

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

September 11, 2022

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE Two Preludes on American Folk Hymns by Gilbert Martin

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days.

C: **Amen.**

P: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy and forgiveness,

C: **we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**

We have harmed your good creation.

We have failed to do justice,

love kindness,

and walk humbly with you.

Turn us in a new direction.

Show us the path that leads to life.

**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.**

Amen.

P: Beloved of God:
your sins are forgiven ✚ and you are made whole.
God points the way to new life in Christ,
who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

- 1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.
- 3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

+THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+THE PRAYERS

(See “Celebrate” bulletin insert)

- P: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation. *A brief silence.*
- P: Your people receive mercy and your grace overflows in our lives. Fill your church with faith and love, and give understanding hearts to those who work to strengthen our ecumenical and interreligious commitments. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Your creation groans as it suffers the impacts of pollution and lack of care. As the seasons change, renew in us the will to protect plants, animals, and habitats. Bless us with bountiful harvests that all may share. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Your world is shattered and the nations rage. Remember us in your mercy. Teach wisdom to our elected leaders so that we know peace in our world, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Your children wander homeless and the hungry cry for bread. Seek out those who are lost or lonely, anxious or depressed, or struggling with addiction or illness. Provide for those in any need (*especially*). God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Your work is done in this congregation with our hands, feet, voices, minds, and hearts. Build up the ministries of this community (*local ministries and partnerships may be named*), that we serve our neighbors and welcome the stranger in your name. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- Here other intercessions may be offered.*
- P: Your blessed saints who have died now rest in your presence. Give us thankful hearts for those who have been examples of faith in our lives, and receive us with joy when we come to share eternal life with you. God of grace,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C: Amen.**

EXCHANGE OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

(Please wave to your nearest worship neighbors)

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, + one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN **God the Omnipotent!**

#462

- 1 God the omnipotent! King who ordainest
 great winds thy clarions, lightning thy sword:
 show forth thy pity on high where thou reignest;
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

- 2 God the all-merciful! Earth hath forsaken
 meekness and mercy, and slighted thy Word;
 bid not thy wrath in its terrors awaken;
 give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Serving Today (9/11)

Lector: *Joyce Maul* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen* **Usher:** *Joan Cosgrove*
Communion Assistant: *Eugene Randazzo*
Altar Guild: *Ellen Lodato and Kim Dwyer* **CPIC:** *Pamela Hon*

Serving Next Week (9/18)

Lector: *Ruth Ann Greiner* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen* **Usher:** *Joan Cosgrove*
Communion Assistant: *Eugene Randazzo*
Altar Guild: *Ellen Lodato and Kim Dwyer* **CPIC:** *Pamela Hon*

September 11th is a solemn day in our American history. In your prayers, please remember those who perished in the disaster of 9/11/01.

This Sunday we welcome Henry Gehman as our guest musician today. Thank you for blessing us!

Today is the First Day of Sunday School (Rally Day). Thank you to Ms. Erin and her staff for another upcoming inspirational school year. Please stay after worship for a back-to-school ice cream social.

Bring new warm socks to church! Be part of our annual Sox-in-A -Box campaign to aid the homeless in conjunction with RISE UP Rockaway. The receptacle box is located in our vestibule. The last day to donate socks will be September 25.

Holy Trinity will be collecting clean and slightly used men's and women's sweaters and flannel shirts during the month of September. Any questions please contact Ellen Crane (973-625-1353) or Marga Conn (475-330-4128).

The women of the Church (WELCA) will hold their September meeting on Tuesday evening, 9/13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Blue Room. All ladies of the Church are welcome and we hope to see you then!! For information, contact Marga (475-330-4128).

Hospitality Update- The Congregation Council voted unanimously to provide hospitality to two community groups wishing to use our facility this Fall:

A Homeschooler's Co-Op will be enjoying our building on Fridays and **Lennon's House** – A group supporting intellectually challenged adults will be with us on Thursday mornings. Each group is making donations for the use of our facilities and each group is fully insured.

Did you know that Congregation Council meetings are open to the general public? Non-Council visitors may have voice, but not vote as per our Constitution. Come see what your leaders are up to lately! The meetings are conducted monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the choir room.

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again September 21 in person or via ZOOM video link from noon – 1:00pm. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Once again, Holy Trinity will be collecting coats for the annual coat drive. We will be accepting coat donations during the month of October.

Looking Ahead: First Holy Communion Instruction will be offered this Fall for all children, grade 3 and above. Classes are scheduled for the evenings of October 16 & 23, with the actual First Communion Sunday to be October 30. For questions and concerns please contact Pastor Jack at: jackspartan79@gmail.com

Communion Note: Did you know that the communion trays are configured in a certain way? Cups containing grape juice are in the center of the tray, and cups containing wine are near the edges of each serving tray.

Offering envelopes are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take some of the preprinted envelopes from the back and write your name in the space provided.

Lectors (readers on Sunday mornings) are needed and appreciated. Read the assigned Scripture for the day! Sign up sheets are located in the rear of the sanctuary, or ask Pastor Jack for details: jackspartan79@gmail.com

Opportunities to provide humanitarian aid to refugees from the Ukraine. Send your contributions to Lutheran Disaster Response. You can donate on the web by visiting ELCA.org and then clicking "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" or you can mail checks to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

(Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line.)

RISE UP is collecting toiletries to aid our locals. Did you know that food stamps do not cover basic toiletry items like soap and shampoo? Please donate items in the special bin located in our church vestibule. For more information, contact Angela Bloshuk at 973-476-0101 or email her at: riseupangela@gmail.com

Clothing Donations: Please DO NOT drop off clothing at our church vestibule or lobby area. Instead, please place all donated articles in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens are accepted as well! Please save winter coats for our fall coat drive.

Food Collections. Please note: Please donate only NON-PERISHABLE food items. Do not drop off milk, bread, or various dairy products as these items may spoil prior to public distribution.

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the "donate" button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Fall Festival Updates:

Our Annual Community Fall Festival and Car Show is Coming Soon! Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24. Volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated. Please contact Matt Maitilasso at 973-876-0973 or email him at: lawnpridenj@yahoo.com

1. Sponsors are being sought for our annual Fall Festival. If you or your business would like to be a sponsor, simply contact Matt Maitilasso at 973-876-0973 or email him at: lawnpridenj@yahoo.com
2. We are asking for donations of new items or gift cards for the chance room. Please label the item "Fall Festival" and leave in the blue room. Please call Peggy Hon, 973-697-1391, for additional information.

RISE UP News:

1. The Rise UP monthly community meeting is scheduled for Thurs., September 22 at 7:00pm in the choir room. New volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. For more information contact Pastor Jack at jackspartan79@gmail.com
2. **Free** Community breakfasts are offered at the Presbyterian Church, located on Church St. in the Boro. Next Breakfast: Sat., Sept. 17 from 8:00am – 11:00am. For more information and opportunities to volunteer, contact Jay Decker at jdecker10@yahoo.com