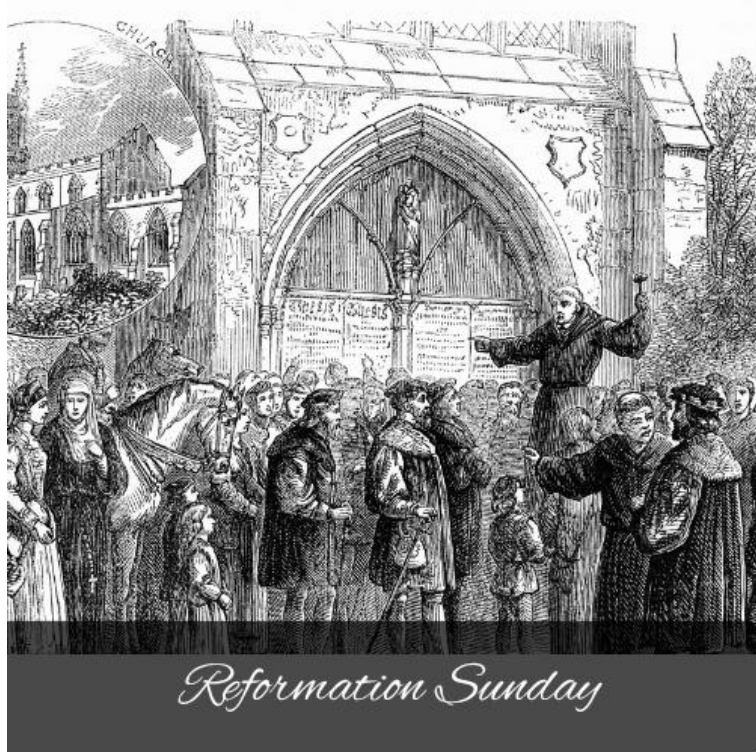




October 25, 2026

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.





October 25. 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:

8:30 Service: 538, The Church's One Foundation (**Printed below**)

11:00 Service: 474, Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (3 Verses sung by Sunday School) **Printed on Page 19**



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er
3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord,
4 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees
5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult



Christ, her Lord; She is his new cre - a - tion By
all the earth; Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One
to de - fend, To guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, Is
her op - pressed, By schisms rent a - sun - der, By
of her war She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of



wa - ter and the Word. From heav'n he came and
Lord, one faith, one birth. One ho - ly name she
with her to the end. Though there be those that
her - e - sies dis - tressed, Yet saints their watch are
peace for - ev - er - more Till with the vi - sion



sought her To be his ho - ly bride; With his own
bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food, And to one
hate her And strive to see her fail, A - gainst both
keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the
glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest And the great



blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
hope she press - es, With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
foe and trai - tor, She ev - er shall pre - vail.
night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.
Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, abr., alt.

Tune: AURELIA (76 76 D) Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–76.

Stand

INVOCATION

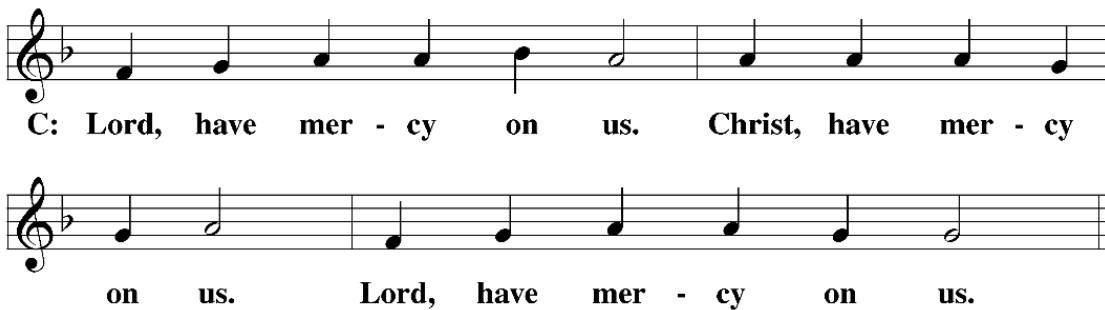
Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Congregation: Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Almighty 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.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Risen LORD.

GLORY BE TO GOD

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are in a traditional, slightly archaic style. The score begins with a C-clef on the first staff, indicating a soprano or alto part. The lyrics are: 'C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.' The second staff begins with 'We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,'. The third staff continues with 'we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,'. The fourth staff has 'God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;'. The fifth staff has 'O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the'. The sixth staff has 'sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the'. The seventh staff has 'sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of'. The eighth staff has 'God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;'. The ninth staff has 'you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,'. The tenth staff has 'are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.'

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,

we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; 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

Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23

¹⁰ Now, when Daniel learned that the document had been signed, he went to his house. It had windows on its upper story that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day he would get on his knees and pray and offer praise before his God. He continued to do that, just as he had been doing before this. ¹¹ Then these men came as a group and found Daniel praying and seeking favor from his God.

¹² They then went and asked the king about the decree. “Your Majesty, did you not sign a decree that anyone who prays to any god or person for thirty days except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the den of lions?”

The king answered, “Indeed I did. The order is established as a law of the Medes and the Persians that cannot be revoked.” ...

... ¹⁶ Then the king gave the order, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you.” ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the pit. The king sealed it with his signet ring and the signet rings of his nobles so that nothing could be changed with regard to Daniel’s situation. ¹⁸ Then the king went to his palace. He spent the night without food, and no entertainment was brought before him. But he could not sleep.

(Continued on Next Page)

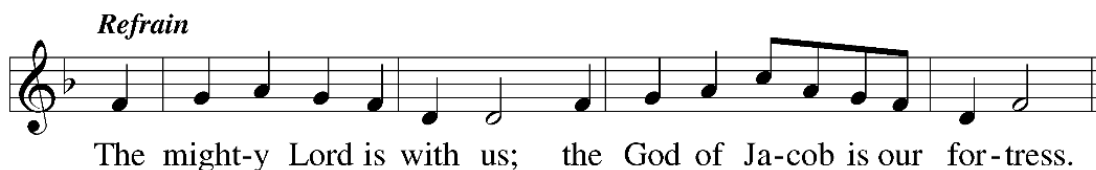
¹⁹ At dawn the king arose as soon as it was light and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ As he came near the pit, he cried out in a fearful voice. The king said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God, whom you serve continually, able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹ Then Daniel spoke with the king. "Your Majesty, may you live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the mouth of the lions. They have not hurt me because he found me innocent in his presence. Also before you, Your Majesty, I have committed no crime."

²³ Then the king was very glad and said that Daniel should be brought up from the pit. So Daniel was brought up from the pit, and he was unharmed because he trusted in his God.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 46

The Refrain is Sung; the Psalm is spoken responsively



M: God is our refuge and strength,

C: an ever-present help in trouble.

M: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way

C: and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

M: though its waters roar and foam

C: and the mountains quake with their surging.

Refrain

M: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

C: the holy place where the Most High dwells.

M: God is within her, she will not fall;

C: God will help her at break of day.

M: "Be still, and know that I am God;

**C: I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."**

(Continued on Next Page)

**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: Dale Wood. From *Seasonal Psalms*. © 1978 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says is addressed to those who are under the law, so that every mouth will be silenced and the whole world will be subject to God's judgment. ²⁰ For this reason, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for through the law we become aware of sin.

²¹ But now, completely apart from the law, a righteousness from God has been made known. The Law and the Prophets testify to it. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all and over all who believe.

In fact, there is no difference, ²³ because all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God publicly displayed as the atonement seat through faith in his blood. God did this to demonstrate his justice, since, in his divine restraint, he had left the sins that were committed earlier unpunished. ²⁶ He did this to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so that he would be both just and the one who justifies the person who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ What happens to boasting then? It has been eliminated. By what principle—by the principle of works? No, but by the principle of faith. ²⁸ For we conclude that a person is justified by faith without the works of the law.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. If you continue in my Word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. Alleluia. (*John 8:31,32*)



Stand

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:16-23

M: The Gospel of St Matthew, Chapter 10

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

¹⁶“Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

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. ²²You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. ²³And 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.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

HYMN OF THE DAY: 200, A Mighty Fortress (Verses 1 and 4)



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



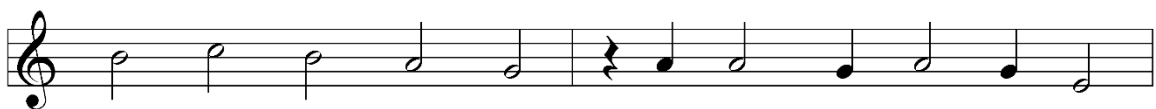
and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.
 He holds the field for - ev - er.
 One lit - tle word can fell him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.
 Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

SERMON

Theme: We are Justified by Faith

Text: Romans 3:19-28

Stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes or bars. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty Father gather and guide it so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility:

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the Church. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your Word, and bring salvation to people everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our pastors and teachers and all leaders of the Church, and for all the people of God:

M: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold all who serve you and your people. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the Church. Help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way to salvation:

M: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not acknowledge Christ to receive the truth of the gospel. Help us, your Church, to grow in love for you and for one another, so that we become more perfect witnesses of your love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

(Continued on Next Page)

Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom:

M: Almighty and eternal God, graciously direct those who have been set in positions of authority among us, so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

(Continued on Next Page)

Let us pray that God, the almighty and merciful Father, may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, and free those unjustly deprived of liberty:

M: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. In your mercy hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

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.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

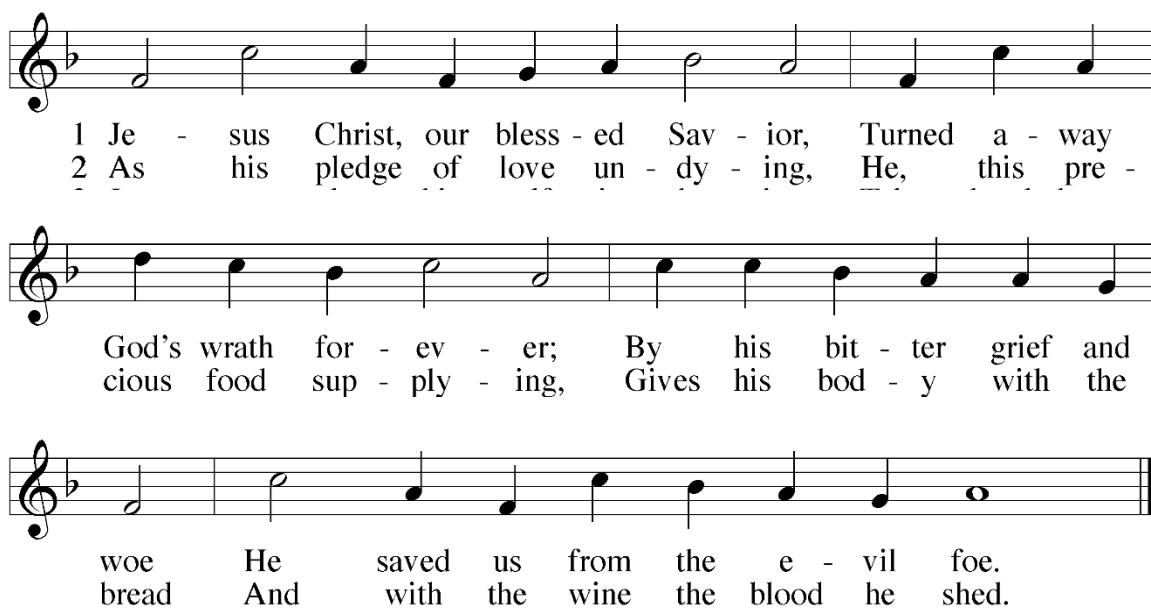
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: 313, Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior (Verses 1, 2, 7, 8)



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way
2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre -

God's wrath for - ev - er; By his bit - ter grief and
cious food sup - ply - ing, Gives his bod - y with the

woe He saved us from the e - vil foe.
bread And with the wine the blood he shed.

7 Praise the Father, who from heaven
Unto us such food has given
And, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
Surely you will be his guest
And at his banquet ever blest.

Text: John Hus, 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, DER VON UNS (88 78) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert*,
Wittenberg, 1535. alt.

THANKSGIVING

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN:

8:30 Service: 474 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (3 Verses Sung by Sunday School Children) (**Printed below**)

11:00 Service: 538, The Church's One Foundation (**Printed on Page 3**)

1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! The trum - pet call
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! Stand in his strength
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus! The strife will not

the cross! Lift high his roy - al ban - ner; It
o - bey; Forth to the might - y con - flict In
a - lone. The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye
be long; This day the noise of bat - tle, The

must not suf - fer loss. From vic - t'ry un - to vic -
this his glo - rious day! Ye that are brave, now serve
dare not trust your own. Put on the gos - pel ar -
next, the vic - tor's song. To him that o - ver - com -

t'ry His ar - my shall he lead Till ev - 'ry
him A - gainst un - num - bered foes; Let cour - age
mor; Each piece put on with prayer; Where du - ty
eth A crown of life shall be; He with the

foe is van - quished And Christ is Lord in - deed.
rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
King of glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: George Duffield Jr., 1818-88, abr., alt.
Tune: WEBB (76 76 D) George J. Webb, 1803-87.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Looking for a WELS Bible Devotion App? Try this one!

This app is being developed by several WELS pastors, including our pastor here at Hope. It's called "Open Book." <https://openbook.today> - to preview. It is an app available for IOS or Android. Feel free to check it out and see what you think!

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

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.

Voters' Assembly Meeting – TODAY @ 2pm

The next quarterly voters' meeting today at 2:00pm via Microsoft Teams. The main item of business will be discussing and approving the 2027 Spending Plan. If you have not received a link, please contact John Ohlendorf.

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.



I Am Not Ashamed!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20261014/>

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes. Romans 1:16

Do you find it odd that Paul says he’s “unashamed” of the gospel? Paul had a lot in his past to be ashamed of—he had hurt people who followed Jesus. But why would he ever be ashamed of the good news of sins forgiven in Jesus? The message of the cross tells us that God became human in Jesus and died to pay for the sins of the world. That message can sound foolish or even make people angry. Our sinful hearts want to believe we can earn God’s love by being good enough. Yet Paul was not ashamed of this message because this promise brought salvation to everyone who believes. Your sin is forgiven! You’ve been clothed in Christ! That’s not a cause for shame, but for rejoicing!

But maybe that’s not your issue. “I’m not ashamed of the gospel; I’m just bored with it. I’ve heard it all before.” Or, “I’m not ashamed of the gospel; I’ve moved past it. Give me something harder to learn than ‘Jesus loves me.’” Or maybe you’re not ashamed of the gospel; you’re ashamed of yourself. “If anybody knew what I’ve done—or the good things I haven’t done—they wouldn’t want me around.” You might even wonder whether Jesus wants you. In despair, I say, “I’m not ashamed of the gospel, I’m just not worthy of it.”

The Holy Spirit uses God’s Word to show us how much we need Jesus. He also uses that Word to show us how completely Jesus has rescued us and to give us faith in him. Paul said, “In the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last” (Romans 1:17). Righteousness means being right with God. We cannot earn it. Jesus gives us his perfect goodness as a gift, received through faith.

Now you can admit your sins instead of hiding them. You can rejoice that Jesus came to rescue you. Your sins do not have the final word—your Savior does. Jesus removes the shackles of sin from your hands, and you’re free now. That’s the gospel. You never outgrow your need for it, and you never need to earn it. Christ’s righteousness is yours through faith. Because of Jesus, you can face each day forgiven and unashamed.

Questions to Consider

- What do you do when you feel sad about doing something wrong? Who forgives you?
- Wrap yourself up in a big blanket. Just as the blanket covers you, Jesus' perfect goodness covers all your sins. Because of Jesus, how does God see you? (Hint: "clothed in Christ")
- Why might someone who thinks they can earn God's love get upset when told they need Jesus to save them?
- Why is it so important to keep returning to the simple truth of Jesus' love for you—even when you've heard it many times?
- Bored with the gospel, feeling you've outgrown the gospel, or feeling unworthy of the gospel: which is the biggest temptation for you? How does this devotion answer it?
- How does the promise that Jesus makes you right with God as a gift set you free to live joyfully in this world?

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to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



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