

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 12,
2026

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

**Sophie
Warnberg**
Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**
Dir. of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church
3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640
September 12, 2026, 5:00 pm

PRELUDE

Charly Sly, piano

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Come, you who carry wounds
that have not yet healed.
**Come, you who carry regrets
you cannot undo.**

Come, you who have been hurt,
and you who have caused hurt.
**Come, not because every wrong has been forgotten,
but because mercy is still possible.**

Here is a grace that cannot be counted,
a love that refuses to keep score,
a God who speaks into our fear: Do not be afraid.
**So come. Lay down the ledger.
Open your hands. Open your heart.**

We come to worship the God
whose mercy is greater than all we owe.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #835 (vs. 1-4, 6)

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
- 2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
- 3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
- 4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy beyond measure, when fear tells us that the past will always define us, speak again your word of grace: Do not be afraid. When resentment tempts us to keep score, remind us how freely we have been forgiven. Give us courage to face the harm we have caused, wisdom to name the wounds we have received, and grace to release what we can no longer carry. Teach us that forgiveness. May the grace we have received become grace freely given. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

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After Jacob’s death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-13

⁸ Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹ **you will not always accuse us,**
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,**
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.
¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,**
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

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This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

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When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

After the reading:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Jeff Gramza

I Come with Joy



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835
Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us O God,
your mercy is great.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERTORY

You Raise Me Up
with Be Still My Soul

arr. Tom Fettke
True Spirit Singers

OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy beyond measure, you have given what we could never earn. Receive these gifts—not as payment for your grace, but as the thanksgiving of hearts set free by love. As you have opened your hands to us, open our hands to others, that mercy may flow through our lives and your grace may reach a wounded world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD’S PRAYER

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

LAMB OF GOD

Setting: *Now the Feast and Celebration*

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:

have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Before the Waters Nourished Earth



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - in³ed morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Where Charity and Love Prevail

ELW #359

BENEDICTION

May God, who brings life even from what was meant for harm,
Jesus Christ, who releases every impossible debt,

and the ☩ Holy Spirit, who gives us courage to begin again,
bless you and keep you in grace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #864

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib - ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore - bears in dis - tress.
3 Frail as sum - mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres - ence, face to face.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais - es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Forgiven beyond counting,
live the mercy you have received.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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