

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

5:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 26,
2026

Jeffery Gramza
Senior Pastor

**Sophie
Warnberg**
Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**
Dir. of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church
3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640
September 26, 2026, 5:00 pm

HYMN SING

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

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

Come, beloved of God,
drawn together by one Spirit,
held within one unfailing love.
**Give us the mind of Christ—
humble, compassionate,
and open to the needs of others.**

Christ did not cling to power,
but poured himself out,
taking the form of a servant.
**May his downward way of love
become the shape of our lives.**

We come not merely to speak our faith,
but to live the yes of discipleship.
God is at work within us.
**Let our worship become love,
our promises become action,
and our lives become praise.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #526

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of downward-moving grace, in Jesus Christ you emptied yourself and came among us as a servant. Pour out the mind of Christ within us. Free us from the need to be first, the desire to be praised, and the fear of changing our minds. Turn our words into faithfulness, our intentions into action, and our worship into lives of courageous love, until every breath proclaims that Jesus Christ is Lord, to your glory and for the healing of the world. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

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

PSALM 25:1-9

- ¹ To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
⁴ **Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**
⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁶ **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O Lord.
⁸ **You are gracious and up-right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

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As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ’s selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

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

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

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After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

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

SERMON

Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #712

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Self-giving God, receive these gifts and every quiet yes they represent. Take what we offer and make it food for the hungry, shelter for the vulnerable, welcome for the rejected, courage for the weary, and hope for those who have nearly given up. Empty us of pride and fill us with the mind of Christ, so that our generosity may become more than words and our lives may reveal the servant love of Jesus.
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.

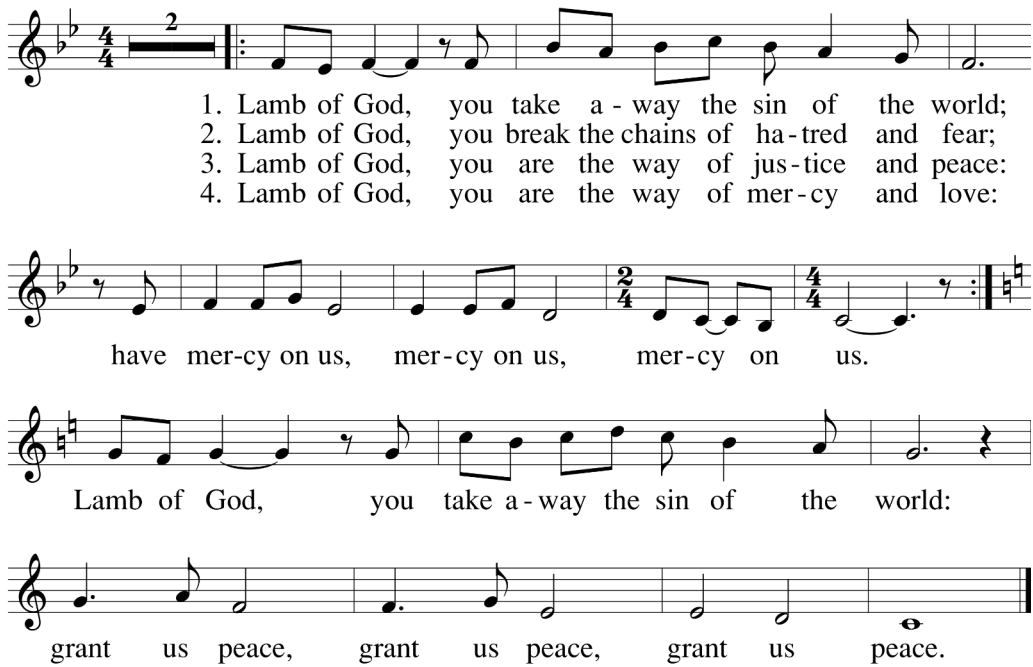
THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD’S PRAYER

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

<i>Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways</i>	ELW #772
<i>O Master, Let Me Walk With You</i>	ELW #818

BENEDICTION

May the mind of Christ dwell within you,
the humility of Christ steady your steps,
and the self-giving love of Christ
flow through all you say and do.

The blessing of God—
Creator, Redeemer, and ☩ life-giving Spirit—
be with you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ACS #954

You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd



1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!



You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!



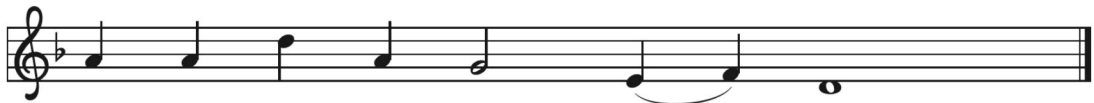
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



of the way you took and gave.
beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,
have a love that reach - es wide.
wor - thy still your peace and strife.



You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;
You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;



you, whom we both scorn and crave.
you, who are both gift and cost.
you, who are our pil - grim and guide.
you, who are our death and life.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
Let your yes become love.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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