

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*September 6, 2026*



**PRELUDE**

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

**WELCOME STATEMENT**

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

**TEMPLE TALK**

Butterfly Garden

Alex Reed

**PROCESSIONAL**

"Spirit of Gentleness"

ELW 396

**GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our hope, our heart, our home.

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. **Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of † Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

A reading from Genesis.

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSIVE READING

*Inspired by Psalm 148*

Praise the Holy One from the highest heavens. Praise the Source of Life from every corner of creation.

**We join the song of the universe, offering gratitude, wonder, and praise.**

Sun and moon, shine with joy. Stars scattered across the night, sparkle with hope. Vast skies and life-giving waters, sing your ancient song.

**All creation reveals the sacred. Every part of the cosmos belongs in the chorus.**

Mountains and hills, forests and fields; oceans deep and rivers flowing; wild creatures and gentle companions, winged ones and crawling ones—

**Together we celebrate the beauty of the earth and our calling to care for it.**

Fire and rain, wind and snow; seasons turning, storms and calm— all follow the rhythms of creation.

**The Holy One is present in every season, bringing renewal, wisdom, and life.**

Leaders and neighbors, elders and children, every nation, every culture, every language, every identity and every generation—

**Each person bears sacred worth. Each voice belongs in God's beloved community.**

Those with power and those whose voices have been ignored, those who rejoice and those who grieve, those full of faith and those still searching

**All are invited into the circle of grace. None are beyond the reach of love.**

The Holy One lifts up the weary, strengthens the vulnerable, and calls us to lives of justice, compassion, and peace.

**We will seek justice. We will practice mercy. We will walk humbly in love.**

Let everything that has breath, everything that lives and grows, seen and unseen

**Praise the Holy One! May our lives become songs of gratitude, our communities places of belonging, and our world a living hymn of hope. Alleluia!**

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Acts 17:22a, 24-28*

*God gives life and breath to all mortals.*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

Holy wisdom, holy word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Celtic Alleluia”

ELW 174

## **GOSPEL READING**

*John 1: 1-5*

*All things come into being through the Word.*

The gospel according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **SERMON**

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Beloved, God’s Chosen”

ELW 648

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH: 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**

*After each prayer petition, please respond: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.*

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

From the goodness of the earth and the work of many hands, we have received much. Let us return our gifts in gratitude, joining God’s renewing work in the world.

**We offer ourselves and our gifts with joy, that all creation may know justice, peace, and abundant life.**



**Chorus**

You are God of the seed, God of the soil  
God of the hope, God of the toil  
You are God of the rain, God of the sun  
God of the harvest with blessings for everyone

From the fields and the gardens come your blessed gifts of life  
Colors blossom, vines are dancing roots uplifted with our thanks  
(Chorus)

From the womb of all creation springs the fruit, the living light  
Grace abundant, mercy flowing nourishing and bringing life  
(Chorus)

**Bridge**

Where there is hunger where there is need  
may we share your bounty may we always see  
(Chorus)

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE**

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,...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY****Brenton Brown**

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**Verse**

Holy holy God Almighty  
Who was and is to come  
God of glory You're so worthy  
All the saints bow down

**Chorus**

Holy is Your name in all the earth  
Righteous are Your ways so merciful  
Everything You've done is just and true  
Holy holy God are You (x2)

**Bridge (Sing Twice)**

All blessing all honor belongs to You  
All power all wisdom is Yours

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory...to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Modern Version*

**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**

**"One Body Broken"**

**Jay Beech**

One body broken, words now are spoken,  
For you, for you.  
One who has suffered, one life he offered  
For you, for you.  
Forgive then he said, broken he bled,  
Given and shed for you.

We once divided, now are united  
In Christ, in Christ.  
God's ancient promise poured out upon us  
In Christ, in Christ.  
Baptized we're whole, we're strangers no more.  
All is restored in Christ.

One body gathered, here to remember  
In peace, in peace.  
One who is able calls to the table  
In peace, in peace.  
This wine and this bread, a new covenant.  
Take and be fed in Peace.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of our salvation,...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating ✚ Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. **Amen.**

## **RECESSIONAL**

**"Go Make Disciples"**

**ELW 540**

## SENDING

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**

Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“To Be Like You”

Matt Crocker

### WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

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

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Sunday, September 6, 2026</u></b><br>Crucifer/Acolyte:<br>Ushers:<br>Lector: <i>Justin Reed</i><br>Communion Assistants:<br>Altar Guild: <i>Jan Beckman, Kari Castelli</i><br>Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i><br>Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever &amp; Mary Heider</i><br>Altar Flowers: | <b><u>Sunday, September 13, 2026</u></b><br>Crucifer/Acolyte:<br>Ushers:<br>Lector: <i>Shannon Matteson</i><br>Communion Assistants: <i>Shannon Matteson, Mike Matteson, Ann Enke</i><br>Altar Guild: <i>Anne Enke, Diane Wahl</i><br>Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i><br>Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever &amp; Mary Heider</i><br>Altar Flowers: |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◦ Aug Income = \$20,666.62         | (Income YTD = \$157,804.29)          |
| ◦ Aug Expense = \$18,115.66        | (Expense YTD = \$157,297.15)         |
| ◦ Income Less Expense = \$2,550.96 | (Income Less Expense YTD = \$507.14) |

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

September 6, 2026

- **SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR JESUS TO THE NEXT GENERATION**

**Teach a Sunday Session lesson!** You can lead on already designed and prepared for you or you may create your own. Session themes are listed next to each date on the sign up sheet on the information Kiosk. Put your name on the line next to the date you want to lead a lesson, and the Christian Education Committee will prepare everything you need ( a member of the Committee will accompany you, also). Thank you for helping to speak the good news of God's love for all people to our youth. Sharing your faith makes a difference!

- **Help Us Open the Community Clothing Closet!**

In collaboration with **Partners in Pride**, Trinity is creating a **free, gender-affirming community clothing closet** in the former Rummage Sale room off Fellowship Hall. We have lots of great clothing ready to go-and we're hoping to open the closet by October! Now we just need a few volunteers to help organize the space, arrange the clothing, and make it welcoming and easy to use. Would you be willing to lend a hand one **Sunday morning after worship or sometime during the week?** Even a few hours would make a big difference. **Sign up at the back of the church with a day and time that works for you.** With a little help, we can get this important ministry and community outreach up and running!

- **Fall Book Club: The Divine Art of Dying**

How do we prepare to live well all the way to life's end? What does our Christian faith have to say about hope, letting go, reconciliation, gratitude, and the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God? This Fall, TLC Book Club invites you into a thoughtful and compassionate conversation as we read *The Divine Art of Dying* by Herbert Anderson and Karen Speerstra. Written by a pastoral theologian and a hospice patient, the book explores the spiritual journey of preparing for our own deaths-not with fear, but with honesty, faith, and grace. Pick up your copy from

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/9781506478876/The-Divine-Art-of-Dying-Second-Edition>

Please note: this is not a class about dying; it is a conversation about living faithfully in light of God's promise. This will be a welcoming space for conversation, reflection, and prayer. *All are welcome!*

We will meet on **Tuesdays at 6pm, in the Education Building Community Room:**

**September 8:** Read Part 1

**September 22:** Read Part 3

**September 15:** Ready Part 2

**September 29:** Read Part 4

- **Rotary Club** will be hosting a **Culver's Night** on **Wednesday, September 16th, 5-8pm. Come out and join the fun!**

- **Rally Day** will be Sunday, **September 13th, 9am. Volunteers are needed for Rally Day!** The Volunteer Sign Up Sheet is in the back of the Sanctuary by Java Junction. Come sign up! Have fun and help us make this a successful event!

- The next **Trinity Lutheran Blood Drive** is happening **Wednesday, September 16th, 12pm to 5pm.** For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org). Appointments are preferred but not necessary. Contact Carol Wahlstrom for more information, [carolwahlstrom@gmail.com](mailto:carolwahlstrom@gmail.com) , and to volunteer.

**At our last blood drive** on August 19th, **the Red Cross collected 21 units of blood!** Thank you Trinity Lutheran for giving your time, your generosity and the gift of life!

- **Affirmation class and first Sunday Session** will begin at **9am September 20th.**

- **Sunday, September 20th is Quilt Sunday** this year. Quilt Sunday is a beautiful display of the Trinity Stitchers' work laid out on the pews in the Sanctuary. You don't want to miss this!

- **German Dinner Tickets** are on sale now at \$20 each. Tickets can be purchased at the Office during regular business hours, from any Rotary member or by calling 815-343-7655. Save the date in your calendar; **Friday, September 25th 5-7pm** at Trinity Lutheran Church. Proceeds support Rotary's scholarships for Marquette Academy, Ottawa High School Opportunity School, IVCC, and Trinity Rose Montessori School.

- **Mission and Outreach Committees want to express their thanks to everyone who supported last Sunday's free community meal.** Whether you provided food items or helped out serving in the kitchen, your assistance was greatly appreciated. Approximately 100 meals were served. Thank you for sharing some TLC love in our community!



- **Save the Date! Saturday, October 10th, 6pm**, in collaboration with Partners In Pride, Trinity will be showing “**1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture.**” This **free showing** is of a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946. It chronicles the discovery of never-before-seen archives at Yale University which unveil astonishing new revelations, and casts significant doubt on any biblical basis for LGBTQIA+ prejudice. Featuring commentary from prominent scholars as well as opposing pastors, including the personal stories of the film’s creators. 1946 is at once challenging, enlightening, and inspiring.
- **Partners in Pride are in need of hangers for their Community Closet.** If you have any extras please bring them to the Church Office in the Education Building, Mon-Fri, 9-2 pm.
- **The 2027 calendars are in!** The suggested donation is \$25. However, people are asked to give as their heart leads. Calendars are available by contacting either Kate Reed (815) 830-2061 or Marj Nelson (815) 973-1286 by phone or text. There are also a few in the Office for purchase. Profits from the sale of the calendar will go towards funding the Growing Hope Globally Project.
- Another **Objective of the Growing Hope Globally Project** is to implement and consolidate short marketing chains, community fairs, and local public procurement that favor fair prices for producers and consumers and prioritize the exchange of fresh, nutritious, and culturally relevant products; such as to establish value chains for avocado, sheep, and textile products. **Please consider donating to this worthy cause!** 
- As announced, **Church Council and Pastor Phil are prayerfully exploring a potential partnership with Open Table United Church of Christ.** Open Table’s leadership has approached Trinity about using available space on the main floor of the Education Building as they consider their future facility needs.

No decision has been made. If an agreement is reached, the arrangement could provide additional opportunities for shared worship, fellowship, and community ministry, while generating at least \$1,000 per month in additional income for Trinity. The Council recognizes that there are practical questions to consider, including scheduling, building use, responsibilities, liability, and finances. Just as importantly, the congregation is invited to consider what sharing its building might say about Trinity’s commitment to hospitality, welcome, and making room for its neighbors.

**Congregational conversations will be scheduled for after worship on Sunday, September 6th and Sunday, September 13th (Rally Day).** This will be an opportunity for Trinity members to ask questions, share concerns, and listen together. Questions may be submitted in advance to Pastor Phil or Council Officers Mike Matteson and Carol Wahlstrom. Please join the Council in prayerful discernment as Trinity considers how God may be calling our congregation to use the space entrusted to it. Thank you!

- **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Please pray for Sandy’s health and Kim Wahl’s health.

- **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- |                           |      |                                                |
|---------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------|
| ○ <b>Monday (9/7):</b>    |      | <i>Office Closed in Honor of Labor Day</i>     |
| ○ <b>Tuesday (9/8):</b>   | 10a  | Sit Fit (Community Room)                       |
|                           | 6p   | Book Club (Education Building)                 |
|                           | 7p   | Finance Committee (Board Room)                 |
| ○ <b>Wednesday (9/9)</b>  | 1p   | Bible Study (Community Room)                   |
|                           | 6:30 | Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)                   |
| ○ <b>Thursday (9/10):</b> | 10a  | Sit Fit (Community Room)                       |
|                           | 1p   | Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)                |
| ○ <b>Friday (9/11):</b>   |      | <i>Patriot Day</i>                             |
| ○ <b>Saturday (9/12):</b> |      | Noon Voter Registration                        |
| ○ <b>Sunday (9/13):</b>   |      | <i>Pastor’s 5 year anniversary at Trinity!</i> |
|                           |      | <i>Rally Day!</i>                              |
|                           | 9a   | Sunday Session                                 |
|                           | 10a  | Holy Communion (Sanctuary)                     |