

**Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church**

**July 30<sup>th</sup>,  
2023**

**Ninth Sunday  
after  
PENTECOST  
Lectionary 17**

217 Brackenridge  
Southwest  
Sleepy Eye, MN

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We know that all things  
work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called  
according to his purpose.

ROMANS 8:28



# NINTH WEEK AFTER PENTECOST

## ELW SERVICE OF THE WORD

9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Welcome to



**ALL ARE WELCOME!** *Jesus invites everyone, guests and visitors to join in receiving God's Word. We thank **Randy Armbruster** for leading our worship service today. To all the people gathered here, your presence and participation is a blessing to our worship experience together... Remind us again, O Lord, of your promise to be present wherever and whenever people are gathered in your name. Amen!*

## GATHERING

**WE PREPARE:** *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!*

### PRELUDE

### RINGING OF THE BELL / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. May God grant you entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG

*What a Friend we have in Jesus*

ELW #752



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## 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

Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



*You Raise Me Up*

**Randy Armbruster**

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# WORD

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## FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

The first reading is in 1 Kings chapter 3, verses 5 - 12.

*At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"*

*It pleased the LORD that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has.*

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

## SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

The second reading is in Romans chapter 8, verses 26 - 39.

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

*What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,*

*"For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to*

come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

ELW #661

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do. I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.' The word 'Refrain' is written above the fifth staff.

I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry  
to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**"

*He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."*

*He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."*

*The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this? They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."*

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



## MUSICAL MESSAGE

### 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 INTERCESSION

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

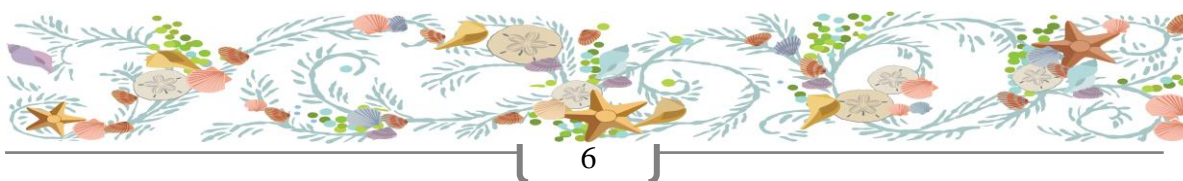
**Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick, especially **Diane, Cindy, Lauren, Sherry, Audrey, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Rodney, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlos, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Julia Ann, Linette, Tammy, John, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to all travelers, including our Pastor Tim, and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

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



# THANKSGIVING

## OFFERING

(PLEASE SIGN THE ATTENDANCE RECORD DURING THE OFFERING)

ELW #692

The musical score is written for a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef) in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating the key of D major. The score consists of eight systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, half notes, and rests, as well as triplets and slurs. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering." The score ends with a double bar line.

Chord symbols: F/G, G, C<sup>2</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm<sup>7</sup>, F/G, G, C<sup>2</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm<sup>7</sup>, F/G, G<sup>7</sup>/F, Em<sup>7</sup>, Em<sup>7</sup>/A, A, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>/G, Esus, D/F#, E/G#, Am, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>/E, Bb/C, Dm<sup>7</sup>sus2, Dm<sup>7</sup>, F/G, G, C<sup>2</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>, C<sup>2</sup>/E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm<sup>7</sup>, Dm<sup>7</sup>/G, C.

Lyrics: We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering.

## OFFERING PRAYER (PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NOISY OFFERING IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH)

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Together, let us pray with confidence the words our Savior gave 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.**

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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.**

### SENDING SONG

*How Great Thou Art*

ELW #856



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

#### *Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!



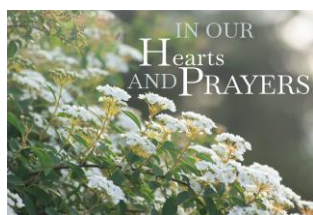
## DISMISSAL

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

## OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE THE BODY OF CHRIST

Sunday 9:00 am Worship		
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	
Acolyte	Anna Johnson	
Reader	Sue Pedersen	
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen	
Greeter	Keith & Sarah Lendt	
Ushers	Harold & Bonnie Pettis	
Altar Guild	Judy Johnson, Terry Newgord	

**Great thanks to you, Randy Armbruster, for leading our Worship Service this morning.**



*We extend our Sympathy to the Beito and Coulson families in the loss of **Julia Ann Knutson**, Sandy's mother and Julia's grandmother... 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....*

**Join us for the next "Breaking Bread Together" August 20th!  
Sign up in the office for the Fellowship and Fun!**



**Our Float in  
the Parade!**

Trinity's Evangelism Board has started planning a community project, "God's Work Our Hands", entering a church vehicle in the Sleepy Eye Summerfest Grand Parade this August 19 from 6pm -8pm.

**We are in need of:**

- parents and students to walk close to the curb handing out candy
- We are ordering bulk candy.
- We will decorate the unit in the church parking lot prior to the parade.

**We have 3 weeks left to make this a successful event!**

**A Thrivent Card has been approved to cover costs.**

**Please call Cindy Steffl with any questions at 507 227-0824.**

**SUMMER COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HAS BEGUN.** There is a signup sheet by the ramp door for your convenience. Coffee will always be available even if there is an open Sunday. Thank you for serving.



With the delicious meals available in the freezer located in room 109 just off the dining room we now need your help. The meals are to be given to people who are experiencing some sort of life changing event, be it a new baby, illness, a death in the family, or anyone you think would benefit from a tasty, readymade dinner. Remember, you are the hands of Jesus in our world.



*Thank you for being the hands of Jesus!*

This summer the Board of Social Ministry would like to challenge our congregation to support Ivy House in New Ulm through donations both monetary and actual. Ivy House (formerly known as the Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery) is a 24/7 crisis nursery which provides direct care to children aged 0-12 whose families are in crisis or a stressful situation. In addition to providing up to 72 hours of direct care they also connect families with community resources. You can learn more about Ivy House from their website: [ivyhousemn.org](http://ivyhousemn.org). Items needed by Ivy House include: Children's Activities: Play-Doh; Kinetic sand; Finger paints; Fidget toys. Personal Care: Pull-ups: Girls and boys (5T); Girls underwear sizes 10-12 or 14/16. House needs: Unscented laundry detergent; Clorox wipes, Dishwasher soap; Hand soap; Dish soap; Kleenex; Garbage bags. Office supplies: Postage stamps; Business size envelopes; Printer paper; HP 952XL toner - black and color. Other: Five point harness NEW car seats; New computer monitors. We will be collecting both monetary donations for Ivy House or individual items from this list. A basket will be placed in the narthex for your donations. We will be collecting donations through the end of August. Thank you in advance for your support.



*Remember...Our Food Shelf Box is in the back of the Sanctuary.  
The Good Work of this Church continues!*



July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Jesus is the greatest treasure!

## 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 13:31-33,44-52	Parables of the kingdom
Monday	Philippians 3:7-11	Nothing compares
Tuesday	Matthew 6:19-21	Treasures in heaven
Wednesday	1 Timothy 6:17-19	Lay up treasure
Thursday	1 Peter 2:4-7	Christ is a precious stone
Friday	2 Peter 1:1-4	Our faith is precious
Saturday	Proverbs 2:1-8	Hidden treasure
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds five thousand



## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

**“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”** Matthew 13:44 (NIV)

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

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, you are the one true treasure. May we seek after you ahead of all other things. Amen. (Matthew 13:44)

Mealtime Prayer:

Our hands we fold, our heads we bow. For food and drink, we thank God now. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's love hold you tight. May you have faith to trust in God's love, now and always. Amen.

## CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were excited to find or discover something.
- Jesus told a parable about a man who found a treasure hidden in the field and then sold everything he had to buy that field. What would you be willing to give up everything to have?
- How precious is Jesus to you? How precious are you to him?

## DEVOTIONS

Saint Paul tells us that God is always at work for the good of everyone who seeks to love God, even when times are difficult or when we can't understand God's workings (Romans 8:28). In your home devotional times this week, make a list of the ways you have experienced God working for good in your lives, even in the hard times. Say a prayer of thanks to God for never-ending love.

## SERVICE

Purchase a packet or packets of small seeds. Cut up a sheet of card stock paper into strips the size of bookmarks. On one side of each strip, write the words, “*God has great plans for you – Matthew 13:31-32.*” Glue seeds onto the other side. Laminate or cover it with clear contact paper. Give these away to your friends or neighbors.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Plan a fun household activity reflecting one of Jesus' parables about the kingdom of God:

1. Plant seeds in indoor pots or in your garden (Matthew 13:31-32)
2. Bake bread from basic ingredients (Matthew 13:33)
3. Go on a neighborhood hunt for “treasure” (Matthew 13:44-46)
4. Go fishing (Matthew 13:47-48)

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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  
CHECK IT OUT!!**

*"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. *Please pick up your statements and envelopes in your mailbox. Thank You!*

### Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	52
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$4040.97
July Giving: (\$28,650.00 .Needed)	\$14,203.07
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$127,455.51
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$171,890.00



*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 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, Lauren, Sherry, Audrey, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Rodney, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlos, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Julia Ann, 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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