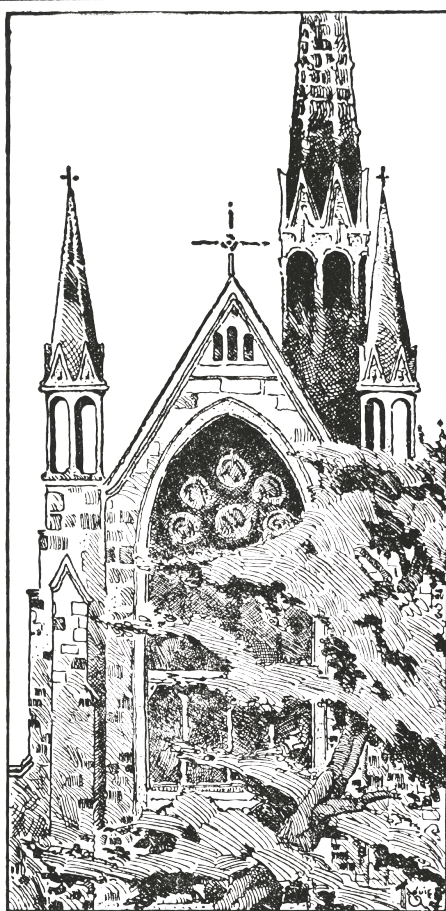


**The Evangelical
Lutheran Church Of The
Holy Trinity**
Central Park West, at 65th St., New York



The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 2026

Welcome to Holy Trinity

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the largest progressive Lutheran body in the United States. As Lutherans, we go about Christianity in a Lutheran way, emphasizing that we are reconciled with God (justified) not by anything we do, but through and because of God's love, freely given (grace). We love questions more than quick fixes (paradox), and we read the Bible in a way that honors it as the source and norm of faith, but not as a literal handbook. As Lutherans, we also lift up the gifts and capacity for ministry (vocation) that every person unquestionably holds.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation (and the first in the Metropolitan New York Synod), Holy Trinity welcomes all persons, including all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Holy Trinity is also committed to practicing racial equity, learning anti-racism, and modeling radical hospitality and inclusion across age, class, national origin, physical and mental health and ability, family configuration, and language.

With a heart for the city, a passion for justice, and a commitment to the arts, we seek to be a place where all God's people will know they are loved. Welcome. We've been waiting for you. There is a place for you here.

Give Online

If you contribute to the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity through online giving, please pick up an "I give online" card from an usher to participate in the offering as the offering plates are passed.

Live streaming at Holy Trinity

Please be aware that worship is being live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your likeness may be captured and shared. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections from this live stream may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

Please note

Weapons, including firearms, knives, scissors; aerosols such as pepper spray and mace; and any hazardous materials are strictly prohibited on church property. All bags are subject to inspection upon entry into the sanctuary.

Special thanks to:
ROBERT CRUMB, *Worship Assistant & Altar Guild*
SONJA WERMAGER, *Lector*
MARLIN & ANNE KINZEY, *Ushers*
TOM BARRITT, *Digital Sacristan & Coffee Hour*
CATHERINE STALLSMITH, *Guest preacher*
AUSTIN PHILEMON, *Director of Music*
THE REV'D TIMOTHY WEISMAN, *Pastor*



Gathering

Prelude— Italian Concerto, BWV 971
I.

J.S. BACH

Hymn 588—"There's a widness in God's mercy!" LORD, REVIVE US

Greeting

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

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



And al - so with you.

Hymn of Praise



Glo - ry to God in the high —



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son — of the



Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



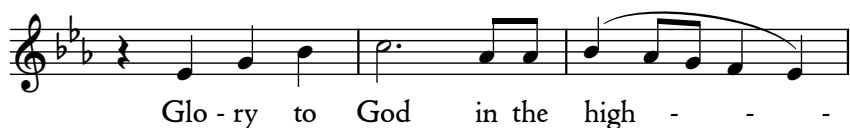
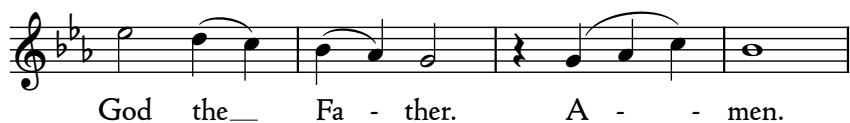
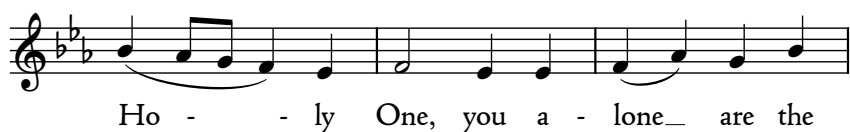
sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are



seat - ed at the right — hand of the Fa - ther, re -

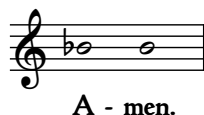


- ceive our our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Word

From the Hebrew Scriptures

JONAH 3:10—4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

Silence is kept.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145 *A cantor intones the first verse, then the assembly joins to sing.*



I will exalt you, | my God and king,
and bless your name for- | ever and ever.

Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name for- | ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and | greatly to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

They shall tell of the might | of your wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;

they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abound- | ing in steadfast love.

¹ 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.

Silence is kept.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



The choir sings: "Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son. "

From the Holy Gospels

MATTHEW 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

You are invited to make a small cross over your forehead, lips, and chest, inviting Jesus the Word into your heart, mind, and speech.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ "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—Catherine Stallsmith, Mobilization Officer, Global Refugee

Hymn 685—“Take my life, that I may be”

PATMOS

Apostles’ Creed

4TH CENTURY

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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the + resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Prayers of the People *The assembly remains standing to pray.*

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The assembly responds to each petition.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Prayer for racial justice

W.E.B. DuBois

Grant us, O God, the vision and the will to be found on the right side in the great battle for bread which rages around us, in strike and turmoil and litigation. Let us remember that here as so often elsewhere no impossible wisdom is asked of us, only this ancient sacrifice: to do justly and love mercy and walk humbly; to refuse to use of the world's goods more than we earn; to be generous with those that earn but little; and to avoid the vulgarity that flaunts wealth and clothes and ribbons in the face of poverty. These things are the sins that lie beneath our labor wars, and from such sins defend us, O Lord, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Peace *The assembly may bow, mirroring the presider.*

JOHN 20:19

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is invited to pass the peace in whatever way is most comfortable to them. If you, for any reason, wish to avoid physical contact during the peace, please feel free to cross your arms over your chest to indicate your desire for a verbal greeting. Following the peace, the assembly sits.

Heal

In addition to giving toward the ministry of Holy Trinity as the offering plates are being passed, you can:

- *Scan the QR code to the right;*
- *Venmo @holytrinitynyc;*
- *Send a Zelle to office@holytrinitynyc.org;*
- *Give to Holy Trinity through a Donor-advised Fund*
by searching for our EIN: 13-1685538.



Offertory—Great is the Lord

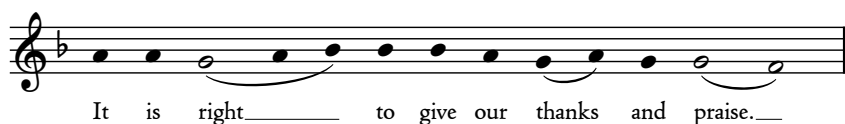
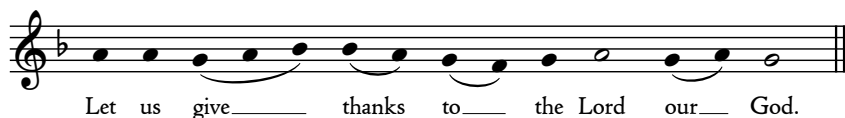
HEALEY WILLAN

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be alway praising thee. Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord Jehovah: and blessed are the folk that he hath chosen to him to be his inheritance. The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever: the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation. The Lord is our defence, and the Holy One of Israel is our King. Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill. Alleluya, Amen.

Offertory prayer

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Almighty God, with joy we bring our thanksgiving, and for all your mercies, we return to you from our abundance. All that we give, we dedicate to your glory. All that we keep, we commit to your care. Bless what we give and what we keep, for all is your creation and we are only stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

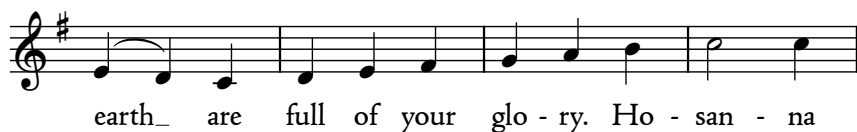
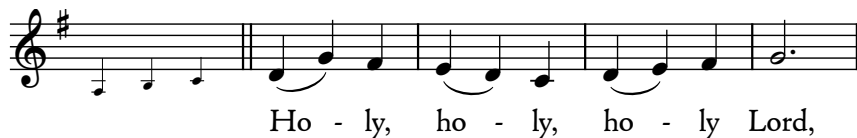
Great Thanksgiving *The assembly may bow, mirroring the presider.*

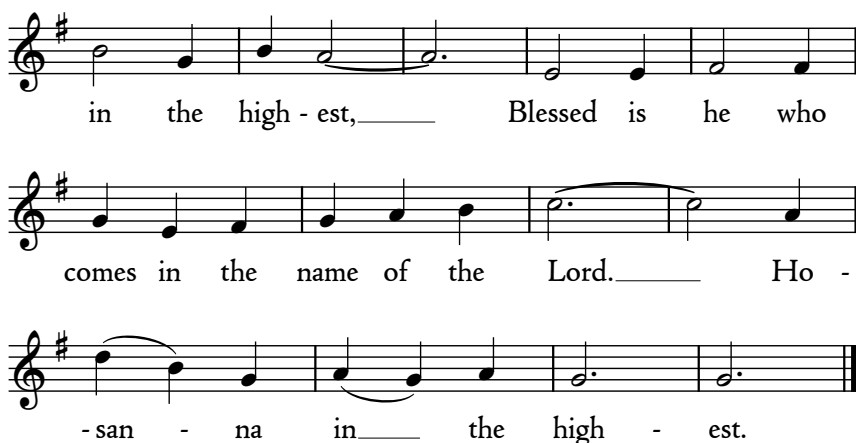


Proper Preface *The presider continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you. . . and so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn. . .

Sanctus





Eucharistic prayer

Blessed are you, O Holy One. You stand with the weak, and those broken and alone whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last, and the last first.

You announced a new kingdom at the margins of the world, an offensive against the strongholds of oppression. You brought healing and deliverance to the sick and the rejected. You made a way in the wilderness. You tore down the boundaries of tribe, gender, race, class, religion, disability, and health, because bigotry has no place in your kingdom.

Almost every ruling faction in society opposed you, but your resistance was through nonviolence, storytelling, truth-telling, meals with the wrong people, and refusing to live under the dominion of the earthly powers and their way of ordering life. You chose love, not fear, pursuing your kingdom practice until you were hung on a tree.

In a great mystery and a great reversal you overcame the powers on the cross. Three days later you were raised from death, a sign that those powers have been and will be defeated, a sign of a future kingdom when all shall be well.

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. *The assembly may bow.*

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me. *The assembly may bow.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again.

Merciful God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ. May this table always be open. May this table free us to love and not fear. May this table foreshadow your kingdom come, when all prejudice, all oppression, and all violence is finally ended.

All people are made in your image. All people are included in your “last as first” revolution. When we forget, remind us. When we are indifferent, provoke us. When we lack vision, show us. When we despair and are overwhelmed, inspire us. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. And let the church say, **Amen!**

Lord's prayer



Our_ Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be__ your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as__ in heav-en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and_ for - ev - er. A - men._

Invitation

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God!**

The assembly sits until invited forward by an usher.

All are welcome at this table. This is not a Lutheran, Episcopal, or a Roman Catholic table; it is God's table and all are invited to receive. The small cups contain either white wine or red grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available, just ask. After receiving, you may leave your empty cup on the small table near the side aisle. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing, and you may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. You may also remain in your seat during distribution, knowing that this table is open when you are ready.

Communion music—O sacrum convivium THOMAS TALLIS

O sacred banquet! in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory to us is given..

Hymn 765—"Lord of all hopefulness" SLANE

The assembly stands.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, as we have received this holy sacrament with our mouths and hearts, send your Holy Spirit to work in us, that we may hold onto eternal life with a steadfast faith and keep it forever, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending

Final Blessing 1 THESSALONIANS 5

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor everyone. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And may the blessing of almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 590—"Salvation unto us has come" ES IST DAS HEIL

Dismissal

The Mass is ended.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly sits for the postlude.

Postlude—Italian Concerto, BWV 971

J.S. BACH

III. Presto

TRINITY TIDINGS

Prayers

Please remember in your prayers:

DOROTHY BARRITT
STEPHEN SHEA
BONNIE MINGER
JOHN AND JOE K.
DICK BAUMANN
RAPHAEL RUIZ
DEAN WEISMAN
THORVALD SLATER
MIKE RODRIGUEZ
BARBARA TAYLOR
CAROL HARNETT
KATHY VANBLARCUM
PAUL SCHMIDT
RUTH FARRELL
LOUISE PRINTZ
MARILYN JOHNSON
JEREMY LEE
NICK COSMILLO
AMY CLARE WHITAKER
ALICE SANGERMANO
MARTA OKLAND
REV. JUANITA HILLSENBECK
THE REV. PAUL SCHMIEGE
HOWARD NELSON
JOE CHAPPEL
JEFFREY RICHARDS
MAICAH DELCID
ANN BRENNAN

*If you would like to give altar flowers in memory
or celebration of a loved one, email
robby@holytrinitynyc.org*

Welcome

If you are new to Holy Trinity, we are glad you're here. Whether you've worshiped at Holy Trinity a thousand times or are here today for the first time, there will always be a place for you here.

Restrooms are located on the lower level.

Please follow safe church practices while visiting Holy Trinity. Parents and guardians, please do not allow children to go anywhere in the building unattended. Thank you for your help in keeping Holy Trinity a safe place for all people.

After Mass, please join us for Coffee Hour in the Community Room located on the lower level.

Find news and announcements in our e-newsletter here 



Reach out to Pastor Tim to let him know you're here today:
pastortim@holytrinitynyc.org.