Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 17, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Service of Word and Sacrament

In the bulletin: The asterisk (*) invites you to stand as you are able. Boldface type indicates the congregation's responses. At the sign of the cross (\pm) , you are invited to make that same sign upon yourself in remembrance of your baptism.

The flowers on the Altar today are given by Pat McRowe in memory of her husband, Art McRowe.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude In Paradisum Théodore Dubois

*Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand if you are able.

Blessed be the holy \pm Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of \pm Jesus Christ,

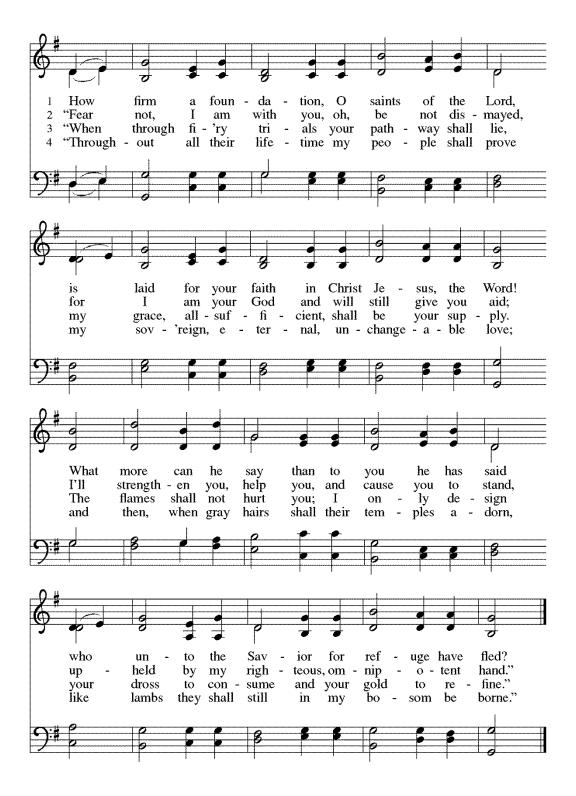
your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

*Gathering Hymn No. 796

How Firm a Foundation



Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt. Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

*Greeting

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

And also with you.

*Canticle of Praise

Glory to God



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for ev er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho-ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

Please be seated.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, judge eternal,
you love justice and hate oppression,
and you call us to share your zeal for truth.

Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and,
following your servants and prophets,
to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,

your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

₩ WORD ₩

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 82

Refrain

Sunday, July 10-16 | Lectionary 15



- ¹God stands to charge the divine coun- ¹ cil assembled, giving judgment in the midst ¹ of the gods:
- ² "How long will you | judge unjustly, and show favor | to the wicked?
- ³ Save the weak ¹ and the orphan; defend the hum- ¹ ble and needy;
- ⁴ rescue the weak | and the poor; deliver them from the power | of the wicked. R

- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- ¹ bout in darkness; all the foundations of the ¹ earth are shaken.
- ⁶ Now I say to you, ¹ You are gods, and all of you children of ¹ the Most High;
- ⁷ nevertheless, you shall ' die like mortals, and fall like ' any prince.' "
- ⁸ Arise, O God, and ¹ rule the earth, for you shall take all nations ¹ for your own. R

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered realms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

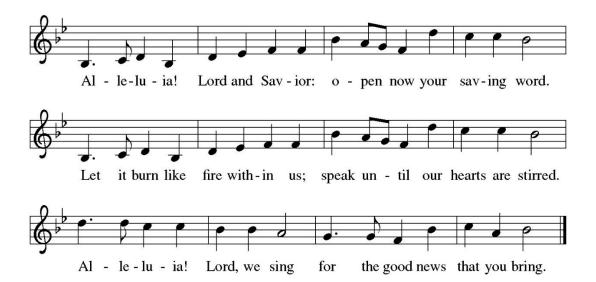
^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Please stand if you are able.



*Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, and in-laws against one another."

⁵⁴ Jesus also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer of Understanding

Please be seated.

Living Word,
you still have many things to say to us.
Speak, for we are listening.

Amen.

Sermon

Pastor Becki Verbridge

Hymn of the Day No. 812

Faith of Our Fathers



Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt. Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818–1888; James G. Walton, 1821–1905, refrain

*The Apostles' Creed

Please stand if you are able.

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

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 Intercession

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. We pray for all those on our prayer list, especially... Vicki, Betty and Ben. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

Amen.

₩ MEAL **₩**

*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace of Christ with one another and then we are seated.

Offertory Everywhere I Go Natalie Sleeth

Will Bowers and David Lines

Offertory Response No. 188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O God,
maker of all things.

Through your goodness
you have blessed us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,
in feeding the world with your love,
through the one who gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Invitation

Christ comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine to nourish our faith.

The uncontainable presence, grace, love, forgiveness and
mercy of Christ come to us in this simple meal that spans all time and space.

All of God's children – regardless of denominational background –
are welcome and invited to share it with us.

*The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand if you are able.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

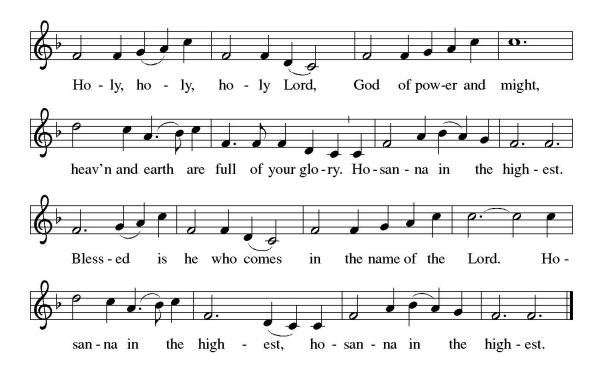
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

And so, with the all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*Prayer at the Table

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

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

Amen.

Please be seated.

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat, drink, and rejoice.

Amen.

The Communion

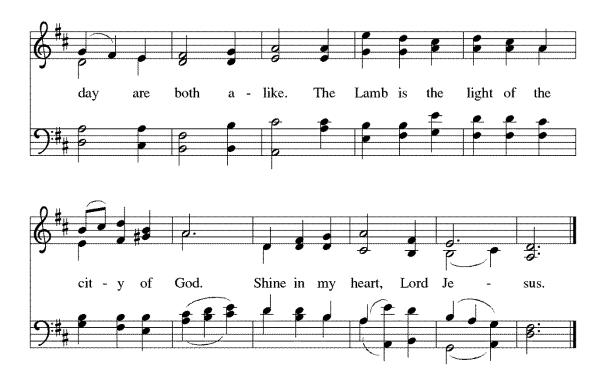
Those celebrating with us from your homes: please share the bread and wine or grape juice with one another using these words: The Body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. An Amen or Thanks be to God is spoken in response to these gifts.

Those celebrating with us in person: Please come forward by the center aisle to receive a wafer- gluten free wafers are also available - and an individual cup of wine or white grape juice from those serving. Please return to your seat by the side aisle.



Communion Hymn No. 815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light





Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

Prayer after Communion

Please remain seated.

Mothering God,

you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.

Send us out by your Spirit

to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

¥ SENDING **¥**

*Blessing

Please stand if you are able.

The love of God abound in you,
the grace of Jesus Christ fill your hearts,
and the life of the Spirit
H bless you and give you peace.

Amen.



Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862–1917 Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

We go to connect people to Jesus through love and the Word of God. Amen.

Postlude

Minuet Finale from Fireworks Music

G. F. Handel

As the last act of worship, you are invited to remain for the Postlude. If you do not wish to stay, please be respectful of those who are listening.

+ + +

Your tithes and offerings are important to our ministry. On-line donation options are available at holytrinityakron.org/donate or by contacting Financial Secretary Jim Minisall at jminisall@holytrinityakron.org. Or simply mail your offerings to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. Thank you for your generous and regular support.

The Love Offering August will go to South Street Ministries for their "Trails N Rails" annual event.

Gname, and/or likeness being used, without compensation, in photography and video for exploitation in any and all media, whether now known or hereafter devised, for eternity, and you release Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, its successors, assigns and licensees from any liability whatsoever of any nature. By participating, you agree to be subject to the foregoing.

Acknowledgements...

Liturgical texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyrights 2025, 2022, 2019, & 2016. Alt, Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003154.

Liturgical texts from: Feasting on the Word Year C, Volume 2, 2013; and Connections Worship Companion Year C, Volume 2, Westminster John Knox Press, 2022. Used by permission.

Offertory: Everywhere I Go, Natalie Sleeth, Copyright: 1975 Choristers Guild.

This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, 8/17	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Worship Coffee Fellowship - Chapel Lounge Pack School Supplies for Rimer CLC - Rm. 202
Monday, 8/18	5:30 p.m.	Finance Team - Zoom
Tuesday, 8/19	6:30 p.m.	Church Council - Zoom
Thursday, 8/21	6:30 p.m.	Akron BHS Chorus - Fellowship Hall
Friday, 8/22	9:00 a.m.	Faith 5 Check-In - Zoom
Sunday, 8/24	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Worship Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast- Akron Fam. Res.

August 17, 2025 Worship Stewards

Assisting Minister: Hayley Phillips Reader: Sonya Nagle

Communion Assistant: Jennifer Keller

In Our Prayers...

<u>August 17:</u> Vicki Perkins (friend of the Kimbles), Betty Oberdorfer (member) and Ben Gant (friend of Val Clark).

<u>August 10:</u> Jim Verbridge (Pastor Becki's husband), Lyle Weiss (friend of Frederica Cohen), Trina Smith (friend of Rachel Cohen), family of Lois Elswick, Jim Minisall & Family (at the death of his daughter), and Brad Crock & Family (at the death of his grandfather).

August 3: Rick Kimble (member).

July 27: Worship was at Faith Lutheran Church.

The names of those making the request will be printed next to the name of the person being prayed for. We kindly ask those making the request to keep our prayer list coordinators updated as to the status of the person they are requesting prayer for. We would be glad to continue praying for individuals (adding them for another four weeks) upon request. If you have updates or additions to the prayer list, please contact Rachel Núñez, or Pastor Becki Verbridge.

...Ministry Team Leaders...

Ministry Team	Team Leader(s)	Phone
Congregation Care & Connection	Amanda Archbold	(330) 322-6554
Finance	John Guran	(330) 606-3915
Invite-Welcome-Connect	Sandy DeLuca	(330) 703-4870
Meditation Memorial Garden	Sonya Nagle	(330) 410-4160
Outreach & Social Concerns	Gregg Loesch	(330) 733-4081
Personnel	John Stefanik	(330) 666-3579
Worship & Music	Frederica Cohen	(330) 338-4771

...Our Staff...

Interim Pastor Director of Cong. Care & Connection	Becki Verbridge Rachel Nunez	bverbridge@holytrinityakron.org rnunez@holytrinityakron.org
Dir. of Music Ministry	David Lines	dlines@holytrinityakron.org
Financial Secretary	Jim Minisall	jminisall@holytrinityakron.org
Communications Coord.	Sandy DeLuca	sdeluca@holytrinityakron.org
Parish Secretary	Annmarie Demko	ademko@holytrinityakron.org
Maintenance Coord.	Bruce Mansour	mansour@holytrinityakron.org
Sexton	Vince Simmons	

...Activity Coordinators...

Activity	Coordinator	Phone
Altar Guild	Deborah Ickes	(678) 353-7444
Assisting Ministers	Rachel Núñez	(330) 634-6597
Communion Assistants	Deborah Ickes	(678) 353-7444
Council President	Diane Chambers	(330) 388-5018
Men's Bible Study	Jack Harig	(330) 644-9862
Well's bible Study	Tom Baumgardner	(330) 603-3691
Readers	Nancy Riemenschneider	(330) 239-1086
Stewardship	Jack Harig	(330) 644-9862
Ushers	Gregg Loesch	(330) 733-4081
Women's Bible Study	Rachel Núñez	(330) 634-6597

50 N. Prospect Street Akron, OH 44304 (330) 376-5154

