



Our Mission:
Worship God
Grow in Faith
Serve with Love

Worship

We offer two services on Sundays:
8:15am and 10:45am

Church Office Hours

Monday Through Friday 9:00am - 12:00 Noon

Our Staff

Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner

724-863-7350 pastorsarah@htlc.church

Pastor John Smaligo,
Director of Congregational Outreach
outreach@htlc.church

Danielle Dally, Office Administrator
office@htlc.church

David Emanuelson,
Organist and Director of Music
music@htlc.church

Lois Brown, Financial Secretary
Neal Grabiak, Custodian
Bob Scheideman, Treasurer

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has many growing and changing ministries that we offer and share in through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the South-Western PA Synod, and the community of Irwin.

Please join us on Sundays and visit our website: htlc.church
for a glimpse of who we are and what we do.



WELCOME :
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 26, 2026

PENTECOST 9

502 Main Street, Irwin PA
Church Phone: (724) 863-7350
Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner

Visit us at: htlc.church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please, a gentle reminder to turn off all cell phones and electronic equipment as we worship.

Congregation, please stand if able. Responses in **Bold.*

Introduction to the day

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Welcome and Announcements

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

IN OUR PRAYERS:

DYLAN KUNKEL
PAT KOOS

TERRY ZIMMERMAN
WAYNE SHOAF

NOLAN PAYNE

HOSPITALIZED: (PRESENTLY OR RECENTLY):
JACKIE NOLL

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THE FOLLOWING CONGREGATION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

DIANE HARKER	JOE AND LINDA HECKERT
MIKE & ANGELA HENAGHAN	DANNY AND JANE HELLMANN
JOE AND PEG HERTZOG	CHUCK AND MARY JANE HENAGHAN

MILITARY PERSONNEL:

BROOKE NEWELL	SHANNON DAWSON	ZACHARY ZEHNER
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CONGREGATIONAL OFFERING JULY 19, 2026

<u>2026 BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET NEEDS</u> <u>WEEKLY</u>	<u>LAST WEEK'S OFFERING</u>
\$392,407.00	\$7,772.00	\$46.37.00
<u>IMPROVEMENT FUND</u>	<u>WEEKLY GOAL</u>	<u>LAST WEEK'S OFFERING</u>
\$24,000.00	\$461.00	\$105.00

IT IS OUR JOY TO WELCOME YOU TO WORSHIP TODAY

*Your presence brings us strength and joy. **IF YOU ARE A VISITOR**, we invite you to fill out one of the Welcome Cards found in the pew envelope rack in front of you. Please place the completed card in the offering plate as it is passed or in the basket in the Welcome Center at the rear of the church. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider the family of Holy Trinity.*

*POST-COMMUNION HYMN



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG: *God of Grace and God of Glory* #705

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

*GATHERING SONG: *Gather Us In* #532

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

If you are a communing member of another Christian congregation, we invite you to commune with us today sharing our faith that with the bread and wine we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available, please let the Pastor or Assisting Minister know.

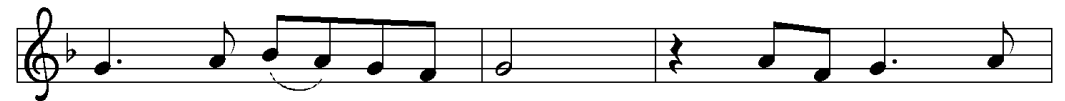
AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Hymn During Communion: ***We Eat the Bread of Teaching #518***

*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for
all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him
who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor
angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor pow-
ers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be
able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Celtic Mass

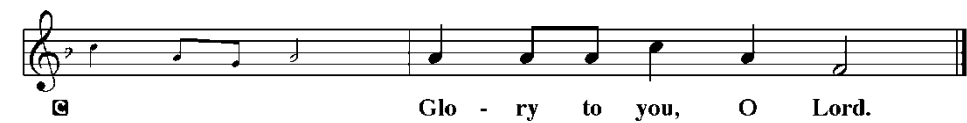
Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker



Music © 1985, 1996, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

The holy gospel according to



Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

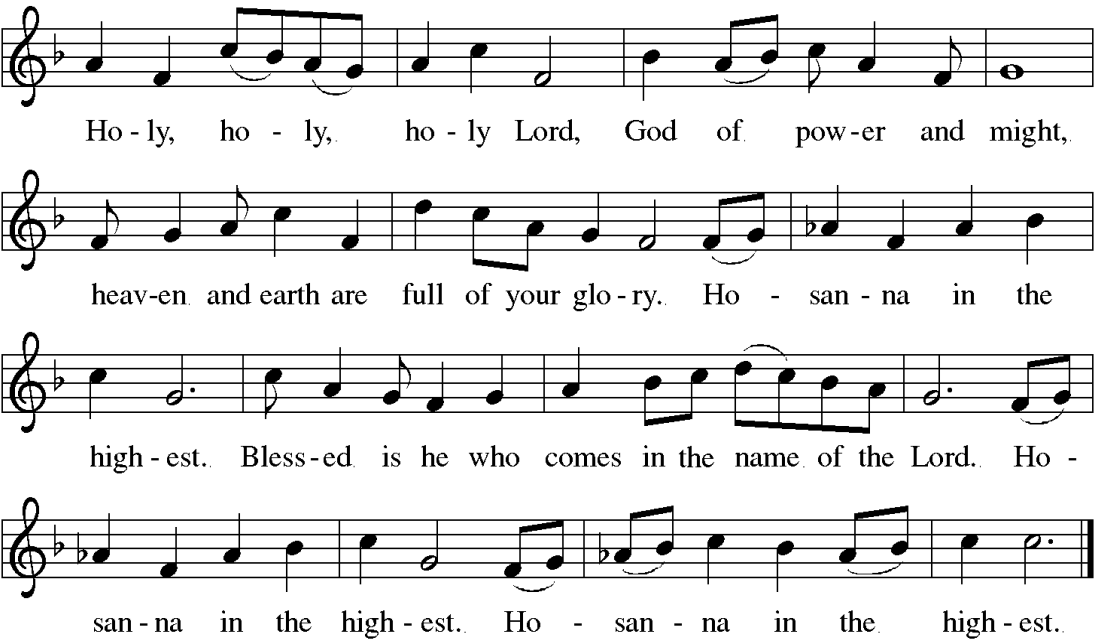
⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

***PROPER PREFACE** Pastor

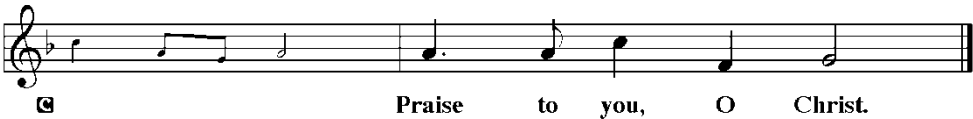
***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that
all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with
us now and forever. **Amen.**

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he
said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple
in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who
brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”
The gospel of the Lord.



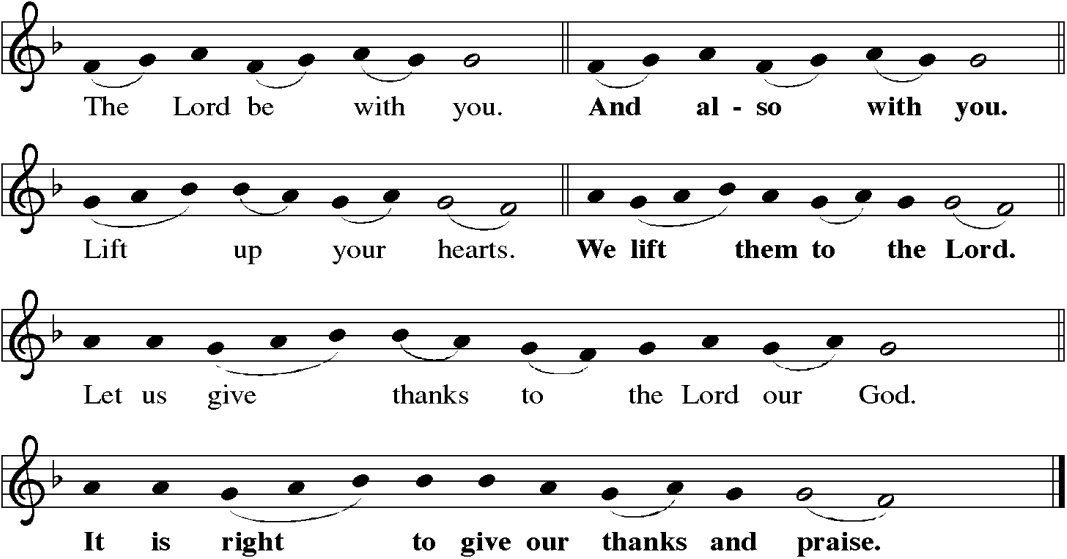
CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: *Be Thou My Vision* #793**

***Apostles’ Creed**
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will
come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***DIALOGUE**



*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect diverse ecosystems, national parks, family farms, ranches and wild places. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who saves, inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in your assurance of mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 7/26	8:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM WORSHIP
MONDAY, 7/27	FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED THROUGHOUT DAY
TUESDAY, 7/28	
WEDNESDAY, 7/29	
THURSDAY, 7/30	NOON BIBLE STUDY
FRIDAY, 7/31	OFFICE CLOSED
SATURDAY, 8/1	
SUNDAY, 8/2	8:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM WORSHIP WITH ASL INTERPRETER 5:30PM DINNER CHURCH

HELP WANTED: USHERS

USHER:

noun: a person who is the keeper of the door and/or directs people to their seat

Verb: to escort or to herald the beginning of something.

Synonyms: Direct, guide, escort, lead

HOLY TRINITY WANTS YOU! Over the next 3 months HTLC plans to increase the number of Ushers for worship services. Please consider joining the ranks by praying and thinking about what being an Usher means to you. Watch for additional information and sign-up sheets.

Our Goal: Develop a working list of Ushers schedule ushers in the same manner other Worship Assistants are scheduled.

There will be a **training session** scheduled in **early fall**.

Welcome Members and Visitors today!



Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Marie Howell and Wayne Shoaf. Marie passed to life triumphant on July 19, 2026. Wayne passed to life triumphant on July 23, 2026.

Bible Studies.....

Bible 101.....will meet in person on August 6th at 6:00pm. In between the in person study, Bible 101 will be on Facebook Live on Wednesdays and then put on You Tube later in the week.

Bible 101 will explore: what is the Bible, how is the Bible put together, how can we best read it and apply it to our lives.

There **WILL NOT** be Monday Night Bible Study or Thursday at Noon Bible Study in August.

Community Meal Monday, **August 17th**- Dinner is served at 6:00. All Are Welcome!

Please find the new Daily Devotion for July, August, & September:
The Word In Season on the table in the Narthex.

Dinner Church– Sunday, **August 2nd**- Service at 5:30, Dinner is served at 6:00. All Are Welcome!

Mark your Calendar for the
Annual Church Picnic and Outdoor Service ...
At the Wendel Club - Sunday, Sept. 13th at 10:45

**Thank you for your continued support of
 our Food Pantry.**

Monetary donations are always appreciated; however, our pantry shelves are becoming quite bare. We are especially in need of non-perishable food items at this time.

Please consider donating any of the items listed on our regular Food Pantry distribution list below.

Your generosity helps us provide food and hope to families in our community. Thank you for your support!

Food Pantry 2026 Dates: August 15,
 October 17 (Thanksgiving), December 12 (Christmas)

Items needed currently, special requests:

Pop Tarts	Gummy Fruit Snacks	Boxed raisins/trail mix
Paper Towels	Toothpaste	Toothbrush

Items always requested:

Mac & cheese/pasta	Applesauce	Baked beans	Canned fruit
Canned tuna	Cereal	Granola bars	Pasta Sauce
Oatmeal	Paper Towels	Peanut butter & Jelly	
Potato/rice mix	Pudding Cups	Toilet Paper	
Peanut Butter and Cheese Crackers	Cake/muffin/brownie mix		
Chef Boyardee	Canned Vegetables		

Thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate money, please mark "food pantry" on an envelope. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or waugawoman86@comcast.net

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

	8:15	10:45
Assisting Ministers	Chris Karpinsky	Joe Thomas
Communion Assistants	Charles Willson Julie Kuhn	Mike Stark Diane Kowalski
Lectors	Jerry Kuhn	Michele Klingensmith
Acolytes	Jaden Brittingham	OPEN
Greeters		Susan Kramer Marcia Kramer
Livestream		Bob Cessna

Altar Guild

Set-up Saturday, July 25		Cindy McCune, Mauritta Moyer, Donna Reyes
Sun., July 26	8:15	Cindy McCune, Mauritta Moyer, Donna Reyes
	10:45	Sandy Tomko, Diane Kowalski, & Cookie Nee
Set-up Saturday, Aug1		Andrea & Brian Smith
Sun., August 2	8:15	Rochelle Belak
	10:45	Andrea & Brian Smith

Office Hours

The Office will be open Monday through Thursday
 and closed on Fridays through Sept. 4th.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

@HolyTrinityLutheranInIrwin



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Holy Trinity now accepts
 donations thru Venmo
@HolyTrinityLutheranInIrwin

Scan this code to pay

Worship Plan for Sunday, July 26, 2026

Lectionary 17

Proper 12

9th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Two

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Introduction to the day

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** **Pastor**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

Pastor

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG: Gather Us In #532**

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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***GREETING Pastor**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY Pastor**

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ **When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

- ¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- ¹³⁴ **Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶ **My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CELTIC ALLELUIA

Celtic Mass
Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker



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*GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to



Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

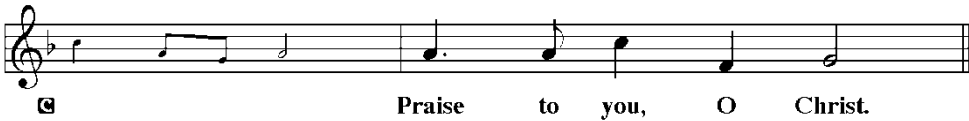
³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”
The gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Be Thou My Vision* #793**

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

****Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** **Assisting Minister**

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect diverse ecosystems, national parks, family farms, ranches and wild places. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty.
(*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who saves, inspire us by the steadfast faith of those who have gone before us, so that we may be confident in your assurance of mercy.
God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Pastor

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER** *Assisting Minister*

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

***DIALOGUE** Pastor

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,

al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resur - rec - tion

opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,

we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff ends with a whole note, the second with a half note, the third with a half note, and the fourth with a whole note. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE Pastor**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and
gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all
to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** Pastor

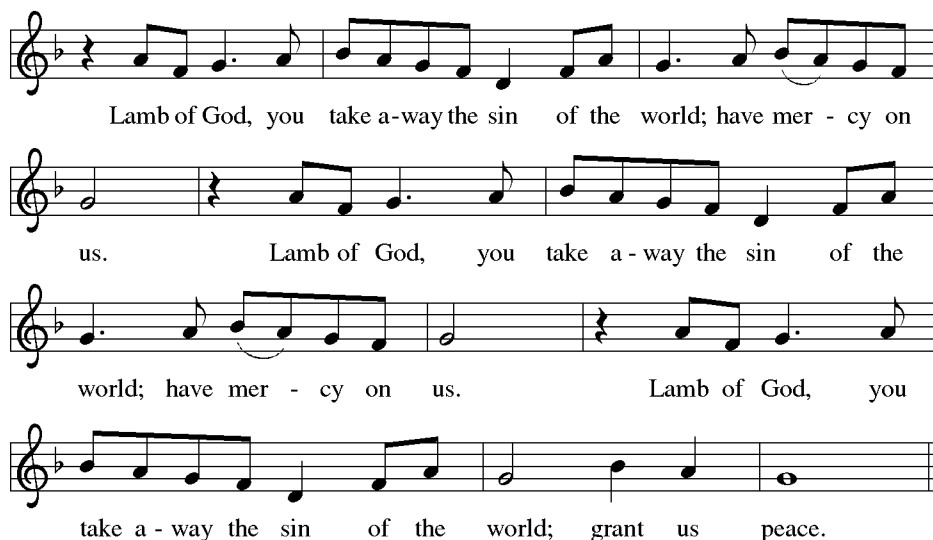
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION** Pastor

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Hymn During Communion: ***We Eat the Bread of Teaching #518***

*COMMUNION BLESSING **Pastor**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION **Assisting Minister**

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

*BLESSING **Pastor**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG: ***God of Grace and God of Glory #705***

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

***DISMISSAL** *Assisting Minister*

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

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