



Trinity Lutheran Church

September

13

2026

16th Sunday
of Pentecost

Together
in Community
Living
with Christ
Caring
for Neighbors

#GROWinHisWord

Forgiveness
(How many times?)

I tell you, not
seven times,
77 but
times

Matthew 18:22

Faith Fun and the Fergusons.com

So my heavenly
Father will also do
to every one of you,
if you do not forgive
your brother or sister
from your heart.
Matthew 18:35

www.trinitylutherantopeka.org

We are glad you are here!
It is always good to be together, hearing the Word.
Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.
Thank you, Pr. Bob Dealey, for leading worship today.

PRELUDE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 5

+ GATHERING +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

All Creatures, Worship God Most High

ELW 835

- 1 All creatures, worship God most high! Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright; sing, sister moon and stars of night: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear sister water, useful, clear, make music for your Lord to hear: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong, drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear mother earth, so rich in care, praise God in colors bright and rare: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 4 All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain and sorrow grieve: Alleluia!
Alleluia! Christ bears your burdens and your fears; still make your song amid the tears: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death, waiting to hush our final breath: Alleluia! Alleluia! Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom, fair is the night that leads us home. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 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, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226; tr. composite. Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

P Loving God, we ask you to bless these suitcases and backpacks. May their straps never break, their padding never wear out, and their zippers never jam. May the burdens inside them be light, and may the shoulders that carry them be strong and healthy. Give these children peace in times of upheaval, focus when they feel distracted, and joy in learning new things. Be with them in the classroom, on the playground, and in their foster homes. In Jesus' name,

C Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we

giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
 au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
 name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one

will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
 sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
 liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord

heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
 ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in

praise you for your glo - ry.
 ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
 God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-21

¹⁵ 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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-13

Spoken responsively

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

² **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**

³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

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

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.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.
Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

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."

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

PR. BOB DEALEY

HYMN OF THE DAY

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936. Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES CREED

P Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C 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.

THE PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

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

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Your mercy is great.

A 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 Charlotte O'Brien, Shelley Andrews, Liz Utech, Martha Nemeth, Linda Longren, and David McGinnis. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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. Grant joy to Janice Greenlee and Diane Bottorff as they celebrate their birthdays, and to Mary McGinnis, Jake Kennedy, and Zane Kennedy as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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.

C Your mercy is great.

P 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.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

+ THANKSGIVING +

OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

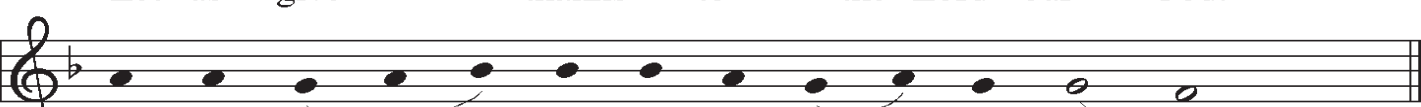
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **C Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

<i>Presider</i>	<i>Response</i>
 The Lord be with you.	 And al - so 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.	

P 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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come! *We invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior to share in Holy Communion. Grape juice is available as an alternative to wine as well as gluten-free wafers. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing.*

Please stay in your seat; the pastor and assisting minister will bring the bread and wine to you.

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. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN*When We Are Living***ELW 639**

- 1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying, it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 2 'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God, we belong to God.
- 3 Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind; and when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God.

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942, st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946. Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional. Spanish text, sts. 2-3 © 1983 Abingdon Press and tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **C Amen.**

SENDING PRAYER FOR COMMUNION KITS

P Gracious God, loving all your family with a parent's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. **C Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold us today and always. **C Amen.**

SENDING HYMN*In Thee Is Gladness***ELW 867**

- 1 In thee is gladness amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart. By thee are given the gifts of heaven, thou the true redeemer art. Our souls thou wakest; our bonds thou breakest. Who trusts thee surely has built securely and stands forever: Alleluia! Our hearts are pining to see thy shining, dying or living, to thee are cleaving; naught can us sever: Alleluia!
- 2 Jesus is ours! We fear no powers, not of earth or sin or death. He sees and blesses in worst distresses; he can change them with a breath. Wherefore the story tell of his glory with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices in him forever: Alleluia! We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness, love him and praise him and still shall raise him glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

DISMISSAL

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Sept. 13..... Adult Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
Worship with Communion 10:30 AM
 PFLAG meeting..... 2:00 PM
 Mon., Sept. 14..... Church Council meeting..... 5:00 PM
 Tues., Sept. 15..... Quilters 9:30 AM
 Thurs., Sept. 17..... October Trinity Tidings deadline
 Sat., Sept. 19 Dr. David Cherwein workshop @ 1st Lutheran..... 1:00 PM
 OSLC Piano Dedication..... 7:00 PM
 Sun., Sept. 20 Community Relations meeting..... 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:30 AM

Worship Leaders & Assistants

Date	Acolyte	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Worship Leader	Coffee Host
Sept. 13	Curt Lewis	Bob Horton, Dean McGinnis	Laurie Jackson	Diane Bottorff	Janice Greenlee & Team 2	Ted Murphy	Pr. Bob Dealey	Marilyn Heckman, Carol Marker
Sept. 20	Brayden Winsor	Howard Reece, Jeffrey Schafersman	Mitchell Bean	LaVell Winsor	Janice Greenlee & Team 2	Parker Jackson	Duane Pomeroy	LaVell Winsor
Sept. 27		Duane & Debbie Pomeroy	Mitchell Bean	Loni Reece	Janice Greenlee & Team 2	Marcy Carlson		Troy Abbott/ Jeffrey Schafersman

Thanks to all who donated suitcases & backpacks for donation to KVC for children in their care. We may never know the impact of our generosity.



kansas.kvc.org

KVC Kansas represents one of the broadest child welfare and behavioral healthcare continuums of care in the nation. We help over 12,000 Kansas children and their families each year through prevention services (family preservation), foster care case management, family reunification services, adoption, outpatient behavioral health and more. KVC is driven by the best interests of each child and family, and has helped Kansas achieve national leadership in child welfare standards set by the federal Child and Family Services Review.



60 FOR 60 COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Trinity Lutheran pledged to contribute 60 cases of food to Doorstep's 60 for 60 Community Challenge ---here is progress so far!!





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org
Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

Together in Community Living with Christ Caring for Neighbors

Caring for Our Neighbors

Jesus commands us that when we care for the least of these; that we are in the presence of Christ (Matthew 25:44-45). As a congregation, we deeply care about serving those in need in our community. We hope to be a place of refuge and support for our neighborhood and to be a place to uplift those people that struggle around us. We also support ministries both local, national, and global as a church in the ELCA. As a congregation, we focus our efforts to partner with community organizations like Doorstep, while expanding opportunities to help our neighborhood through activities like our food ministry and community garden. We continue to be open to the ways that God calls us to be a presence in our community and to create a world where all are cared for in our society (Philippians 2:4).

Congregation Council

President Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care)
Vice-President Steve Luoma (Administration)
Secretary Diane Bottorff (Congregational Life)
Treasurer Bob Kobbeman (Administration)
Troy Abbott (Administration)
Marilyn Heckman (Community Relations)
Parker Jackson (Congregational Life)
Curt Lewis (Maintenance) Howard Reece (Maintenance)