



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2026 + 11:00 a.m.

TRINITY LOWER EAST SIDE LUTHERAN PARISH
in the City of New York

Welcome to worship!

We are so pleased to have you with us this morning for worship and we believe that your presence among us more fully completes our community.

Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), a denomination of 2.7 million members in 8,400 congregations who welcome people of all genders and sexual orientations into membership and ministry and are enthusiastically ecumenical. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation that fully welcomes and affirms LGBTQIA+ people and works to erase all discrimination against them. We grieve over the systemic racism of our society and are committed to the work of dismantling it.

We welcome everyone into membership regardless of race, economic means, married/single status, sexual orientation, or gender expression and/or identity. Whoever you are, whatever your identities, whoever you love, and wherever you are on your journey of life and faith, you are welcome here!

Please silence all mobile devices. Two single-stall, all-gender restrooms are located in the Community Room on the first floor. A changing table for infants is available.

If you're visiting us this morning and would like to keep in touch,

- Add your name and contact information to the guest book on the Welcome Table at the sanctuary entrance.
- Follow us on social media:
 - Facebook: @TrinityLES
 - Youtube: @trinitylowereastsideluther2220 (including livestreams of worship)
 - Instagram: @TrinityLES.NYC
 - Follow our feeding ministry @TrinitySAFH on all platforms

Our Schedule:

Mon – Fri: 11:00am, Soup Kitchen; 12:30pm, Food Pantry
Mon: 7:00pm, “Valley of the Dolls” NA Group
Wed: 7:30pm, STP Creative Foundation
Thurs: 7:30pm, “Clean and Dry” AA Group
Sun: 11:00am, Worship Service
6:00pm “Unity” NA Group

Those Who Serve:

Pastor: The Rev. William Kroeze
(pastor@trinitylowereastside.org)
Pastoral Intern: Vicar Wayne Olsen
(vicar@trinitylowereastside.org)
Pianist: Paul Staroba
Choir Director: Alex Lawrence
Administrator: Gillian Fox Orwoll
(office@trinitylowereastside.org)

Our Outreach:

To carry out our ministry of deed, Trinity LES has a separately incorporated non-profit program, **Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless** (also known as SAFH, pronounced “safe”) which operates a soup kitchen, food pantry, and offers connections to other services. Between 150-250 meals are served each day, and around 30-40 families are given groceries from our pantry Monday through Friday. Volunteers are always needed. Visit safhnyc.org for more information

Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Mohican and Munsee Lenape peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

+ Gathering +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

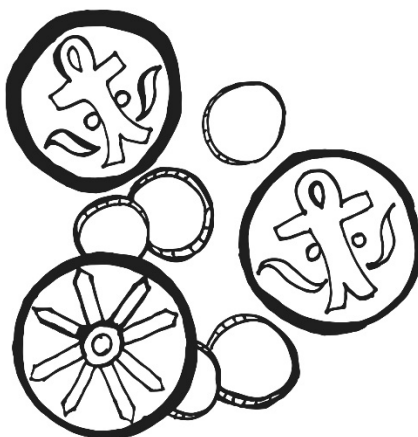
We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ | *La gracia de nuestro Señor Jesucristo*,
the Love of God | *el amor de Dios*,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit | *y la comunión del Espíritu Santo*
be with you all. | *sean con ustedes*.

And also with you. | *Y también contigo*.



HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration



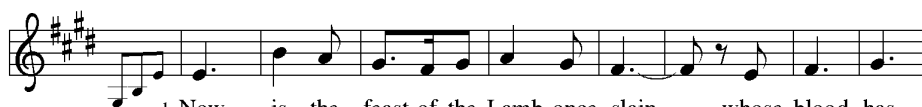
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge,

you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you,

that we may delight in doing your will,

through Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ Word +

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when

they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

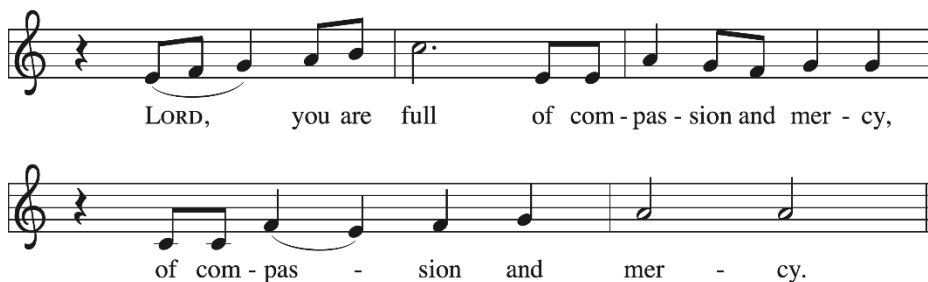
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

The psalm is sung responsively.



Psalm 103:8

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

**Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**

who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

**who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; Refrain**

who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

**O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

**LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; Refrain**

you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain,

abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” ¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

The acclamation is sung before and after the reading of the Gospel.



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made.

²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’

²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and

pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

A period of silence for reflection follows introduced and concluded by the ringing of a bell.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy.

Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need, especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin.

Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask,
and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE PEACE

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

+ Meal +

OFFERING

*An offering is collected to support the work of the church in our community
and the world. Gifts may also be made online at
www.trinitylowereastside.org/give as one-time or recurring contributions or
on Venmo using the QR code.*



venmo

AT THE PRESENTATION

As the people's gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought forward we stand to sing:

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,

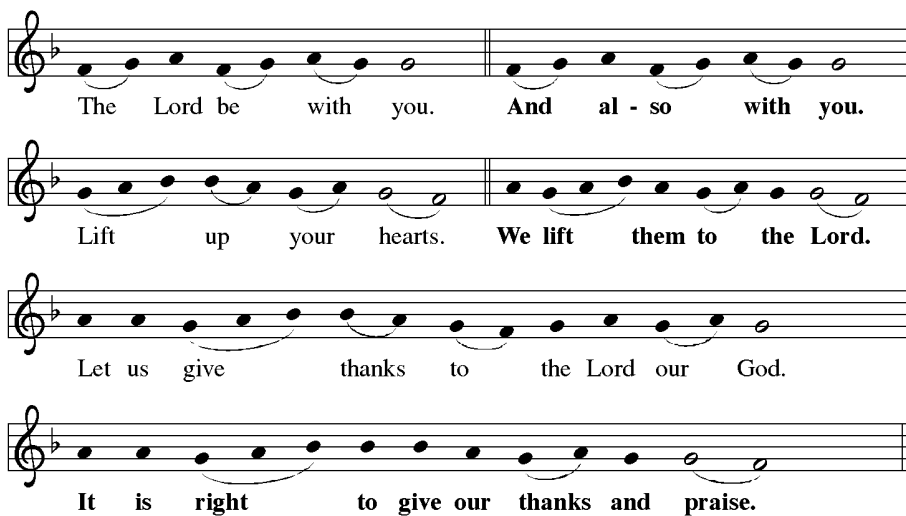
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *here the presiding minister continues the Proper Preface, concluding ... we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:*

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, 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.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad en la tierra
como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder y tuya es la gloria, ahora
y siempre. Amén.**

LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table to receive communion. Wafers are low gluten. The silver chalice contains wine and the ceramic chalice contains grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN

When We Are Living

ELW 639

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

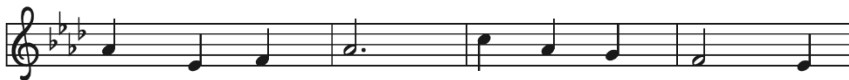
Let us pray.

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.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

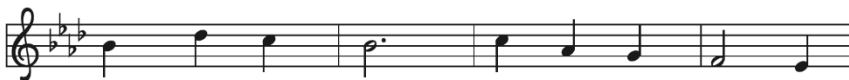
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCING TRINITY'S NEW INTERN

On September 1, we rejoiced to welcome Vicar Wayne Olsen, Trinity's new Pastoral Intern for 2026-2027! A lifelong resident of Northern New Jersey, Vicar Wayne is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa where he has been completing his studies following a career in the music retail industry.

"SUNDAY TOGETHER" - A NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BEGINS TODAY

We are thrilled to announce a new children's ministry beginning TODAY called Sunday Together, a special time for young children (ages 0-4) and those who care for them led by Mari. Starting today and continuing the second Sunday of each month, Sunday Together will include storytelling, movement, play, and new friends. We begin worship together as a community, with children and their adults going downstairs for 30 minutes at the sermon, and joining worship again for communion.

THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE!

Because of your generosity, we have met our goal of collecting school supplies to create fifty fully packed bookbags for the children of our community! Packed bookbags will be distributed to guests of Trinity's Services and to the residents of the Women's Prison Association shelter on 10th St.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY: NEXT SUNDAY, SEPT 20!

Next Sunday, we celebrate Homecoming Sunday, the official kickoff of a new year of live and ministry together. After a festive worship service including the installation of our new Pastoral Intern Vicar Wayne Olsen, we'll enjoy our annual Homecoming BBQ in the garden. Burgers and hot dogs (with meatless options!) and drinks will be provided; please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share!

40TH ANNIVERSARY GALA FOR TRINITY'S SERVICES, OCT 2

You are invited to celebrate with Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless on 40 years of continuous service to the East Village community and beyond. At this gala, we will recognize four incredible decades of food made with love and served with dignity to our neighbors in need. Buy tickets at safhnyc.org.

INTRODUCING THE CHURCHYARD SESSIONS

This fall, we're offering a series of performances by local musicians in our garden as a way of supporting local talent and connecting more deeply with our neighbors. We'll be collecting a \$10 suggested donation at the door. On Tuesday September 15, we'll have Kiki and the Fellas, sharing the Latin sounds of Loisaída. And on Tuesday September 22, parishioner Josh Brennan's band Softcrush takes us back to the golden eras of rock and punk with an unplugged and fresh approach.

YOU'RE INVITED!

You are invited
to celebrate
**Trinity's Services
and Food
for the Homeless'**
40 years
of continuous
service to the East
Village community
and beyond.

Your presence at this gala helps ensure that we continue to provide nutritious meals and groceries to all who come through our doors. Prepare for a festive night with a cocktail reception with plenty of food, conversation, and words of encouragement from local leaders.

Attire is Festive Cocktail / Business Casual.

**Friday, October 2nd
6:30PM-10:00PM**

RSVP now to secure
your spot

www.safhnyc.org

