</sup>At my first hearing, no one came to my defense, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles would hear it, and I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.  
Alleluia. (*2 Timothy 4:18 cf. NIV*)

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

### **Luke 18:18-27**

<sup>18</sup>A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus asked him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good, except one—God. <sup>20</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. Honor your father and mother.'"

<sup>21</sup>"I have kept all these since I was a child," he said.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

23 But when the ruler heard these words, he became very sad, because he was very rich.

24 When Jesus saw that the man became very sad, he said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 In fact, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 Those who heard this said, "Then who can be saved?"

27 He replied, "What is impossible for people is possible for God."

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be Seated*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: 185, O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace**

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, grant us grace That we our  
2 Help us that we your sav - ing Word In faith - ful  
3 Then when our earth - ly race is run, Death's bit - ter

Lord and Sav - ior In faith and fer - vent love em -  
hearts may trea - sure; Let e'er that bread of life af -  
hour im - pend - ing, May your good work in us be -

brace And tru - ly serve him ev - er, So that when  
ford New grace in rich - est mea - sure. Make us to  
gun Con - tin - ue till life's end - ing, Un - til we

death is near at hand We at his cross may firm -  
die to ev - 'ry sin; Each day cre - ate us new  
glad - ly may com - mend Our souls in - to our Sav -

ly stand And there find our sal - va - tion.  
with - in That fruits of faith may flour - ish.  
ior's hand To rest in peace e - ter - nal.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532–99; tr. Oluf H. Smeby, 1851–1929, alt.  
Tune: ES IST GEWISSLICH (87 87 887) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1535.

## SERMON

*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: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

**C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**

M: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

**C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**

M: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

**C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**

M: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

**C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**

M: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

**C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. 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.

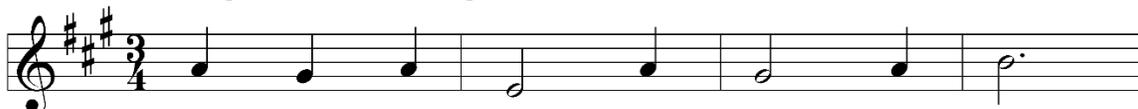
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen.

*Be Seated*

## CLOSING HYMN: 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.

## 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)

### Youth Group Art for a Cause on Saturday, Nov. 16, 4-7pm

All teens and young adults are invited to attend the Youth Group Art for a Cause session. We will meet at church at 4pm to find our mission in the Bible and express our group identity through music and art. Please, bring art supplies, musical instruments, and any T-shirt designs or ideas you might have. Snacks will be provided!

**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 – November 20

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.

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



## **The Best Is Yet to Come . . . and It's Already Here!**

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20251103/>

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Revelation 21:1-6 (selected verses)

Have you ever looked forward to something super exciting, but it didn’t turn out like you hoped? Maybe you waited all week for your birthday party, but it rained, the bounce house got wet, and you had to bring the party inside. Or maybe you saved up for a toy that broke on the first day. Bummer, right? That’s what the world feels like sometimes—lots of disappointment.

That’s why the vision God gave John in Revelation is so amazing. John saw heaven and what life there is like: “[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain” (Rev 21:4). Can you imagine? No one ever gets sick. No one ever cries themselves to sleep. No one ever says goodbye. That’s where those who have died believing in Jesus, “saints,” are now! Safe and happy with Jesus.

Revelation tells us even more: John saw a brand-new heaven and earth, where God makes his home with people. He heard a loud voice say, “I am making everything new!” (Rev 21:5). No brokenness remains—God himself promises, “It is done!” (Rev 21:6).

But here’s the good news for us: God’s promises aren’t just for “someday.” Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is within you” (Luke 17:21). That means because Jesus forgives us, we are saints right now, living with Jesus’ presence in our lives. When we are baptized, God promises us forgiveness, hope, and his Spirit. Those blessings give us strength every day while we wait for the joy of heaven.

Think about it this way: earth can feel like a balloon that keeps popping. Heaven is like a balloon that never runs out of air. And the best part? Jesus already hands you that balloon right now by filling your heart with his Spirit.

So, what do we do? When life is disappointing—when you lose a game, when friends leave you out, when sadness feels heavy—remember that Jesus has already given you hope. And when you share that hope with others, you’re helping them glimpse the joy of heaven too.

The saints in heaven are celebrating with Jesus. We saints on earth get to celebrate too—because the best is yet to come, and the best is already ours in Christ!

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## Questions to Consider

Can you think of a time when something didn't go the way you hoped? How did it make you feel?

How does it make you feel to know Jesus is with you even when things go wrong?

Revelation 21:4 says God will wipe every tear from our eyes. What do you think that will be like?

How can remembering Jesus' promises help you when life is disappointing?

John saw a brand-new heaven and earth where God says, "It is done!" How does that change the way you view sadness and loss today?

How can you share the hope of heaven with friends or family who are struggling or sad?

**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.