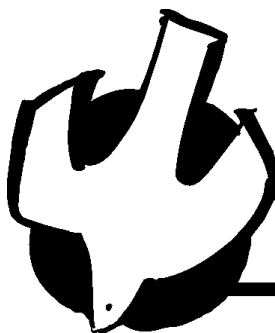




September 13, 2026



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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: 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: 109, When O'er My Sins I Sorrow



1 When o'er my sins I sor - row, Lord, I will
2 Oh, what a mar - v'lous of - f'ring! Be - hold, the
3 My man - i - fold trans - gres - sion Hence - forth can
4 There - fore I will for - ev - er Give thanks con



look to you And hence my com - fort bor - row
Mas - ter spares His ser - vants, and their suf - f'ring
harm me none Since Je - sus' blood - y pas - sion
tin - ual - ly, O Je - sus, lov - ing Sav - ior,



That you were slain for me. Your pre - cious
And grief for them he bears. Our God comes
For me God's grace has won. His blood my
For what you did for me. I'll spend my



blood was of - fered For me, oh, most un -
down from heav - en; For me, his guilt - y
debt has can - celed; Of hell and all its
breath in prais - es For your sad cry, your



wor - thy, To take a - way my guilt.
crea - ture, He deigns as man to die.
tor - ments I am no more a - fraid.
suf - f'ring, Your wounds, your guilt - less death.

Text: Justus Gesenius, 1601–73, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ 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

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶ They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷ 'You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

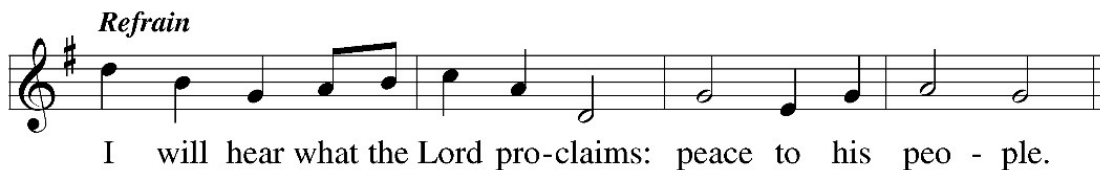
Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹ Now therefore, do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

PSALM 103

Refrain is Sung, Psalm is Spoken Responsively



M: Praise the LORD, O my soul;

C: all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

M: He forgives all your sins

C: and heals all your diseases;

M: he redeems your life from the grave

C: and crowns you with love and compassion.

Refrain

(Continued on Next Page)

M: The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

C: slow to anger, abounding in love.

M: He does not treat us as our sins deserve

C: or repay us according to our iniquities.

M: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

C: so great is his love for those who fear him;

M: as far as the east is from the west,

C: so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Refrain

M: As a father has compassion on his children,

C: so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

M: for he knows how we are formed,

C: he remembers that we are dust.

M: Our days are like grass, like a flower of the field;

C: the wind blows over it and it is gone.

M: But the LORD'S love is with those who fear him

C: from everlasting to everlasting.

**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: From *The Psalms for the Day, Series C*. © 1976 Fortress Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:29-5:2

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come from your mouths. Say only what is beneficial when there is a need to build up others, so that it will be a blessing to those who hear. ³⁰Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of every kind of bitterness, rage, anger, quarreling, and slander, along with every kind of malice. ³²Instead, be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven us.

5 Therefore, be imitators of God as his dearly loved children. ²And walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia. (*Romans 15:4*)

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 LESSON

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt.

²⁶ “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’

²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed.

³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place.

³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed.

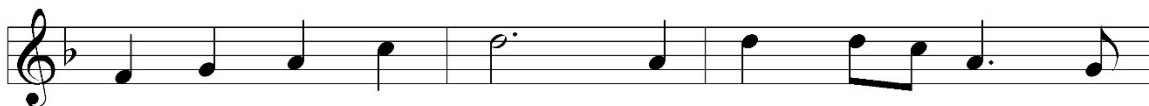
³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY 493, Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," You
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–87, alt. © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: DETROIT (CM) *A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony*, Harrisonburg, 1820.

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

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

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

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

Special prayers .

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

Silent prayer.

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

C: 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.

Be Seated

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.

CLOSING HYMN : 389, Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



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



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



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



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

Text: August M. Toplady, 1740–78, alt.

Tune: TOPLADY (77 77 77) Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Trinity Women's Bible Study

Our women's Bible Study meets the second Saturday of the month at 9:00 am at Trinity. We are continuing to read *Take Heart: God's Comfort for Anxious Thoughts* by Lindsay Hausch. Please join us! Questions, or need a copy of the book? Please ask Erika (erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com).

Upcoming dates: Chapter 10: October 10, 2026; Chapter 11: November 14, 2026

Annual Truck or Treat! 🚚 🍬 – October 17th

We need your help to make this year's Trunk or Treat a success! **Candy donations** (individually wrapped or small packets), cookies, and other treats are welcome, and we're looking **for volunteers to bring their cars and pass out treats**. Decorating your trunk and wearing a costume are optional, but all decorations and costumes should be family-friendly and appropriate for our church parking lot. Come join the fun and help us welcome our community!

Wine and Word Bible Study – October 1st 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 starts TODAY!

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.



The Weight Is Worth It

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260831/>

Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

What is the heaviest thing you have ever carried? Was it a gallon of milk because you insisted on pouring it yourself into your cereal? Was it your backpack as you got older and started getting more homework? Was it dumbbells as you started training for a sport? Let me ask one more question: Was it worth it? No matter what the object was, was there a good reason to carry something so heavy?

Jesus tells us that following him sometimes means carrying something heavy—and that following him is always worth it. He calls that heavy burden a “cross.”

When we think of Jesus and a cross, we probably think of how he died on a cross on Good Friday. And we should! In fact, Jesus wanted his disciples to think about that, too. He predicted his death when he said in our reading that he needed to go to Jerusalem to “suffer many things” and to “be killed.” One of the things Jesus suffered on Good Friday was carrying his own cross to Mount Calvary.

But Jesus knew that all of his suffering would be worth it. He knew that “on the third day” he would “be raised to life.” On Easter Sunday, he rose from the dead, and he still lives! Because Jesus suffered and died in your place, your sins are forgiven. Because he rose, you will live forever with him. Even when you face death, your heart can be at peace. Jesus willingly carried his cross because he loves you and wanted to save you.

And now Jesus tells us to take up our crosses and follow him. You can’t weigh these crosses like a gallon of milk, a backpack, or dumbbells. But they can still feel heavy. That’s because a Christian’s cross is something painful or difficult that comes from following Jesus. Sometimes it’s the struggle to say no to sin. Sometimes it’s being made fun of because of our faith. Sometimes it’s feeling like you’re missing out because other people are doing something that God says is wrong.

Carrying a cross does not earn us a place in heaven. Jesus already did everything necessary to save us. But because Jesus saved us, we follow him—even when following him is hard. And we never carry our crosses alone. The same Jesus who carried his cross for us walks beside us, strengthens us, and promises to bring us safely home.

Some burdens feel heavy. But Jesus is worth following. He carried the weight that saved us, and he will help us carry every cross along the way. The weight is worth it because Jesus is worth it.

Questions to Consider

- What are some things that are heavy to carry?
- Jesus carried his cross because he loves you. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves you that much?
- What is a “cross” that someone your age might carry because he or she follows Jesus?
- What can you remember about Jesus when following him feels difficult?
- Why didn’t Peter want Jesus to suffer and die? Why was Jesus’ cross necessary for our salvation?
- Jesus asked, “What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?” What might someone your age be tempted to gain by turning away from Jesus—and why would it never be worth the cost?

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.