

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Trinity Lutheran Church

July 26, 2026
Pleasant Valley, Iowa

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!



Gathering and Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 532 – Gather Us In

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.

Prayer of the Day

See Insert

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

See Insert

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136

See Insert

Read responsively

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

See Insert

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

At the end of the reading:

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:13-33, 44-52

See Insert

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the reading:

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – Pastor Stephen Nilsen

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 705 – God of Grace and God of Glory

Apostles' Creed

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

Each petition will end with:

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Announcements and Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.**

Meal

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

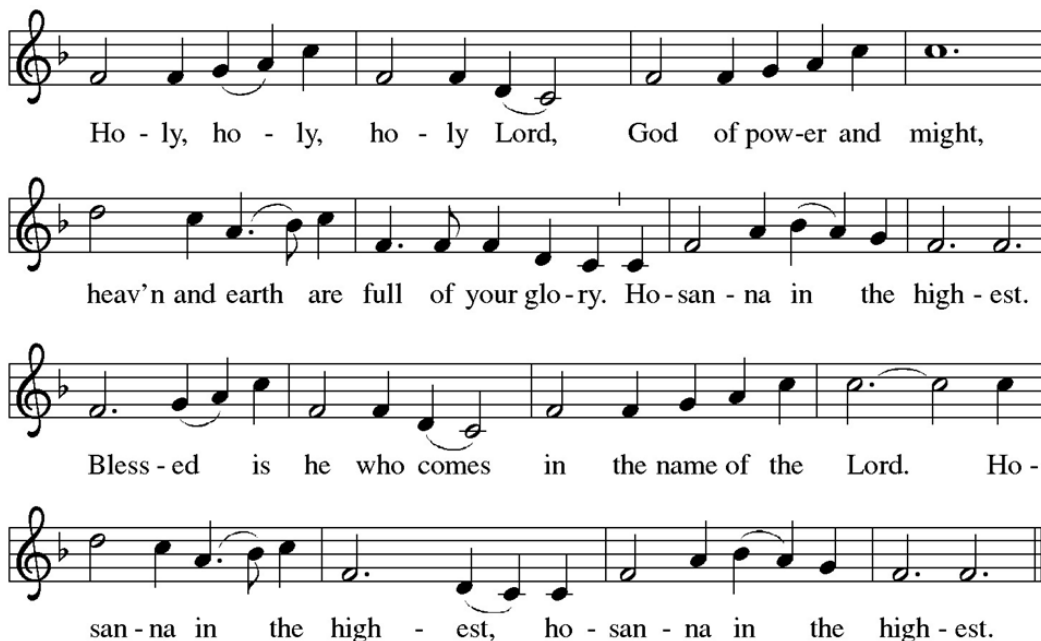
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

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; 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-er and might,
heav'n 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son, We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

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

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

All are welcome to the table of the Lord.

COMMUNION SONG: ELW p. 208 – Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN: ACS 952 – The Reign of God, Like a Farmer's Field COMMUNION HYMN: ACS 966 – Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken COMMUNION HYMN: ACS 967 – This Is Christ's Body

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you always in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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

SENDING HYMN: ACS 942 – Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship This Week

Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Organist	Collin Meinert
Lector	John Newman
Communion Assistant	Jo Ann Hogenson
Altar Guild	Linda Busch
Ushers	Chris Kaul
	Don Cordts
Worship Video/Livestream	Randy Goslin
Fellowship	Hot Team - Ice Cream Social

Serving in Worship Next Week August 2

Presiding & Preaching	Pastor Stephen Nilsen
Organist	Paul Madsen
Lector	John Newman
Communion Assistant	Marcia Brunsvold
Altar Guild	Mary Shelton
Ushers	Diane Cook
	Debra Anderson
Worship Video/Livestream	Randy Goslin
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Flowers	Michelle & Dane Crist

Whether you're an experienced volunteer who has served every week for years, or a new member looking to get more involved, someone can always help you to figure out exactly how you could help our worship or fellowship. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We truly appreciate all our volunteers who make the life of this congregation possible.

Online Giving Option Available

Our new website is live! You can now give via our website (or app or text) by visiting www.trinitylcpv.com/give or scanning the QR code on the right.



Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB121681.
New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition, copyright 2021, National Council
of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS

No Meetings this week

PASTOR STEPHEN OUT OF OFFICE This week, Pastor Stephen and family will be on vacation. If you have a pastoral emergency, you may contact Pastor Kirsten Lee from Grace Lutheran Church via her cell phone at 405-248-0586.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES *Off for the week while Pastor Stephen is out of office.*
Join our lectionary Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 AM.

FUNERAL WORSHIP PLANNING WORKSHOP *Sunday, August 9 - 10:00 AM.*
Whether you have considered lots of other details of your affairs after dying or you have not thought of much at all, everyone is welcome for a brief workshop on planning a funeral worship service led by Pastor Stephen after worship on Sunday, August 9.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS WELCOME Trinity Food Pantry is open *Monday 9 -11 AM and Thursday 4-6 PM.* See Dane Crist for more info or sign up in the Narthex.

TRINITY ANTI-HUNGER GARDEN If you have a green thumb or if you are brand new to gardening and just want to help our neighbors in need, your help would be appreciated by the team that works on our Anti-Hunger Garden on the south side of the church building. See Dane Crist for more information.

FLUTTER PATCH New resurrection of life is coming up in the area formerly known as the Butterfly Garden! Native Iowa plants are being planted all the time, and you can help with watering or weeding if you are available. If you are interested in helping with this new life springing up, contact John Newman.

TRINITY NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK *Friday, August 14 at 6:30 PM.* Trinity Night at the Ballpark for 2026 will be here soon with fireworks following the baseball game! We hope you can join us. Tickets will cost \$10 per person, but we'd like a headcount to know how many will attend in advance. Sign-up in the Narthex.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE TAKING FUND DISTRIBUTION SUGGESTIONS
Between now and July 31, the Endowment Committee is taking suggestions for programs, organizations, ministry or mission opportunities to distribute funds to for our annual distributions. The fund will distribute \$20,000 this year, and forms can be found on the Narthex bulletin board on in the weekly email. Thanks for your help!

Trinity Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9AM-1PM

Pastor Stephen's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10AM-2PM

Office phone: 563-332-5188 **Email:** office@trinitylcpv.com

Pastor office phone: 563-332-6432 **Cell:** 319-540-1172