



**I choose  
to give to  
this last  
the same  
as I give  
to you.**

**Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church**

**September 24<sup>th</sup>,  
2023**

**Seventeenth  
Sunday  
after  
Pentecost  
Lection 25**

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Southwest  
Sleepy Eye, MN

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**Matthew 20:14, NRSV**

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ LECTIOIN 25  
GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS SUNDAY ~ SERVICE OF THE WORD**



*Sundays after  
Pentecost*

**9:00 AM SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2023**

**THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES ALL!** *We are gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who beckons us to come to Him in faith and repentance. Thanks to Cheryl Neidt as she leads worship today. May the gospel of the Lord inspire and fill you with the Spirit! Fellowship & refreshments are available in the Library immediately following our Sunday worship. Sign up for a project today!*

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**GATHERING**

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**WE PREPARE...** *Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

**PRELUDE/ PARISH NOTICES/ RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**



*Refrain/Estrillo*



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -  
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón  
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

*To stanzas* *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.  
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té  
1 Take my hands and let them move  
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,  
3 Take my voice and let me sing  
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;  
at the im - pulse of thy love;  
not a mite would I with - hold;  
al - ways, on - ly for my King;  
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -  
take my feet and let them be swift and  
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry  
take my lips and let them be filled with  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

*Refrain/Estrillo*



pul - so de tu a - mor.  
beau - ti - ful for thee.  
pow'r as thou shalt choose.  
mes - sag - es from thee.  
be thy roy - al throne.

## 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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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# WORD

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## FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11

The first reading is in Jonah chapter 3, verse 10 thru chapter 4, verse 11.

*When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.*

*But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.*

*The Lord GOD appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."*

*But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"*

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

## SECOND READING

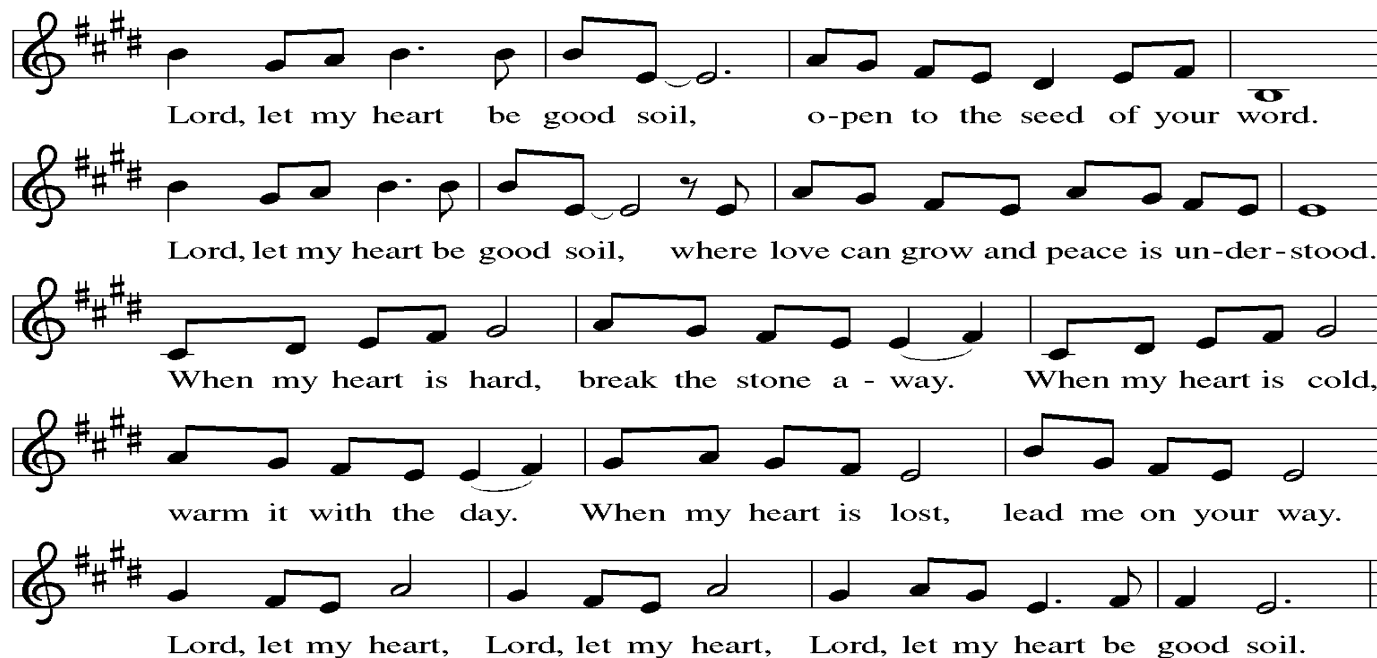
Philippians 1:21-30

The second reading is in Philippians chapter 1, verses 21 - 30.

*For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.*

*Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.*

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



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

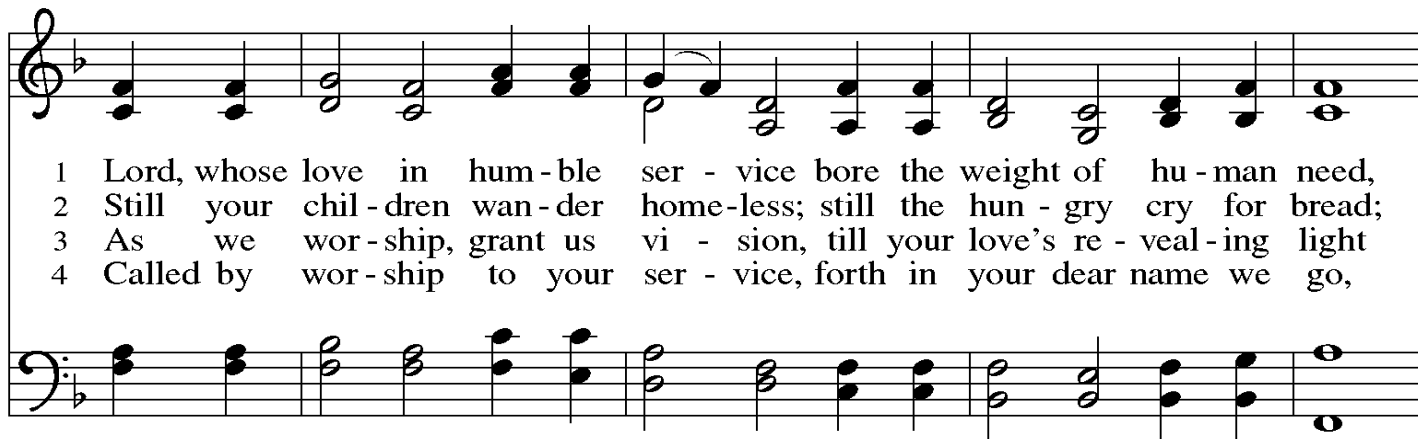
*For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*



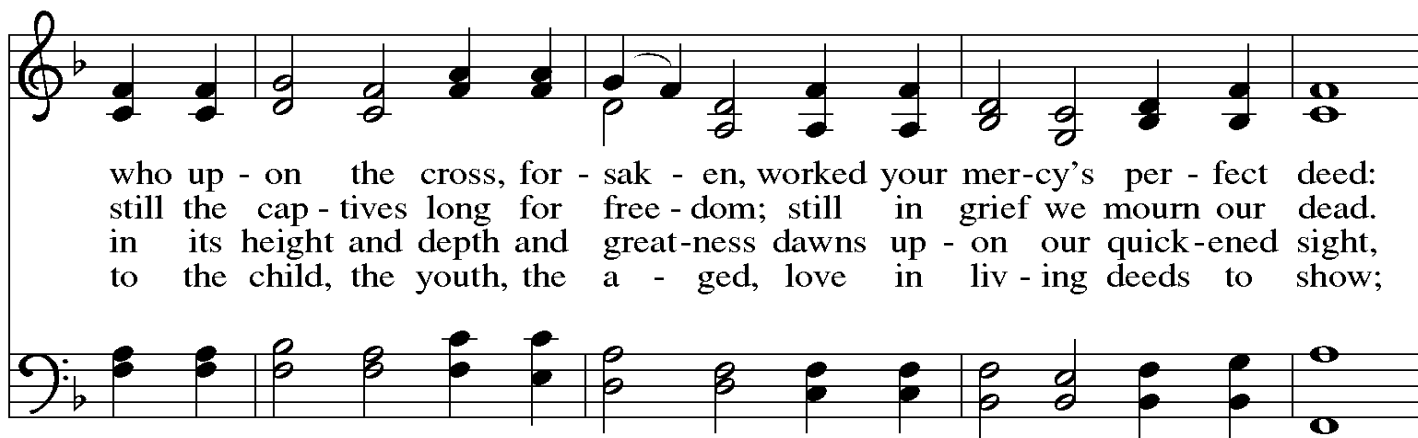
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

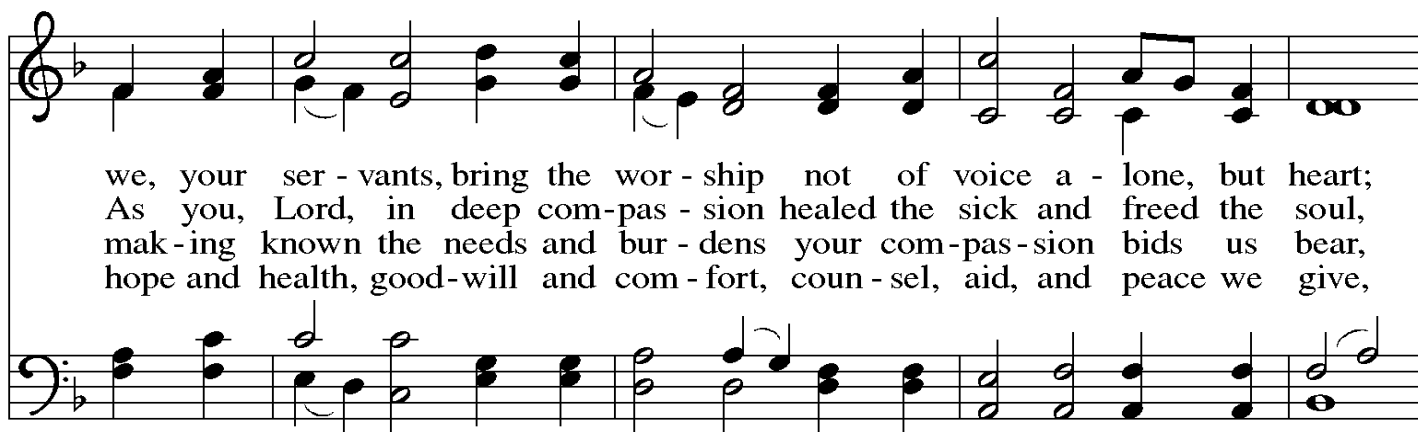
Cheryl Neidt



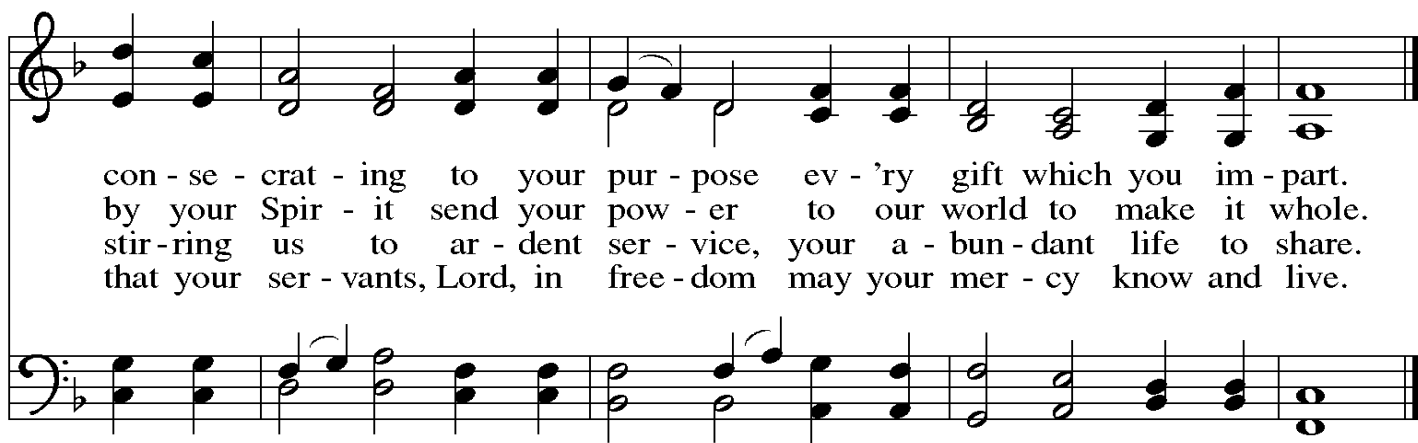
1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light  
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:  
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

## 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**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** God of grace, hear our prayer.

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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## THANKSGIVING

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### OFFERING

**"MARY'S CHOICE"**

*(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor)  
(The offering is brought forward by the ushers during the song)*

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

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## SENDING

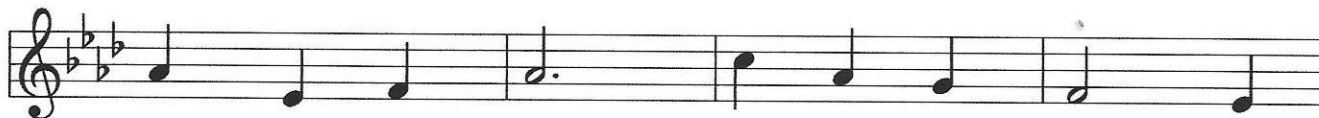
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### BLESSING

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.**

*God's Blessings to you*

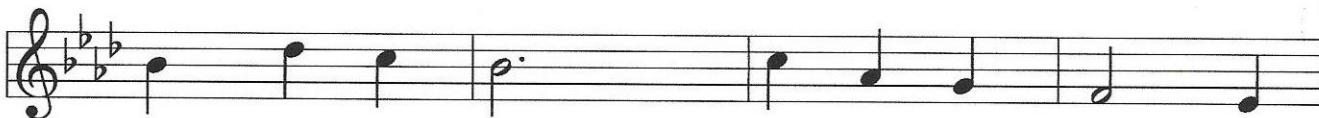


**SENDING SONG***God's Work Our Hands*

1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



## Our thanks to all who serve the Body of Christ

<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>9:00 Worship</b>
<b>Accompanist</b>	Mary Mulry	
<b>Acolyte</b>	Shea Evers	
<b>Reader</b>	Larry Baumgardt	
<b>Sound Techs</b>	Russ Sorensen	
<b>Greeters</b>	Rose Wall	
<b>Ushers</b>	Brian Polesky, Lee Johnson	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Klein	

Our Quilting group has been very busy! This year OraDell Fisher set the goal of 500 school bags, which are sewn, filled, and shipped to those in need. For God's Work Our Hands we filled the last of this year's 500 bags with our Sunday School kids on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Church School. Great thanks to OraDell and Alda Rydin who made those bags and to Cindy Anderson and her quilting crew for all the great mission work they accomplish every year. Trinity Women, who are WELCA, and with Thrivent cards and fundraising make a difference in our world. God's Work Our Hands is a year round project for this group. Thank You.



Darlene Brummund, WELCA President



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

**“God’s Work Our Hands” is TODAY!**

**Please help with the project of your choice following Worship!**

**We need help for your favorite projects!**

Board of Education~ Pack School Kits for Missions ~ Done Sept. 20th  
 Welca~ Supply and Pack School Kits for Missions~ Done Sept. 20th  
 Fellowship~ Cookies for Heros ~ Today in the basement  
 Stewardship~ Tie Fleece Blankets for Missions~ Downstairs  
 Church Properties~ Plant and Campus Cleanup~ On Campus today  
 Lay Ministry~ Pack Blizzard Bags~Beito's  
 Social Ministries~ Cook for Meals that Matter in the Kitchen

Youth~ Gift bags for our College Students  
 Evangelism~ Help with Trinity's Parade on August 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Thank You!

**“God’s Work Our Hands” is our way of honoring our Lord and helping other people. Together WE can all make a difference!**

**Please Help at any of these projects.**



## **Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Coordinator**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Sleepy Eye, MN**

**507 794-5051**

### **Job Description**

**Trinity Lutheran Church is a welcoming church focused on evangelism and mission in the community of Sleepy Eye and beyond. As a welcoming and nurturing church, we are shaped by prayer, worship, scripture and the Holy Spirit, where everyone's gifts are valued, where people's spiritual needs are met, and God's love with the world is shared.**

**Position: Faith Formation Youth Ministry Coordinator (Part-time)**

**Summary of Position: Faith Formation Youth Ministry Coordinator oversees and directs Christian Education for the youth and children's ministries, and manages the development and growth of the Christian Education and Youth programs while building relationships with families and their children.**

**Supervision: Christian Education Board and Board of Young People's Work**

**Supported by: Senior Pastor(s), Personnel Committee other church staff and members of Trinity Lutheran Church**

**15 hours per week which are flexible to meet the needs of the church based on planned activities and evenings and weekends required as needed.**

**Compensation: \$16/hr**

**Further information and Application on our website [www.trinitysleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org) under About Us/Employment or in the Church office.**

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# God is amazingly generous!

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of the vineyard workers
Monday	Titus 3:3-7	The generosity of God
Tuesday	1 Timothy 6:17-19	God provides richly
Wednesday	Ephesians 1:3-8	The riches of God's grace
Thursday	Romans 11:33-36	God owes us nothing
Friday	John 1:14-18	One blessing after another
Saturday	Psalms 65:9-13	God's bountiful gifts
Sunday	Matthew 21:23-32	Parable of the two sons

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

**“You are merciful, Lord! You are kind and patient and always loving.”**

Psalm 145:8 (CEV)

## **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, you are so generous to us. Help us to be generous to others. Amen. (Matthew 20:1-16)

Mealtime Prayer:

God so generous, God so good, we thank you for our daily food. Bless our meal and with us stay, guide and keep us through this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be kind to you and help you to live for him. Amen. (Psalm 145:8-9; Philippians 1:21)

## CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt you were treated unfairly.
- Jesus told a parable about some vineyard workers (read Matthew 20:1-16). How do you think you would have felt if you were one of those hired first? How would you have felt if you were one of those hired last?
- Should we be bothered if we see God being generous to others? Why or why not?

## DEVOTIONS

When Jonah was thrown overboard into the sea, God kept him from drowning by sending a whale to swallow him (Jonah 1:15-17).

Draw or cut out a picture of whale. When you gather for your evening meals this week, share ways in which God provided for you during the day. Write these onto “sticky notes” and attach them to your whale. Say a prayer of thanks to God for his generosity to your household.

## SERVICE

Psalm 145:4 says: *“Each generation will announce to the next your wonderful deeds.”* Talk about people from older or younger generations who have shared Christ with you. Draw them a picture, make them a card or write them a note to say thanks. If possible, invite them to your home to share a meal with you.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

September 21st is the day on which the Christian church remembers the apostle Matthew, one of Jesus' original twelve apostles (most of the Gospel readings for this year are from Matthew's Gospel). One day, while Matthew (also called Levi) was seated at his table of books and money, Jesus looked at him and said two words: *“Follow me.”* This was all that was needed to make Matthew rise and leave behind his pieces of silver to follow Christ. Matthew then hosted a great banquet at his home to which he invited his fellow tax-collectors. The Jews were surprised to see Jesus with a tax collector, but Jesus explained that he had come *“not to call the righteous, but sinners”* (Luke 5:27-32). Host a “Matthew Party” at your home this week. Invite friends from your church to join you. Share your favorite stories from the Gospel of Matthew and whatever information you can discover from books or the Internet about the later life and ministry of Saint Matthew.

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Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities

***Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions***





## Trinity's Mission Statement

*We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.*

**TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN** Send an email to [secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org) or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

**TRINITY'S WEBPAGE** Send an email to the church office at [secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org) and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

**TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK**  
"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on [www.sleepyeyeonline.com](http://www.sleepyeyeonline.com) watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

### Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	110
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$5388.92
September Giving: (\$22,920.00 Needed)	\$11,632.41
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$156,693.17
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$217,730.00

**We need everyone's help to meet our Budget!**



*Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.*

## This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Pastor Tim and Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep Pastor Tim safe as he travels to his next church and keep our Trinity family united as we continue worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Diane, Cindy, Sherry, Audrey, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Sarah, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more...

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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Call 800-847-4836 and have your ID Number available*

**"THE  
LAST  
WILL BE  
FIRST,  
AND THE  
FIRST  
LAST."**

**MATTHEW 20:16**

