



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

“THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST”

REV. TIMOTHY D. SMITH

7:30AM & 9AM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 IN THE SANCTUARY

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

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“THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST”

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AS WE GATHER When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was “bound with chains as a criminal” (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy “the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul’s words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

LSB 837, v.1, 3-4, 6

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, with lyrics 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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INVOCATION

- L** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- L** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- L** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.
L Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C** Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

KYRIE

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Gloria in Excelsis”

LSB 154

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:6-9

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 27:1, 7, 9-10, 13-14 (NIV)

Soloist: The LORD is my light and my salvation – of whom shall I be afraid, of whom shall I be afraid.

Refrain (ALL):

The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion of
whom shall I be a - fraid of whom shall I be a - fraid.

*Soloist: Hear my voice when I call, LORD; be merciful to me and answer me. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior. **REFRAIN***

*Soloist: Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me. I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. **REFRAIN***

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘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.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE’S CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING (9am) "Psalm 8" & "Amigos de Cristo"
4K, 5K & 1st Grade Students

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

HYMN OF THE DAY "Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road"



1. Though thought-less thou - sands choose the road that leads the
2. In Christ, by faith, I wish to live, from him_ my
3. Christ is_ my ev - er - last - ing all, to him_ I
4. Soon will_ the Lord, my life,_ ap - pear; soon shall I
5. Soon will_ the saints in glo - ry meet, soon walk through



soul_ a - way_ from God, this hap - pi - ness, dear
 life,_ my all,_ re - ceive, to him_ de - vote my
 look, on him_ I call; he will_ my_ ev - 'ry
 end_ my tri - als here, leave sin_ and sor - row,
 ev - 'ry gold - en street and sing_ on_ ev - 'ry



Lord, be mine: to_ live_ and die_ en - tire - ly thine.
 fleet - ing hours, serve him_ a - lone with all_ my pow'rs.
 need sup - ply in_ time and through e - ter - ni - ty.
 death and pain. To_ live_ is Christ; to die_ is gain.
 bliss - ful plain, "To_ live_ is Christ; to die_ is gain."

SERMON

“The Gospel of Christ”

Rev. Timothy D. Smith

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MISSION STATEMENT: *To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.*

VISION STATEMENT: *To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

C 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.

✠ DISMISSAL ✠

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- L** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

LSB 924



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
 pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
 In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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PRESIDING MINISTER: *Rev. Timothy D. Smith, Associate Pastor*

LITURGIST: *Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor*

ORGANIST: *Mr. Matthew Hoehne, Director of Music*

MUSICIANS: *7:30am—Matt Hoehne, cantor; 9am—Students from 4K, 5K & 1st Grade*

ELDERS: *7:30am—Bob Zimmerman, Tim Rock; 9am—Dan Schwantes, Dan Oelke*

ACOLYTES: *9am—Brooklyn Calmes, Emmalin Grosnick*

TECH: *9am—Cooper Egner*

WELCOME TO TRINITY!

Your presence is very special to us. May your faith be strengthened and your life enriched as you join us in worship to God!

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY—

7:30am & 9am Sunday

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY—

5pm Saturday

- **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**—Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of the month in the Sanctuary. We invite those who have been instructed in the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church to receive the Sacrament of the Altar. Others are asked to speak with a pastor before receiving the Sacrament. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request.*
- **LARGE PRINT**—large print copies of the bulletin are available on the table in the Narthex or you may ask the usher for one.
- **CHILDREN'S BULLETINS**—for ages 3-6 & 7-12 years, are available on the table in the Narthex.
- **NURSERY**—for children ages 3 & under. The upper level nursery is located near the Church Lounge on Sundays. *Please Note: The upper level nursery will be unstaffed unless volunteers are available.*
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**—Sunday School is available for children 4 years old through 6th Grade at 10:15am on Sunday mornings during the school year. Christian Education courses for adults and young adults are held at 10:15am on Sunday mornings & various times throughout the week during the school year. Trinity is committed to Christian Education through the 4K-8th grade School and our Childcare (infant through 13 years).
- **ELEVATOR**—is located next to the nursery on the upper level. On the lower level the elevator is located across from Classroom #101, which is past the offices. Use as needed.
- **RESTROOMS**—Narthex level across from the Library, lower level next to the elevator.
- **JOINING TRINITY**—We invite you to become part of this Christian community! If interested in membership, please speak with an elder or pastor, and we will contact you.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To gather people who grow in faith and share Jesus with all.

VISION STATEMENT:

To strive to be a mature and faithful congregation that is focused on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.