



Emmanuel Trinity Lutheran Church

September 27, 2026 at 10am
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship Service

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*For those joining worship via Zoom, we are celebrating Holy Communion today. If you wish to participate, please get something to represent the wine and the bread. We invite you to participate in worship by sharing your prayers in the **Chat box**. Write your prayers there and press "enter." You will be muted during the service so that you don't hear reverberations, but please speak and sing as you desire. You can unmute yourself if you wish to speak at the end of the service.*

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

C: **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.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

God is Here!

ELW 526

God is here! As we your people, meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure, what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit, into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us, of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome, in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant, seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living, to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000 Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings.

C: **Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die. ²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

PSALM 25:1-9

A: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C: **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, or let my enemies triumph over me.**

A: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

A: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

C: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

A: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

C: You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

A: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:23-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:23-32

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?'

²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

THE MESSAGE

Seminarian Lorie Garcia

HYMN

O Master, Let Me Walk With You

ELW 818

O Master, let me walk with you, in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
Help me the slow of heart to move, by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,
In hope that sends a shining ray, far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

THE APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us profess our faith in the words of the 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

A: Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially.... Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

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A: Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need, especially.... Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

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A: Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

We bring our offerings of our time, our talents and our treasures to serve God's mission.

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

C: 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.

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.

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways, to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace, to know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your word, and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands, offend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week at ETLC

September 27 – Sunday Worship Service, 10am

September 30 – Encountering the Word, 7pm

Upcoming at ETLC

October 1 – Executive Committee Meeting, 5pm

October 4 – Got Questions? 9am

October 4 – Sunday Worship Service, 10am

October 6 – Outreach Meeting, 10:30am

October 7 – Worship & Music Meeting, 10:30am

October 7 – Encountering the Word, 7pm

October 8 – Council Meeting, 5pm

October 10 – Food Bank Open, 10am

*The altar flowers this month are in memory of Jimmy Houck's birthday - September 8.
Given by his mom, Ginny.*

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

We are collecting new boys' and girls' underwear (sizes 4-8) for the Carroll Manor Elementary School nurse's office. We are also collecting kids snacks for the counselors to provide to hungry kids. Bring your contributions any Sunday during September.

PASTOR KIM ON VACATION

Pastor Kim will be returning from vacation on Tuesday, September 29. Pastor Dave Simpson will be providing emergency pastoral care until she returns. You can reach him at 443-261-4255.

FOOD BANK

On the first Sunday of each month, we invite you to bring in food donations. The food bank needs the following items: ***cake mix, dried beans (not black), ketchup, vegetable soup, salad dressing, mayo, cream of mushroom soup, honey, sugar, flour, toothbrushes, women's deodorant, and bar soap.***

MATCHING HUNGER GRANT

ETLC's Food Bank has been awarded a Matching Hunger Grant by the Hunger Task Force of the DE-MD Synod. If we raise \$500 for the food bank, the synod will match that amount. Funds are for use by the end of this year, so please consider making a donation soon to the food bank. Please designate "food bank" on your checks, envelopes, or online donations. Thank you for your continued support of the food bank and of the Frederick community.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 18th. At 2pm, we will have an outdoor service to bless the animals. Bring your animal friends, invite your neighbors, and gather around the outdoor cross for a blessing!

GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE?

Please send a write up of what you'd like included in the weekly announcement to Kerry at office@emmanueltrinity.org by NOON on Tuesday to be included in the following Sunday's announcements.

GOT QUESTIONS?

Got Questions is taking a break for the rest of September. Starting again on October 4th, join Pastor Kim in the gathering space or on zoom (using the worship link) at 9am on Sundays. Bring your questions or come to hear other people's questions. We will be talking about what it means to be Lutheran. All are welcome. Want to see previous discussions? Check out our YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/@Emmanueltrinity>

2026 COMMUNITY TABLE

ETLC will be serving dinner at the community table on Sunday, November 22, 2026.

COUNCIL NOMINEES

The congregational annual meeting and council elections are right around the corner. The nominating committee has asked you to consider running for council. We are still asking and praying for your discernment of calling. During the next month, members of the nominating committee will be personally asking members to run for council.

2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Executive Committee members of the church council are: Ruth Cramer, President; Angelee Mullins, Vice-President; Emily O'Hara, Secretary; MaryAnne Golling, Treasurer, and Lasse Syversen, Mission & Outreach Chairman. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact any one of the Council members.

PRAYER LIST

Need a name placed on the prayer list? If there is someone who you want us to include just on the current Sunday, you may write it on the prayer book on the podium currently in the front of the church near the gathering space door. If you have any questions about the prayer list and how it is determined or maintained, feel free to ask Pastor Kim.

REMINDER: Never send cash or gift cards in response to online, text, or phone requests. Pastor Kim will never reach out asking for gift cards or money by email, text, video message, or phone call - even if it might look like or sound like her. Don't get scammed.