



*Cross Comes
Before Crown*

August 30, 2026

 Fourteenth
Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 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 Charles Degner

WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

GREETING AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

STAND

Opening Hymn, 580 Every Morning Mercies New



1 Ev - 'ry morn - ing mer - cies new Fall as fresh as
2 Still your kind - ness and your love Ev - 'ry day our
3 Let our prayers each morn pre - vail That these gifts may
4 As the morn - ing light re - turns, As the sun with

morn - ing dew; Ev - 'ry morn - ing let us pay
sins re - move; Dai - ly, far as east from west,
nev - er fail. And as we con - fess our sin
splen - dor burns, Teach us still to turn to you;

Trib - ute with the ear - ly day. For your mer - cies,
Lift the bur - den from the breast; Give un - bought to
And the temp - ter's pow'r with - in, Feed us with the
With your light our souls re - new. Then shall we our

Lord, are sure; Your com - pas - sion will en - dure.
those who pray Strength to live for you each day.
bread of life; Fit us for our dai - ly strife.
voic - es raise In un - fail - ing prayer and praise.

Text: Greville Phillimore, 1821–84, alt.

Tune: VOLLER WUNDER (77 77 77) Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.

M: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

M: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world: let us worship him.

OH, COME, LET US SING TO THE LORD

C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

The musical score is written on eight staves in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "C: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanks-giv - ing, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God and a great king a-bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand."

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O Lord, you understand.
Remember me and care for me.
Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.
You are slow to anger.
Do not take me away.
Keep in mind that for your sake I bear disgrace.

¹⁶Your words came to me, and I devoured them.
Your words became my joy,
the delight of my heart,
because I bear your name,
O Lord God of Armies.

¹⁷I did not sit with the band of partygoers,
nor did I celebrate with them.
I sat alone, because your hand was upon me.
You filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending?
Why is my wound incurable, refusing to heal?
Will you be as deceptive as an intermittent stream to me,
like a source of water that a person can't depend on?

¹⁹Therefore this is what the Lord says.
If you repent, I will take you back,
so that you may stand before me.
If what you say is worthwhile and not worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
They must turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you like a bronze wall to this people.
They will fight against you,
but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you
and to rescue you, declares the Lord.

²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the ruthless.

PSALM: 121

Refrain is Sung; Verses Read Responsively

Refrain



Keep me, keep me as the ap - ple of your eye.



Hide me, hide me in the shad-ow of your wings.

M: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

C: Where does my help come from?

M: My help comes from the LORD,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

M: He will not let your foot slip,

C: he who watches over you will not slumber;

M: indeed, he who watches over Israel

C: will neither slumber nor sleep.

Refrain

M: The LORD watches over you,

C: the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

M: The LORD will keep you from all harm,

C: he will watch over your life;

M: the LORD will watch over your coming and going

C: both now and forevermore.

**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: Jane Marshall. From *Psalms Together*. © 1988 Choristers Guild. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Romans 8:18-25

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴Indeed, it was for this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for something we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance.

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-26

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?

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

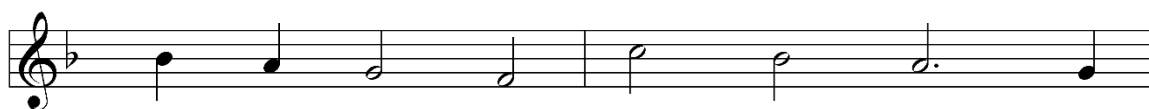
HYMN OF THE DAY: 428, Why should Cross and Trial Grieve Me



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me?
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me,
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness,
 4 Since I know God nev - er fails me,



Christ is near With his cheer; Nev - er
 Though their weight May be great, They will
 And I will Trust him still When he
 In his voice I'll re - joice When grim



will he leave me. Who can rob me
 not de - feat me. God, my lov - ing
 sends me sad - ness. God is good; his
 death as - sails me. Trust - ing in my



of the heav - en That God's Son For
 Sav - ior, sees them; He who knows All
 love at - tends me Day by day, Come
 Sav - ior's mer - it, Safe at last, Trou -



me won When his life was giv - en?
 my woes Knows how best to end them.
 what may, Guides me and de - fends me.
 bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, st. 1-3, abr.; Harlyn J. Kuschel, b. 1945, st. 4; tr. composite, st. 1-3.
 St. 4 © 1993 Harlyn J. Kuschel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: WARUM SOLLT ICH MICH DENN GRÄMEN (8 33 6 D) Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–76.

SERMON

Text: Romans 8:18-25

Theme: When Life Can't Get Any Worse!

STAND

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD



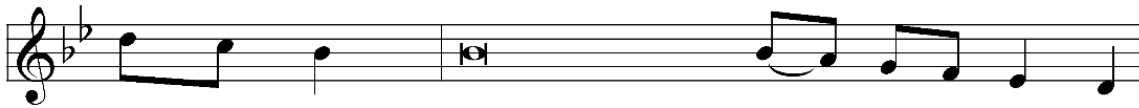
C: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you,



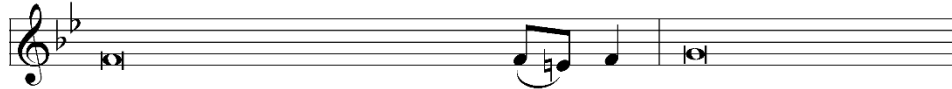
Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,



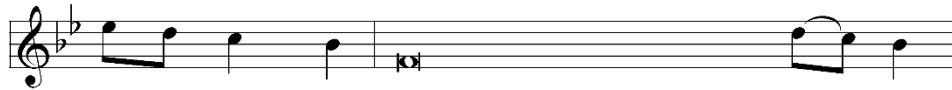
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



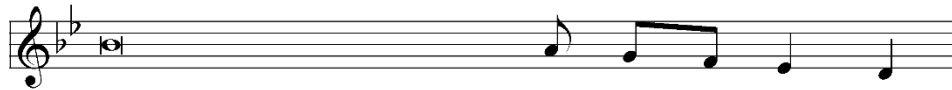
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph - ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,

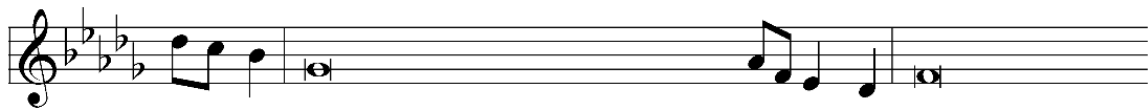
(Continued on Next Page)



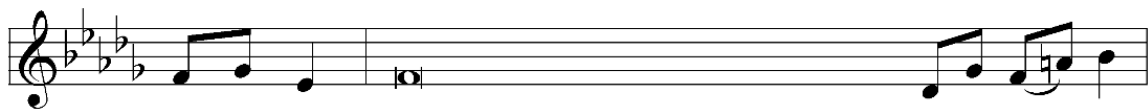
and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide. You, Christ, are the King of



glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther. When you became man to



set us free, you humbled yourself to be born of a vir-gin. You overcame the



sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be-liev - ers.



You sit at the right hand of God in the glory of the Fa - ther.



We believe that you will come to be our judge.



Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple, bought with the price of



BE SEATED

OFFERING

Please take a moment to fill in the Friendship Register in the 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

LORD HAVE MERCY

M: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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, 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRAYER FOR GRACE

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Let us praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 465, Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en,
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me;
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure!
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry,



All to leave and fol - low you. Des - ti -
 They have left my Sav - ior, too. Hu - man
 Come, dis - as - ter, scorn, and pain! In your
 Armed by faith and winged by prayer. All but



tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, You on
 hearts and looks de - ceive me; You are
 ser - vice pain is plea - sure; With your
 heav'n is tran - si - to - ry; God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry
 not, like them, un - true. And since you have
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this



fond am - bi - tion, All I've ev - er
 smiled up - on me, God of wis - dom,
 Ab - ba, Fa - ther! You my all in
 earth - ly sto - ry; Swift shall pass the



hoped or known; Yet how rich is my con -
 love, and might, Foes may hate and friends may
 all shall be. Storms may howl, and clouds may
 pil - grim days, Hope soon change to heav'n - ly



di - tion! God and heav'n are still my own.
 shun me— Show your face, and all is bright.
 gath - er; All must work for good to me.
 glo - ry, Faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt.
 Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Sign up for Sunday School! It's time to register your students for Trinity's Sunday school program!

All students in pre-K through 8th grade are welcome. Registering your students helps our Sunday school staff know how many lesson sheets, activities, and crafts to prepare for each class. You can either sign up by visiting trinityofwoodbridge.org/sundayschool or by scanning this QR code:



Wine and Word Bible Study – September 3rd The Wine and Word Bible Study is **studying the book of Ephesians** 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.

Join us for our Fall Schedule starting Sunday, September 13th!

We are excited to return to our regular weekly schedule. Please note the updated service and education times below:

8:30 AM – Early Service

9:45 AM – Adult Bible Class & Children's Sunday School

11:00 AM – Late Service

12:00 PM – Catechism Class (7th & 8th graders)

We look forward to gathering together in worship, study, and fellowship!

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.



Get Away From Me!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260819/>

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Ephesians 2:13-18

When you're mad at someone, you often try to avoid them. Just the sight of them can make your stomach turn. If they keep bugging you, you might say, "Get away from me!" and go to your room and shut the door. The last thing you want to do is be near them.

But sometimes getting closer can help bring people back together.

When brothers or sisters are fighting, parents sometimes sit them down together and help them talk. At first, neither one may even want to look at the other. Each one thinks, "It's their fault!" But as they talk, they may begin to understand each other. Eventually, they can say two very important things: "I'm sorry." "I forgive you."

Ephesians 2 talks about how two groups of people who didn't get along: the Jews and the Gentiles. "Gentiles" was the name used for everyone who wasn't Jewish. The Jews often looked down on the Gentiles because the Gentiles didn't follow God's Old Testament laws. The Gentiles often disliked the Jews too. A wall of anger stood between them.

What was God's solution in their hostility? He brought both groups together at Jesus' cross. Ephesians says that God would "reconcile both of them to God through the cross." To "reconcile" means to bring people who were separated back together in peace. Both groups had sinned. Neither group could point at the other and say, "We are better than you!" Both groups needed the same Savior, and Jesus gave his life for all of them. At the cross, Jews and Gentiles could see that they were equally sinful—and equally forgiven. They were equally loved by God and equally important to him. Jesus tore down the wall of anger and made them members of one family.

(Continued on Next Page)

Jesus brought enemies near to himself—and that changed how they saw one another.

If you're mad at someone today, you may need a little time to calm down. But don't build a wall and decide that you will stay angry forever. Meet that person at the cross. Remember: "Jesus forgave me, and Jesus loves this person too." Then ask Jesus to help you take the first step toward peace. Perhaps that step is saying, "I'm sorry," "I forgive you," or "Can we talk?"

Jesus brings us near to God—and helps us come near to one another.

Questions to Consider

- What two groups of people weren't getting along in Ephesians 2? What name was used for people who were not Jewish?
- Name several countries far away from where you live. After each one, say together, "Jesus died for people in _____ too!"
- Why is it easy to think, "I'm right, and the other person is wrong," when we are angry?
- What does the word "reconcile" mean? How did Jesus reconcile both Jews and Gentiles to God?
- Imagine that you and a friend are angry with each other. What could you say or do to take the first step toward peace?
- Why can remembering "Jesus forgave me too" help you stay calm during an argument?

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.