



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 18, 2025 - 10am

Reaching
out in the Spirit

COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

*Conversion is not a matter of identifying and targeting "those people".
It is a journey of discovery and movement.*

We can respect each person's journey and take a hard look at the places where we fail to do so.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Hymn 759

- 1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!
- 2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll;
blest Savior, then, in love
fear and distrust remove;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!

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.

Hymn of Praise

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
And honor and blessing and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

*Sing with all the people of God,
And join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing and honor and glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb, forever. Amen.*

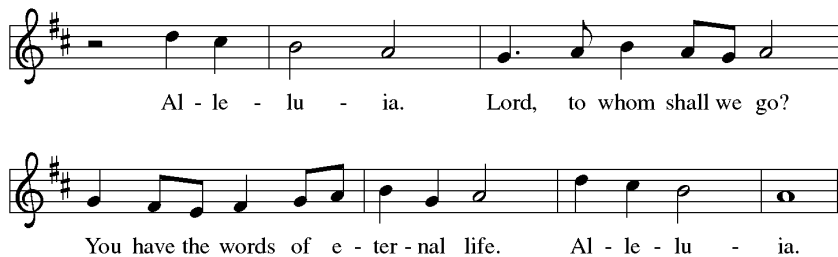
*This is the feast of victory for our God,
For the lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia! Alleluia!!*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, Lord of all, In Jesus you have made us all sisters and brothers in Christ. There is no distinction between Gentile and Jew. There is no separation that can remove any from fellowship in Christ's community. Blind us to our differences so that in unity we may proclaim your truth to all, for the sake of Jesus Christ in whom there is harmony and peace. Amen.

Welcome and Greeting

Gospel Acclamation *stand*



Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:29-32

The gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all
peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

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

Lesson

Acts 15:1-29

¹Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ²And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. ³So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. ⁴When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. ⁵But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

⁶The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. ⁷After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. ⁸And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. ¹⁰Now

therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? ¹¹On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

¹²The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. ¹³After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. ¹⁴Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. ¹⁵This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

¹⁶'After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up,

¹⁷so that all other peoples may seek the Lord —
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things ¹⁸known from long ago.'

¹⁹Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, ²⁰but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. ²¹For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues."

²²Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, ²³with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings. ²⁴Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us, though with no instructions from us, have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds, ²⁵we have decided unanimously to choose representatives and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: ²⁹that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymn 588

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment giv'n.
- 2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and a promised grace made good;
there is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.
- 3 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;

and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.

- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;
it is something more than all:
greater good because of evil,
larger mercy through the fall.
Make our love, O God, more faithful;
let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving
for the goodness of the Lord.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Ministry Announcements

Prayers of Intercession **Response:** hear our prayer.

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

Offering

www.engagedbygrace.org/offering



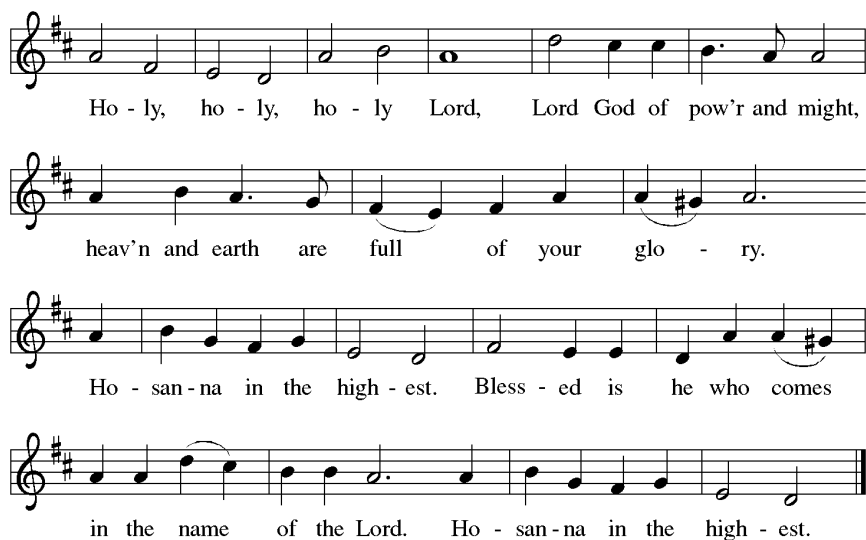
Offertory

Outbursts of Joy

- Cynthia Dobrinski

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord... be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

*All baptized believers of Christ as their Savior are invited to the table. Please approach the table as you are ready.
 Children are invited to receive a blessing. You may request gluten-free bread or grape juice by raising a finger to the communion server.*

Blessing

Closing Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

Hymn 654

- 1 The church's one foundation
 is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
 she is his new creation
 by water and the word.
 From heav'n he came and sought her
 to be his holy bride;
 with his own blood he bought her,
 and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
 yet one o'er all the earth,
 her charter of salvation
 one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 one holy name she blesses,
 partakes one holy food,
 and to one hope she presses,
 with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder
 this world sees her oppressed,
 by schisms rent asunder,
 by heresies distressed,
 yet saints their watch are keeping;
 their cry goes up: "How long?"
 And soon the night of weeping
 shall be the morn of song.

- 4 Through toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see you face to face.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **Amen.**

Choral Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis

-Stanford

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people: to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Go in peace. Love everyone always. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Chancel flowers today are given by Barbara Keller to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hans-Erich Keller.

Liturgical Ministers

Preacher & Presiding Minister: Pastor Steve Wachtman **Director of Equipping Ministers:** Laura Hudson
Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck **Director of Faith Formation:** Noelle Fox