



14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 14, 2025
8:30 am



The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Order of Worship

= Hymn Number, pp. = Page in front part of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" (ELW)
or "All Creation Sings" (ACS)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

"Darkest Hour is Just Before the Dawn" Ralph & Carter Stanley

The sun is slowly sinking
The day is almost gone
Though darkness falls all around us
Still we must journey on.

Chorus:

The darkest hour is just before dawn
The narrow way leads on
Lay down your soul at Jesus's Feet
The Darkest Hour is Just Before Dawn

Like a shepherd out on the mountain
Watching his sheep below,
He's coming back to claim us
Will you be ready to go?

Chorus

(stand) CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P Merciful and loving God,
C we can be a stiff-necked people.
 We are not quick to help those in need.
 We grumble about your grace to others.
 We turn away from your guidance.
 Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
 Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
 and have been found.
Amen

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
 Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
 You who were lost have been found.
 In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
C **Amen**

GATHERING Hymn

“The Good Shepherd” Reagan Riddle

Traveling life's highways, many dangers abound
 Pitfalls surround us, with sin all around
 The Good Shepherd watches, and cares for his sheep
 Removing the danger, his fold he will keep

Chorus:

His kind gentle hand, has shown me the way
 Protecting and leading, from day unto day
 Without his direction, oh where would I be
 The Good Shepherd leads me, through snares I can't see

My youth filled with folly, I recklessly trod
 rejecting my teaching, and straying from God
 But somewhere in the shadows, the Good Shepherd stood
 and in mercy he kept me, as only he could

Chorus

(stand) 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.**

(stand) **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P

Let us pray...

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C

Amen.

(sit) **FIRST READING..... 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

A

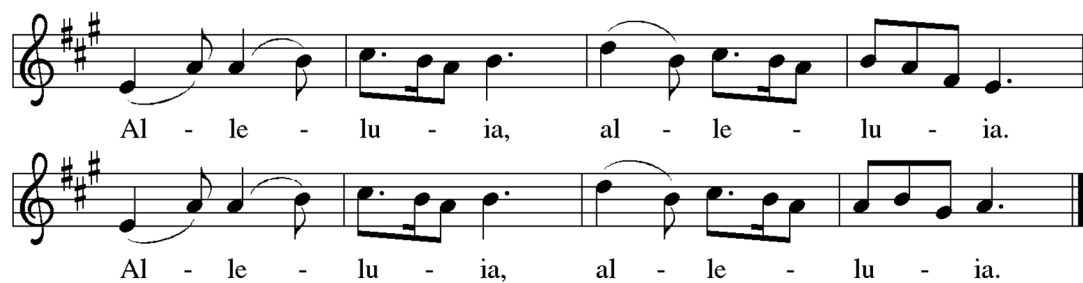
Word of God, word of life.

C

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TALK

(stand) **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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(stand) **GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10**

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit) **SERMON Pastor Katie Christie**

CHORAL ANTHEM

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs” Isaac Watts

Dynamic Range

**My Shepherd, will supply my need,
Jehovah is His name;
in pastures fresh He makes me feed,
beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back.
when I forsake His ways;
And leads me, for His mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.**

**When I walk through the shades of death,
Thy presence is my stay;
one word of thy supporting breath
drives all my fears away.
Thy hand in sight of all my foes,
doth still my table spread;
my cup with Blessings overflows,
Thine oil anoints my head.**

**The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
oh, may thy house be mine abode,
and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, nor a guest,
but like a child at home.**

(stand) **APOSTLES' CREED**

P God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we 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.

(stand) **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.
Silence for reflection.

*Each petition will close with the words: "God of grace,"
The response is "receive our prayer."*

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

(sit) **THE OFFERING**

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Lord of the harvest,
C we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are in need of your grace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(stand)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
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** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.
C Thanks be to God.

(sit)

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

Communion will be distributed at the altar railing. The usher will indicate when each section of pews should come forward. Whether kneeling or standing, those wishing to receive anointing, cross your arms after reaching the rail. If you are not able or not comfortable coming to the altar, the pastor will bring the bread and wine to you at the pew. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request these from the pastor.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”ELW #789

(stand)

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Let us pray...
O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
so others may come to know your love.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
C **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Going Up Home” Appalachian Traditional

Troubles and Trials often betray us,
Causing our weary bodies to stray.
But we shall walk beside the still waters,
With the good shepherd leading the way.

Chorus:

Going up home to live in green pastures,
Where we shall live and die nevermore
Even the lord will be in that number
When we have reached that heavenly shore

Those who have strayed were sought by the master.
He who once gave his life for the sheep
Out on the mountains still he is searching,
Bringing them in forever to keep

Chorus

We will not heed the voice of the stranger,
For he will lead us on to despair.
Following on with our loving master,
We shall all reach that country so fair.

Chorus

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
- G** Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Feed My Sheep” Dallas Holm

Dynamic Range

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Disciples.....	<i>People of Trinity</i>
Senior Pastor	<i>Rev. Scott Sessler</i>
Associate Pastor	<i>Rev. Katie Christie</i>
Traditional Choral & Worship Director	<i>Alex Thomlinson</i>
Contemporary Worship Leader & Handbell Choir Director	<i>LeRoy Kennedy</i>
Organist	<i>David Singer</i>
Director of Youth and Family Ministries	<i>John Parson</i>
Office Coordinator	<i>Kristy Perkins</i>
Community Schools Director	<i>Brenda Moody</i>
Communications Coordinator	<i>Larry Williams</i>