



Give to God What is God's

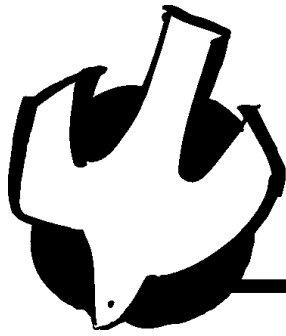
October 18, 2026

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.





Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 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.

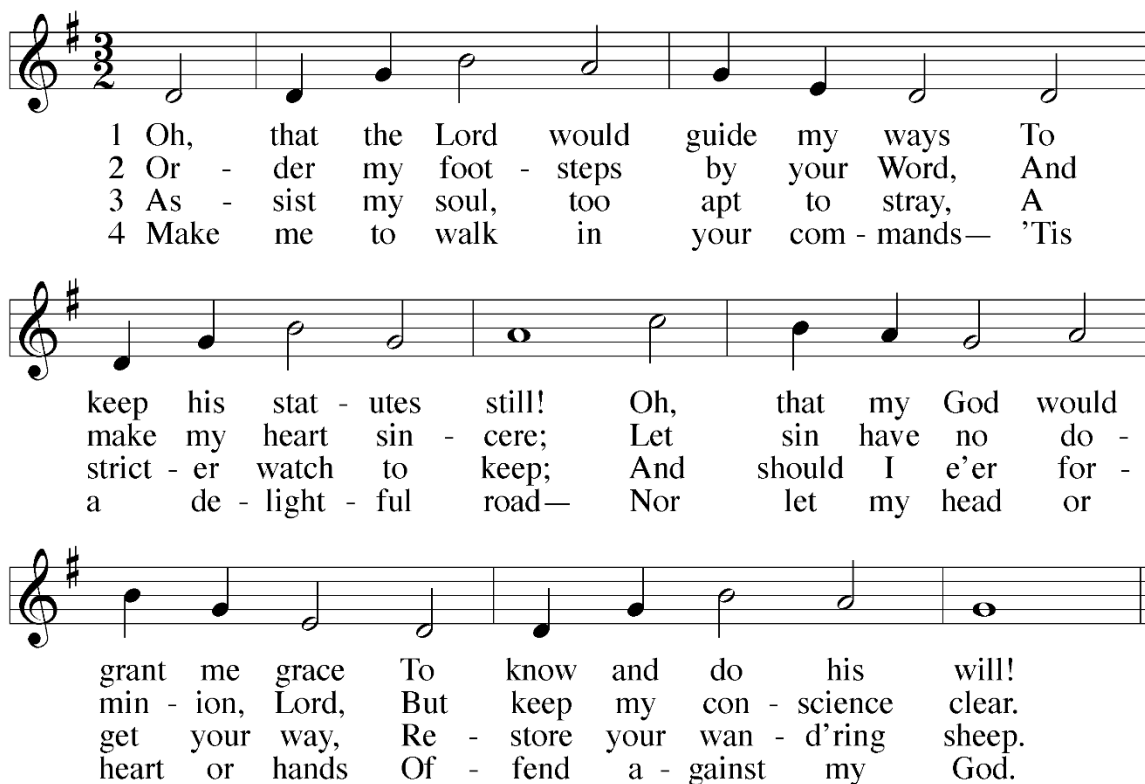
Serving the Lord and Serving Us: Pastor Gary Wong

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: 462, O That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, And
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands— 'Tis

keep his stat - utes still! Oh, that my God would
make my heart sin - cere; Let sin have no do -
strict - er watch to keep; And should I e'er for -
a de - light - ful road— Nor let my head or

grant me grace To know and do his will!
min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
get your way, Re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: EVAN (CM) William H. Havergal, 1793–1870, adapt.

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.

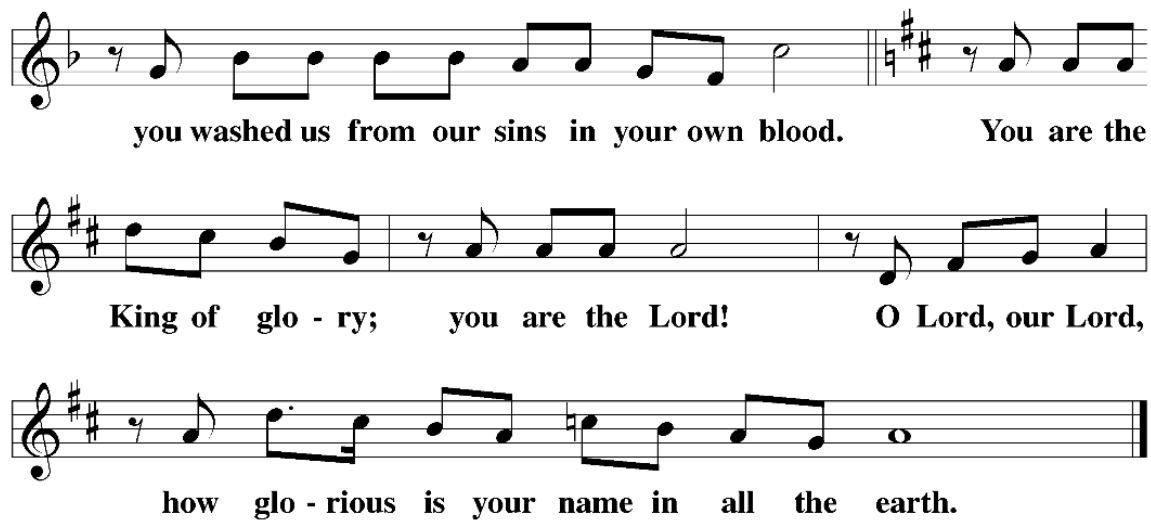
M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

LORD, OUR LORD

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. The key signature consists of 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' above the notes) in the second, third, and sixth staves. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes 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;

(Continued on Next Page)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Daniel 1:3-21

³The king told Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some young Israelite men from the royal family or from the nobility. ⁴He was to choose young men who had no blemish, who were good looking, who had insight into all kinds of wisdom, who possessed knowledge, understanding, and learning, and who were capable of serving in the king's palace, in order to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵The king assigned them daily rations from the special royal food and from the king's own wine. He ordered that they should be trained for three years. At the end of training they were to serve the king. ⁶In this group of young men were the Judeans Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ⁷The chief of the officials gave them new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar, Hananiah the name Shadrak, Mishael the name Meshak, and Azariah the name Abednego.

(Continued on Next Page)

⁸ Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the special food of the king or with the wine that he drank. So he sought permission from the chief official, so that he would not have to defile himself. ⁹ God made the chief of the officials favorable and sympathetic toward Daniel. ¹⁰ Then the chief of the officials said to Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink. Why should he see your faces looking less healthy than those of the other young men who are your age? You put my life at risk before the king.”

¹¹ Daniel said to the superintendent whom the chief of the officials had placed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² “Please test your servants for ten days. Tell them to give us only vegetables, and we will eat them and drink water. ¹³ Observe our appearance and the appearance of the young men who eat the special royal food. Then deal with your servants based on what you see.” ¹⁴ So he listened to what they said about this and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵ At the end of ten days, their appearance was noticeably better than that of the others. They were healthier than any of the young men who had been eating the special royal food. ¹⁶ So the superintendent permanently took away the special royal food and the wine they were to drink and gave them only vegetables. ¹⁷ As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and insight into all kinds of literature, as well as wisdom. In addition, Daniel also understood every kind of vision and dream.

¹⁸ At the end of the time which the king had set for them to be brought to him, the chief of the officials brought them before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king spoke with them, and none of the others were found to be comparable to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they served the king. ²⁰ In every matter concerning wisdom and understanding that the king sought from them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and spell casters in his entire kingdom. ²¹ So Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

PSALM: 96

Refrain sung together, Psalm said responsively



M: Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

C: proclaim his salvation day after day.

M: Declare his glory among the nations,

C: his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

M: Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness;

C: tremble before him, all the earth.

Refrain

M: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C: let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

M: let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

C: Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

M: for he comes to judge the world in righteousness

C: and the peoples in his truth.

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. Used by permission.

Second Lesson AND SERMON TEXT

Romans 13:1-7

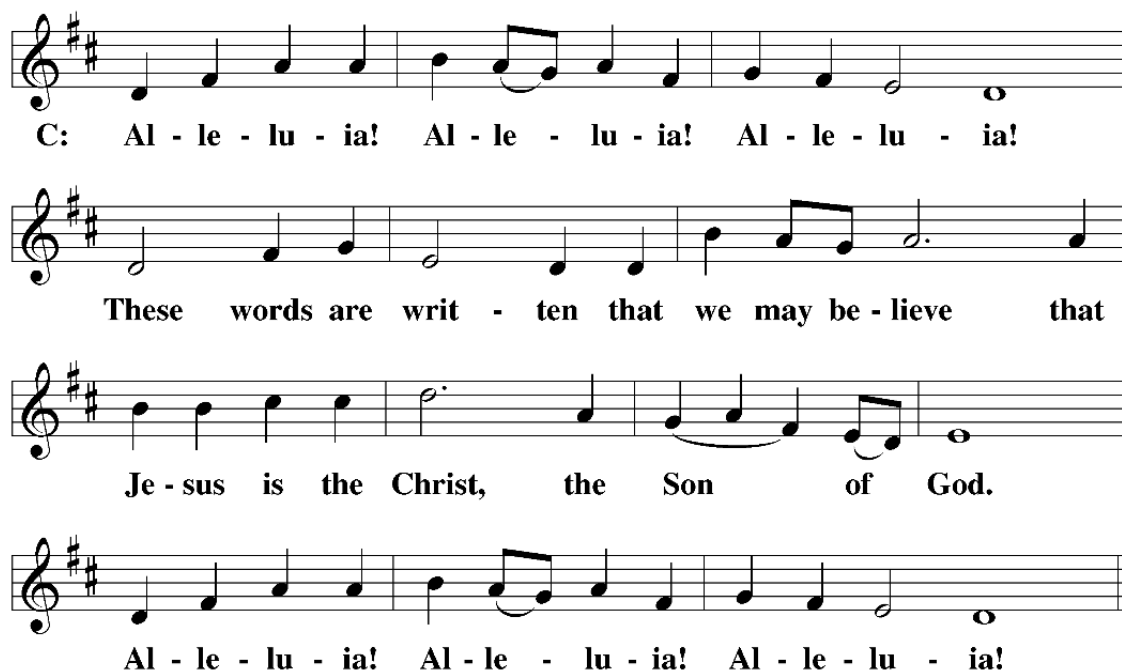
13 Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. ²Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves.

³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, ⁴because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience.

⁶For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. ⁷Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

VERSE OF THE DAY:

M: Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation. Alleluia.
(Isaiah 25:9b cf. NIV)



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 AND SERMON TEXT

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen, living in luxury every day. ²⁰ A beggar named Lazarus had been laid at his gate. Lazarus was covered with sores and ²¹ longed to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Besides this, the dogs also came and licked his sores. ²² Eventually the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In hell, ^[a] where he was in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ He called out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in misery in this flame.’

²⁵ “But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus received bad things. But now he is comforted here, and you are in misery. ²⁶ Besides all this, a great chasm has been set in place between us and you, so that those who want to cross from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷ “He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, send him to my father’s home, ²⁸ because I have five brothers—to warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹ “Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets. Let them listen to them.’

³⁰ ““No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹ “Abraham replied to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Be Seated

Hymn of The Day: 235, Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!
 2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
 3 Trust not in princ - es, they are but mor - tal;
 4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and
 Par - don and peace from him ob - tain; Ev - er the
 Earth-born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
 Of him who does such won-drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him As long as
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal When the dark
 be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, With hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and
 God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren
 grave will claim its prey. Since, then, no one can
 heart its A - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, his ho - ly
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther -
 help af - ford, Trust on - ly Christ, our God and
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 less. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann D. Herrnschmidt, 1675–1723, abr.; tr. Alfred E. R. Brauer, 1866–1949, alt.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN, O MEINE SEELE (10 8 10 8 8 8 8) *New-vermehrte Christliche Seelenharpf*, Ansbach, 1665, alt.

SERMON

Verse: Luke 16:19-31

Theme: The Bridge

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. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. 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: 311, Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (Verses, 1, 2, 7, 8)

1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day-light's splen - dor;
rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
sup - per found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.

7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
Jesus, Joy of me desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
At your feet I cry, my Maker:
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven
For our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
Let me gladly here obey you.
By your love I am invited;
Be your love with love required.
By this supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace you give me
As your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 3, 5-6, alt.

Tune: SCHMÜCKE DICH (LM D Trochaic) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, 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: 619, God Bless Our Native Land

1 God bless our na - tive land! Firm may she
2 For her our prayers shall rise To God a -

ev - er stand Through storm and night! When the wild
bove the skies; On him we wait. Thou who art

tem - pests rave, Ru - ler of wind and wave,
ev - er nigh, Guard - ing with watch - ful eye,

Do thou our coun - try save By thy great might.
To thee a - loud we cry, God save the state!

Text: Charles T. Brooks, 1813–83, st. 1, alt.; John S. Dwight, 1813–93, st. 2.
Tune: AMERICA (664 6664) *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, c. 1740.

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: Chapter 11: November 14, 2026

Reformation Sunday – October 25th

Please join us next Sunday as we celebrate Reformation Sunday to commemorate the beginning of the Reformation. The Sunday School Children will bless us with the singing of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" at the end of the first service and the beginning of the second service.

Wine and Word Bible Study – November 5th 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.

Annual Trunk or Treat! - October 24th, 3-4pm

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!

Voters' Assembly Meeting – October 25th, 2pm

The next quarterly voters' meeting will be October 25th at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams. The main item of business will be discussing and approving the 2027 Spending Plan. John Ohlendorf will send out the link, meeting agenda, and draft Spending Plan by email prior to the meeting.

The Trinity Book Club invites you to join them at 9:30am on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries to discuss *Sense and Suitability* by Pepper Basham. Come ready to drink good coffee or tea and discuss a fun book!

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 Lord's Sorrowful Love Song

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20261005/>

Read: Isaiah 5:1-7

What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? Isaiah 5:4

Music moves people. A song can make you want to dance, or cheer (like a jock jam in your school gym), or cry (like a song about love and loss and a broken heart). Music moves people. In Isaiah 5, we get to hear a song from the Lord himself. It's a love song about his "vineyard," but with a sad twist. Listen to what made the Lord's song so sad.

The Lord had set his vineyard up for success. He planted it in a fertile place. He cleared out the stones, planted good vines, and built a watchtower. He even made a place to press the grapes. Those vines needed nothing more. The expectation was for those vines to do the only thing that grapevines do: produce fruit. The Lord looked for good grapes. Instead, he found bad ones.

Isaiah tells us what the song means: the vineyard was God's people, Israel. God had cared for them, but instead of doing what was right, they hurt others. This song isn't about a bad grape harvest; this song is about God's broken heart because his people wouldn't love him back.

We aren't Old Testament Israelites, but hasn't our God given us everything we need for body and soul, too? We must confront the "elephant in the vineyard," and ask: When have I failed to love God or treat others as he wants me to? The Lord has every right to call our sin what it is. He has the right to sing a sad lament.

Thank God, this is not the end of the song! The solo voice of Jesus sings another stanza. He sings the song of our salvation—how he carried all our bad fruit or lack of fruit. He carried our pride about any of our good fruit to the cross. He died to forgive us and rose on Easter—that's music to our ears!

As we hear the song of our Savior, what he has done, the Holy Spirit grows faith in us and helps us show his love to others. That is a song worth singing!

Questions to Consider

- What's your favorite happy song? Sad song?
- What fruit did the owner hope to find on his vines? What did he find instead?
- Name two things the owner did to care for his vineyard.
- Name two things Christians can do to care for their faith.
- Isaiah says God looked for justice but found people hurting one another (verse 7). Where might you see that kind of difference between what God wants and what people do today?
- Why can you admit your "bad fruit" honestly to God? How does Jesus' death and resurrection change what you want to do next?

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by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

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