



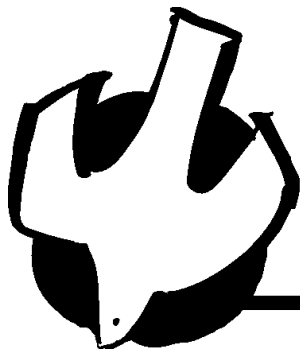
June 21, 2026

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.





Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

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 Timothy Satorius

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: 233 All People that on Earth Do Dwell



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord, our God, is good; His mer - cy
5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
aid he did us make. We are his folk; he doth
joy his courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the an -

forth - tell; Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
us feed, And for his sheep he doth us take.
al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH (LM) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.

Stand

INVOCATION

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

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

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

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

C: Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Christ, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

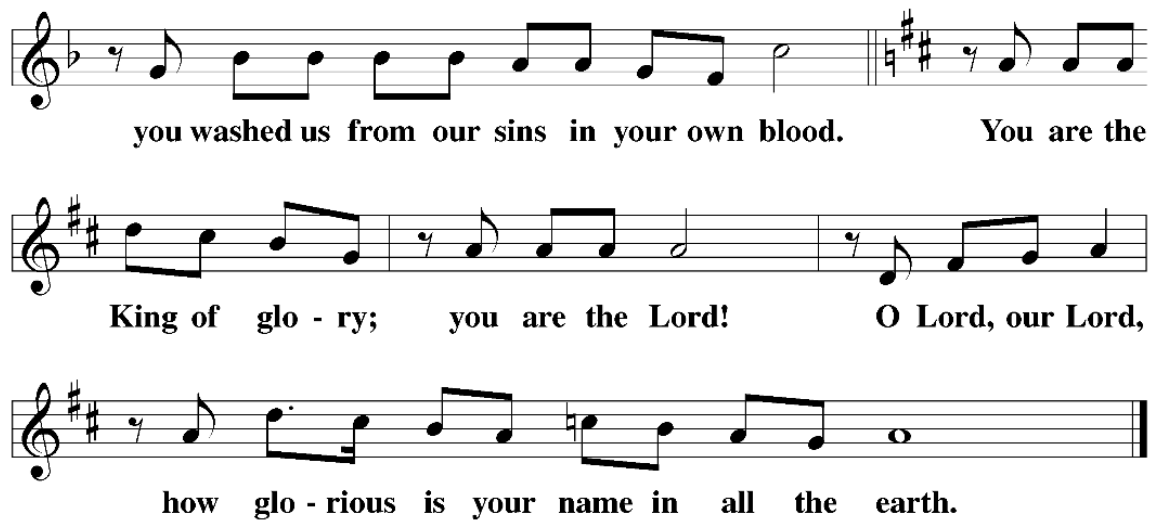
C: Amen.

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

O LORD, OUR LORD

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a group of notes) in the second, third, and fourth staves. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (Bb).

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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O God, protector of all the faithful, you alone make strong; you alone make holy. Show us your mercy and forgive our sins day by day. Guide us through our earthly lives that we do not lose the things you have prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 20:7-13

⁷You persuaded me, Lord, and I agreed to it.
You are stronger than I am, and you won out.
I have become a laughingstock all day long,
and everyone is mocking me.

⁸Whenever I speak, I cry out.
I cry out, "Violence and destruction!"

But the word of the Lord has brought scorn on me.
I am mocked all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak in his name anymore,"
then there is a burning fire in my heart,
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary of holding it in.
I cannot!

(Continued on Next Page)

¹⁰ I hear many whispering,
“Terror on every side!”
All my close friends,
those who are watching for my fall, say,
“Denounce him! Let’s denounce him.
Perhaps he can be pressured into making a mistake.
Then we will have the upper hand against him,
and we will take our revenge on him.”

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior.
So my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not gain the upper hand.
They will be put to shame completely,
because they have not been successful.
Their eternal disgrace will never be forgotten.

¹² Lord of Armies, you test the righteous.
You see the heart and the mind.
Let me see your vengeance on them,
for I have laid out my case before you.

¹³ Sing to the Lord!
Praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hand of the wicked.

PSALM: 100

Refrain sung together, Psalm said responsively

Refrain



Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord a new song.

M: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

C: Worship the LORD with gladness;

M: come before him with joyful songs.

C: Know that the LORD is God.

M: It is he who made us, and we are his;

C: we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Refrain

M: Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

C: give thanks to him and praise his name.

M: For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;

C: his faithfulness continues through all generations.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer. © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer (admin. Northwestern Publishing House). All rights reserved.
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Second Lesson

2 Timothy 4:1-8

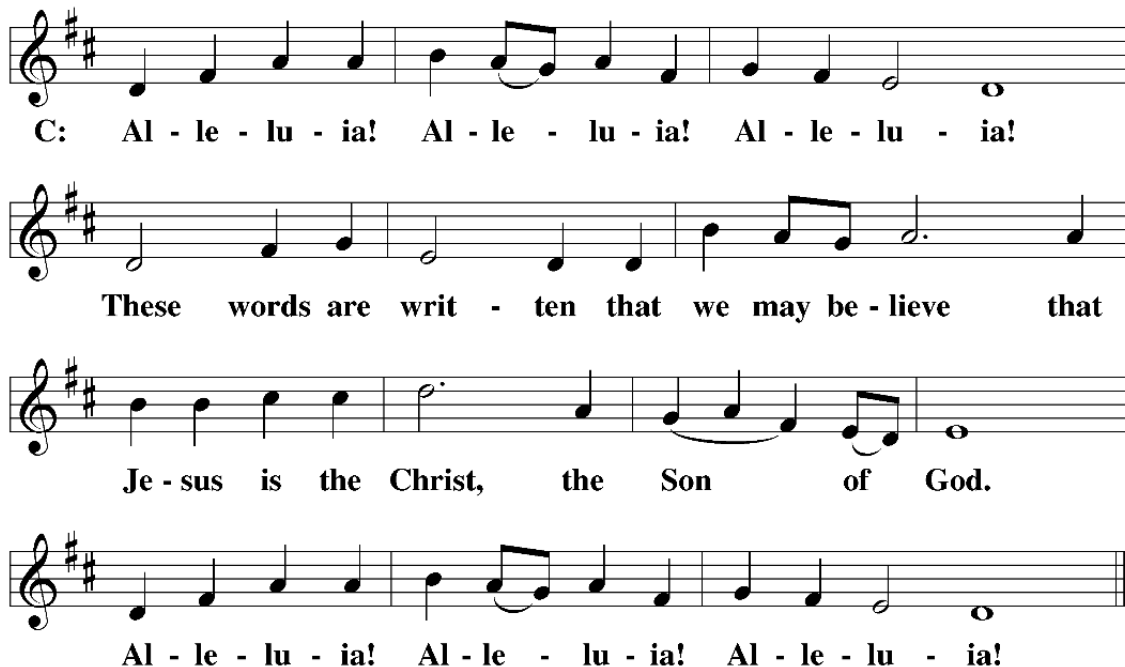
⁴ I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who is going to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom: ² Preach the word. Be ready whether it is convenient or not. Correct, rebuke, and encourage, with all patience and teaching. ³ For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires. ⁴ They will also turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

⁵ As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.

⁶ You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.
(Psalm 132:9)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

M: The Gospel of St Matthew, Chapter 10

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

⁵ Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, “Do not go among the Gentiles, and do not enter any town of the Samaritans. ...

²¹ “Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³ And when they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. Amen I tell you: You will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher and the servant like his master. If the master of the house was called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

²⁶ “So do not be afraid of them, because there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?^[a] Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without the knowledge and consent of your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ So do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone who confesses me before others, I will also confess before my Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies me before others, I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn of The Day: 431, I Walk in Danger All the Way (Verses 1-5)



1 I walk in dan - ger all the way; The thought
 2 I pass through tri - als all the way, With sin
 3 Grim death pur - sues me all the way; No - where
 4 I walk with an - gels all the way; They shield
 5 I walk with Je - sus all the way; His guid -



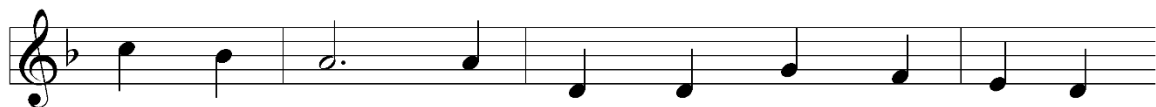
shall nev - er leave me That Sa - tan, who has
 and ills con - tend - ing; In pa - tience I must
 I rest se - cure - ly. He comes by night, he
 me and be - friend me. All Sa - tan's pow'r is
 ance nev - er fails me. He takes my ev - 'ry



marked his prey, Is plot - ting to de - ceive
 bear each day, The cross of God's own send -
 comes by day, And takes his prey most sure -
 held at bay When heav'n - ly hosts at - tend
 fear a - way When Sa - tan's pow'r as - sails



me. This foe with hid - den snares May seize me
 ing. Oft in ad - ver - si - ty I know not
 ly. A fail - ing breath, and I In death's strong
 me. They are my sure de - fense; All fear and
 me, And, by his foot - steps led, My path I



un - a - wares If e'er I fail to watch and
 where to flee When storms of woe my soul dis -
 grasp may lie To face e - ter - ni - ty to -
 sor - row, hence! Un - harmed by foes, do what they
 safe - ly tread. In spite of ills that threat - en



pray; I walk in dan - ger all the way.
 may; I pass through tri - als all the way.
 day. Grim death pur - sues me all the way.
 may, I walk with an - gels all the way.
 may, I walk with Je - sus all the way.

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

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

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

Through him all things were made.

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

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

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

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

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

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

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

BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register 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 to the Lord.

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

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

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, he empowered his Church to be witnesses of Christ to the ends of the earth. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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

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

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

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

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

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: 312, Lord Jesus Christ, You have Prepared (*Verses 1-6*)



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared This feast for
 2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, Where an - gel
 3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined To an - y
 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your pre - cious
 5 Though rea - son can - not un - der - stand, Yet faith this



our sal - va - tion; It is your bod - y
 hosts are dwell - ing, And in your pres - ence
 hab - i - ta - tion, But you are pres - ent
 Word be - liev - ing That your true bod - y
 truth em - brac - es: Your bod - y, Lord, is



and your blood, And at your in - vi - ta - tion
 they be - hold Your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
 ev - 'ry - where And with your con - gre - ga - tion.
 and your blood Our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.
 ev - 'ry - where At once in man - y plac - es.



As wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, We come to
 And though your peo - ple shall not see Your glo - ry
 Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Un - moved by
 This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, And there is
 I leave to you how this can be; Your Word a -



you for need - ed rest, For com - fort, and for par - don.
 and your maj - es - ty Till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
 an - y dar - ing hand Or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
 naught you can - not do, For you, Lord, are al - might - y.
 lone suf - fic - es me; I trust its truth un - fail - ing.

(Continued on Next Page)

6 Lord, I believe what you have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
 Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.
 Your supper in this vale of tears
 Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.
 Tune: DU LEBENSBROT, HERR JESU CHRIST (87 87 887) Peter Sohren, c. 1630–c. 1692, alt.

STAND

THANK THE LORD



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



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



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



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

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

C: Amen.

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: 542, Dear Lord, to Your True Servants Give

1 Dear Lord, to your true ser - vants give The grace to
 2 They glad - ly go at your com - mand To spread your
 3 When all their la - bor seems in vain, Re - vive their

you a - lone to live. Set free from sin to
 Word o'er sea and land. Be with them, Lord, and
 sink - ing hopes a - gain; And when suc - cess crowns

serve you, Lord, They go to share your
 make them strong To heal sin's ills, to
 what they do, Oh, keep them hum - ble,

liv - ing Word, The gos - pel mes - sage to pro -
 right the wrong. Your rule is o - ver wind and
 Lord, and true Un - til be - fore your judg - ment

claim That all may know your sav - ing name.
 wave, And might - y is your arm to save.
 seat They lay their tro - phies at your feet.

Text: W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.
 Tune: MELITA (88 88 88) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Vacation Bible School Registration is OPEN. Registration is now open for this year's VBS, which will be held July 27-31 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for Tropical Trek VBS and be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life!. We look forward to sharing God's Word, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and of course, having some awesome snacks together! VBS is for kids ages 4 to those entering 6th grade. Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers. Adult volunteers are needed as well! Please contact Erika Ohlendorf (erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com) with questions. Register your child here: <https://vbsmate.com/events/TrinityofWoodbridge/31882>



Youth Parents: This year, the WELS Youth Rally will be in **Ohio, July 14-17**, and registrations will open soon. We are partnering with Grace Lutheran Church to see if we can lower costs, but now we need to know how many teens (8th-12th grade) may be interested in this event so we can transmit a group pre-registration. If you would like your child/children to attend, have any comments, questions or concerns, please contact Hilda Naranjo by sending an email to arghilda@yahoo.com **as soon as possible**. Group Leaders must work on the pre-registration that opens March 9. Thank you!

Wine and Word Bible Study – July 9th (We will skip July 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.

Volunteers Needed to provide snacks for our Sunday School and Fellowship Hour! If you're able to bless our community with simple treats, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sunday School bulletin board located in the large fellowship and adult Sunday School room. Your contributions help make our time together even more welcoming and enjoyable—thank you for supporting our fellowship!

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 with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Worst and Best

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260610/>

Read: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:15

Have you ever done something wrong and wished you could go back and change it? Maybe you hurt someone's feelings, disobeyed your parents, lied about something, or got angry at a friend. Sometimes those memories can make you cringe inside when you remember them, right?

The apostle Paul knew that feeling too. Before he became a Christian, he did terrible things. He hurt Christians. He even went from house to house to capture believers. He threw some into prison. He tried to stop people from believing in Jesus. Paul felt awful about the sins he had committed. That's why in today's Bible verse he says, "I am the worst of sinners."

Here's what is surprising: Paul wasn't the only sinner. All people sin—even you and me. We are all the "worst of sinners." Any sin, no matter how big or small it feels, separates us from God. Any sin, no matter how many or how few people it affects, condemns us to hell. Any sin is the worst of sins, and that makes all of us the worst of sinners.

That's the bad news—but here comes the good news! Paul says, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). That means Jesus came for people who mess up. Jesus came for people who sin. Jesus came for Paul. Jesus came for you too! On the cross, Jesus became the "worst of sinners" for every mean word. Every selfish choice. Every lie. Every bad attitude. Everything that makes you cringe. He became the worst in order to give you his best—the righteousness of God.

Paul calls this "a trustworthy saying." That means it is completely true and something we can always believe. So, when you remember the worst thing you've ever done and it makes you feel the worst, don't forget this: Jesus forgives you. The cross reminds you that God doesn't remember your worst, but the best of Jesus. Through Jesus, we are forgiven, dearly loved children of God—and there's nothing better than that!

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Questions to Consider:

- What does the apostle Paul call himself in today's Bible verse?
- Who else is the worst of sinners? (Hint: me)
- Why do even "small" sins matter to God?
- Why is it hard to admit when we've done wrong?
- The apostle Paul also uses the phrase "This is a trustworthy saying" in Titus 3:3-8. How are those verses related to the trustworthy saying in today's Bible passage?
- How would you answer someone who says, "You haven't murdered anybody or stolen anything, so you aren't really the worst of sinners"?

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.