

A Special U.S. Semiquincentennial Holy Communion Service

July 5, 2026



PRELUDE

“America the Beautiful”

Bates, Ward

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

© 2005 G3 Worship Music, CCLI# 4582148

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

PROCESSIONAL

“God Bless Our Native Land”

ELW 891

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

Let us bring every burden to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy, we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Crowded Table”

Hemby, McKenna & Carlile

Sung by Jeanie Ruhland, Mary Heider, Suzannah Walters

Accompanied by Amy Boyles on Flute

© 2019 Songs of Universal, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

A reading from Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 145:8-14

We give voice to God's faithfulness, participating in the living story of God's mercy and love by echoing the ancient prayers of God's people.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.
They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

A reading from Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades.

"For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Dave Hedlin

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God of Grace and God of Glory ”

ELW 705

We respond to the promises of God in song.

STATEMENT OF FAITH *(from ‘Dakota Road: Remembering the Promise’ edition)*

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us.

Please rise...let us proclaim our statement of faith.

We believe God is our creator and has promised to love us always. We believe Jesus Christ, fully God and fully human, is God's promise living among us. He experienced all the pain and joy and challenges of human life. God's forgiving love was revealed to us when Jesus suffered death on the cross. He came back to new life and has promised us new life in unity with God. We believe the Holy Spirit is God's promise touching our spirits and animating our lives, guiding us - even through our most difficult moments. We believe God is among us in community. Mysterious, yet very real, God promises to be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, please respond: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we commemorate 250 years of striving toward liberty and justice in our country, let us offer our gifts in hope, working together for a more compassionate, inclusive, and peaceful world.

With gratitude for the past and commitment to the future, we offer our gifts and ourselves in service to God's love for all people, everywhere.

OFFERING/ OFFERING HYMN

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

ELW 888

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land.

Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION/THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: DIALOGUE

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth...As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your ☩ Holy Spirit in this meal,...Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one, we are bold to pray as Christ taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN 1**“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”****ELW 777***Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.***COMMUNION HYMN 2****“This is My Song”****ELW 887****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***We ask for strength to live what we have received.*

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION IN CIVIC LIFE

As we prepare to be sent out to love and serve the Lord,...I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

I will, and I ask God to help me.

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression...Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

BLESSING*God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.*

The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ☩ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL**“The Church of Christ in Every Age”****ELW 729***With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.***SENDING***We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.*

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE**“This is My Song” (Instrumental)****Balltzglier, Lee, Russell***As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.*

© Centricity Music Publishing, CCLI# 7190099

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

July 5, 2026

- **Today, Sunday, July 5th** Pastor Dave Hedlin will be coming from New Lenox, IL to preach and preside at Holy Communion.
- Trinity Friends, here is **an opportunity to serve** and share some of God's love by **participating in the meal train for the Reinert family**. Please consider making a meal and delivering it to them. Please sign up using this link: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/0r6mm9>
- **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**
A **Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately following worship on **Sunday, July 12**, to discuss and vote on a proposal to enter into a financing agreement with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to support the Education Building HVAC project, the Education Building roofing project, and any additional property improvement projects recommended by the Property Committee and approved by the Church Council. A **quorum of 50 voting members is required**, so your attendance is important. Please plan to remain after worship on July 12th for this important meeting as we discern together the best path forward for our congregation's facilities and ministry. Thank you for your participation and commitment to the life and future of our church.
- Pastor Phill will be on Summer Break June 29th - July 5th. In his absence, Pastor Bill Callister (St. Paul ELCA, Streator) will provide emergency pastoral care coverage. Please call the office if needed.
- **Please join us on July 12th for our Temple Talk** by Jane Goetz about Thrivent grants for Trinity Lutheran Church.
- **The theme for this year's Vacation Bible School is "River of Life."** In VBS, participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important "ports" during the week to hear Bible stories about water. They will also hear about communities working to restore watersheds, to protect rights to water and to ensure safe water for everyone. There will also be fun, with games and other activities to celebrate God's gift of water and remind us of our important calling as God's children to be good stewards of creation. **VBS will run July 13th through July 17, 2026** at 717 Chambers St., Ottawa. Please contact the office during business hours (9-2, Mon - Thurs) or send an email to tlcoffice@trinitylutheranottawa.com to sign up!
- The next **Trinity Lutheran Blood Drive** is happening **Wednesday, July 22nd, 12pm to 5pm**. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org. Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Contact Carol Wahlstrom for more information, carolwahlstrom@gmail.com, and to volunteer.
- **Bible study will be suspended through July**, resuming at 1pm on Wednesday, August 5th in the Education Building Community Room.
- **Please support Mission's 2026 Growing Project.** The funds raised will help people (mostly women) increase their food production in Guatemala's Western Highlands. **Our goal is to raise \$25,000** to help. We're planning a number of activities to inform about the project and raise funds. All help is welcome! Last year's project raised almost \$29,000! Thank you for all of your support!
- Reminder that there are 2 large print binders available for use on the tables by each entrance in the Sanctuary.

- **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

. Please keep Trisha (a friend of Darlene's) in your prayers.

- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- May Income = \$16,961.66 (Income YTD = \$101,957.38)
- May Expense = \$20,127.44 (Expense YTD = \$102,561.09)
- Income Less Expense = -\$3,165.78 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$603.71)

- **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (7/6):**
 - 9a Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
 - 4:30p Mission Meeting (Community Room)
 - 6p Christian Ed Meeting (Board Room)
- **Tuesday (7/7):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (7/8)** *No Bible Study for the Month of July*
- **Thursday (7/9):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 1p Trinity Stitchers (Fellowship Hall)
- **Friday (7/10):**
 - 7a Sunrise Rotary
- **Saturday (7/11):** *World Population Day!* 
- **Sunday (7/12):**
 - 10a Holy Communion
 - 11a Congregational Meeting & Vote

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<u>Sunday, July 5, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: <i>Beth Schuett</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Beth Schuett</i> Altar Guild: <i>Amy Boyles, Jan Beckman</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:	<u>Sunday, July 12, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: Communion Assistants: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Altar Guild: <i>Debbie Guenther, Becky Glaser</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers: <i>In memory of Greg Matteson from Cheryl Matteson</i>