

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**September 6, 2026**  
**Pleasant Valley, Iowa**

*Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.*

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## **Gathering and Welcome**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

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

Compassionate God,

**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.**

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.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN: ELW 731 – Earth and All Stars!**

### **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: Ezekiel 33:7-11**

*See Insert*

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

*At the end of the reading:*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40**

*See Insert*

*Read responsively*

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

*See Insert*

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

*At the end of the reading:*

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

*See Insert*

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 18th 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 864 – Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

### 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:*

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

## Announcements and Offering

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **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. Amen.**

### Meal

### Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

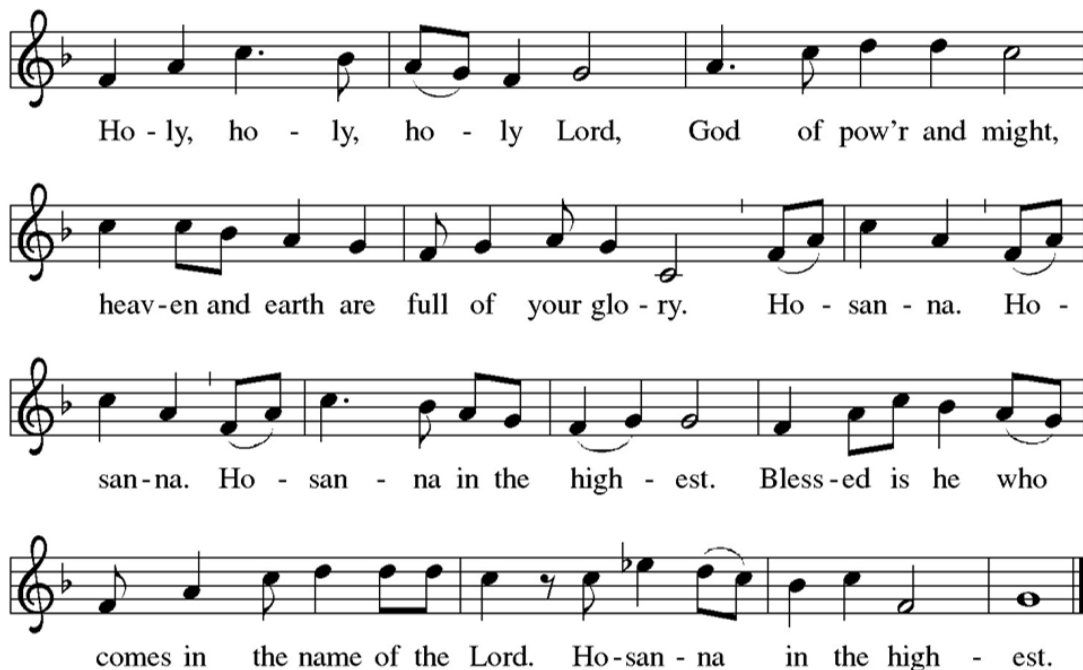
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## **Words of Institution**

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

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

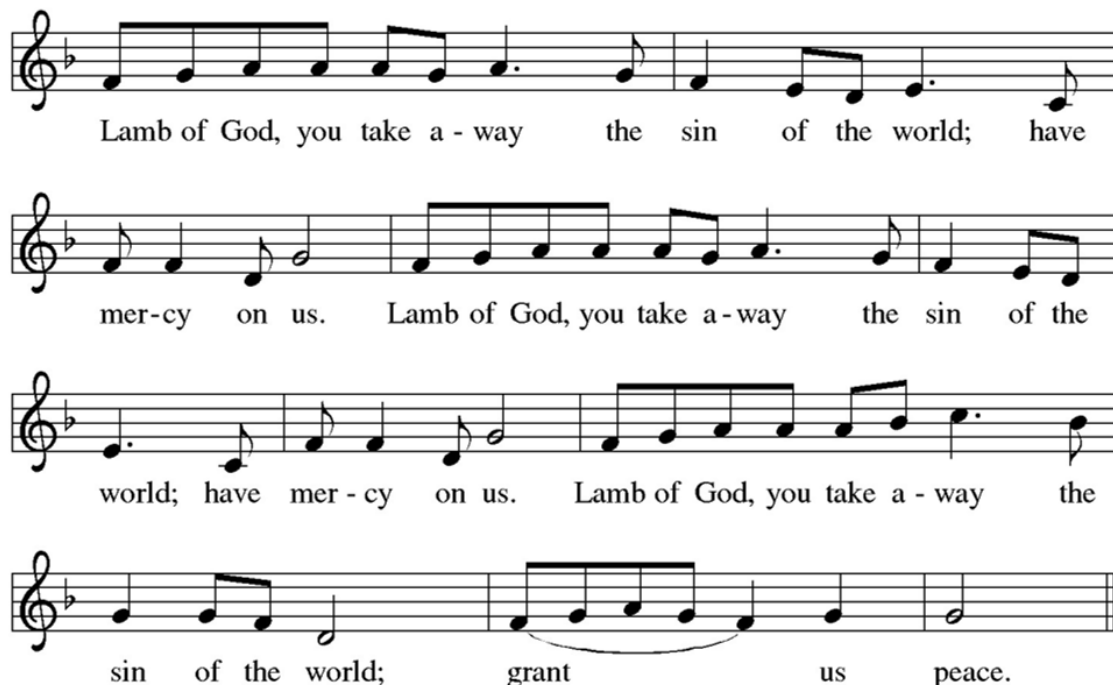
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, And the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

**All are welcome to the table of the Lord.**

## COMMUNION SONG: ELW p. 146: 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.

## COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 466 – In the Singing

## COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 522 – As We Gather at Your Table

## COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 471 – Let Us Break Bread Together

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.

**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. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN: ELW 543 – Go, My Children, with My Blessing

## Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Serving in Worship This Week**

Presiding & Preaching  
Organist  
Lector  
Communion Assistant  
Altar Guild  
Ushers

Worship Video/Livestream  
Fellowship

Pastor Stephen Nilsen  
Paul Madsen  
Jo Ann Hogenson  
Sally Morrow  
Mary Shelton  
Chris Kaul  
Ron Morrow  
Randy Goslin  
**Volunteer Needed**

### **Serving in Worship Next Week September 13**

Presiding & Preaching  
Accompanist  
Lector  
Communion Assistant  
Altar Guild  
Ushers  
  
Fellowship

Pastor Stephen Nilsen  
Music Recording App  
Barb Paul  
Michelle Crist  
Diane Holst & Sally Morrow  
Dane Crist  
Al McIlrath  
HOT Team

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](http://www.trinitylcpv.com/give) or scanning the QR code on the right.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

|                 |                       |              |          |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|----------|
| <b>MEETINGS</b> | Property              | September 6  | 10:00 AM |
|                 | Constitution Revision | September 10 | 1:00 PM  |
|                 | Card Ministry         | September 10 | 1:00 PM  |
|                 | Stewardship           | September 14 | 5:00 PM  |
|                 | Council               | September 14 | 6:00 PM  |

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES** Join our lectionary Bible Study Wednesdays at 10 AM.

**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.

**WORSHIP IN THE PARK** *Sunday, September 13 at 9 AM at Forest Grove Park*  
Let's get out and share the Good News! We'll have a worship service at the regular time in a different place on Sunday, September 13 just down the road at Forest Grove Park. Bring a friend, share in the joy of good weather and enjoy some fellowship together after worship including some games and snacks.

**THEOLOGY ON TAP** *Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 PM. Foundry Food & Tap 5055 Competition Dr. Bettendorf.* We've had some great Spirit-filled conversation at our first three gatherings of Theology on Tap. Anyone with a bit of curiosity can meet to discuss whatever is on their mind related to faith, theology, church, God, or life, as we share a drink and fellowship together. We hope you can join us as you grab a drink, grab a seat, and join in conversation together.

**CROP WALK 2026** *Sunday, October 4.* Help fight hunger and raise awareness of the needs of our community by signing up to walk or donating to our CROP Walk team. Sign up online or in the Narthex. We are also collecting peanut butter and jelly in the shopping cart in the narthex.

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

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

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