HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Week One-The Joy of Generosity**

*[Jesus says] "There is more happiness in giving than receiving." Acts 20:35 (GNT)*

**19th Sunday after Pentecost – Year A**
**October 4, 2026**

**Holy Trinity's Purpose Statement:**
*Gathering in faith and joyfully sharing Christ's love for the world.*

**Prelude:** "Rhapsody" arr. by Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

**Welcome to Worship and Announcements**

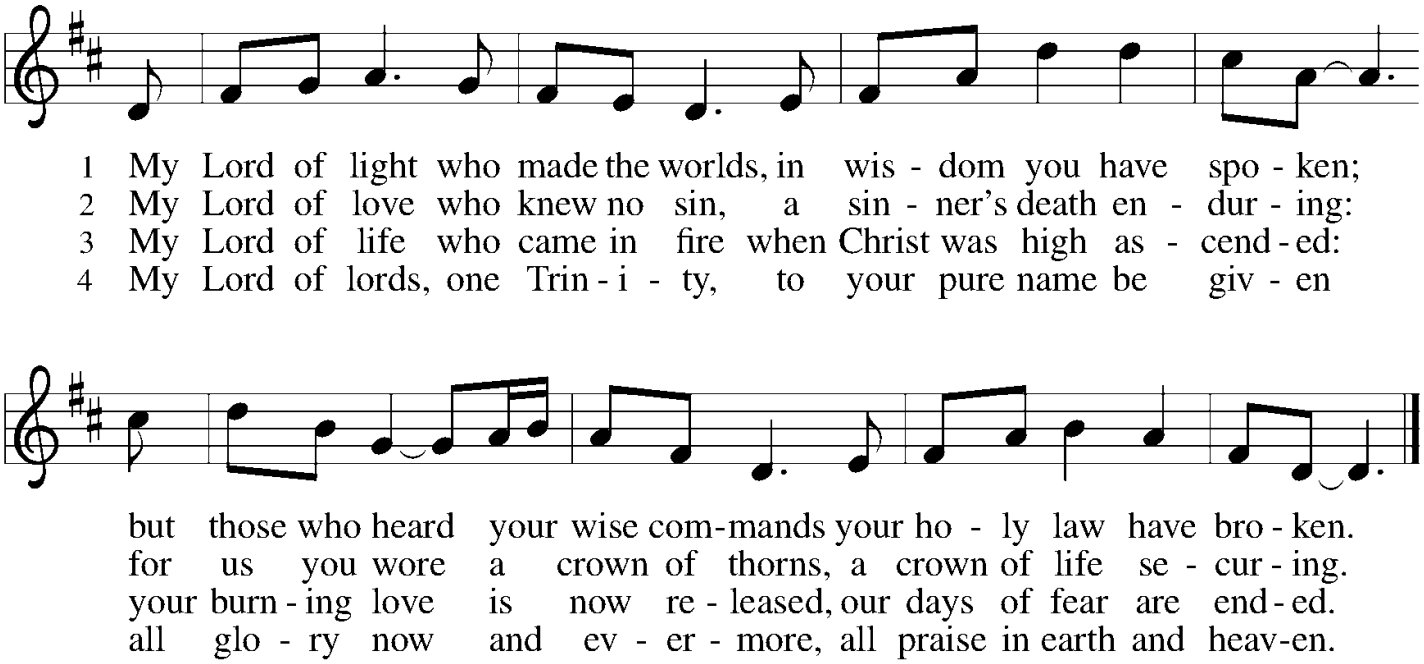
***Confession and Forgiveness:** (**Please stand as you are able.)*

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.*

P Compassionate God,
**All 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.**

***Gathering Hymn:** "My Lord of Light" ELW 832 *One License: A-727907*




Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune
Text © 1980 by Jubilate Hymns, admin. 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.**

***The Prayer of the Day**

P Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**Kids Word:** Pr. Jerry O'Neal

**Our first reading is from Isaiah 5:1-7**

*The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.*

1 I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.
2 He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes.
3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes?
5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.
6 I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.
7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

L Word of God. Word of life. **C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:7-15**

(Read responsively between Lector and **Congregation**, which is in bold print.)

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; you cast out the nations and planted it.**
9 You cleared the ground for it; it took root and filled the land.
10 **The mountains were covered by its shadow and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
11 You stretched out its tendrils to the sea and its branches to the river.
12 **Why have you broken down its wall, so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
14 **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;**
15 behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

**Our second reading is from Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.*

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:
5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

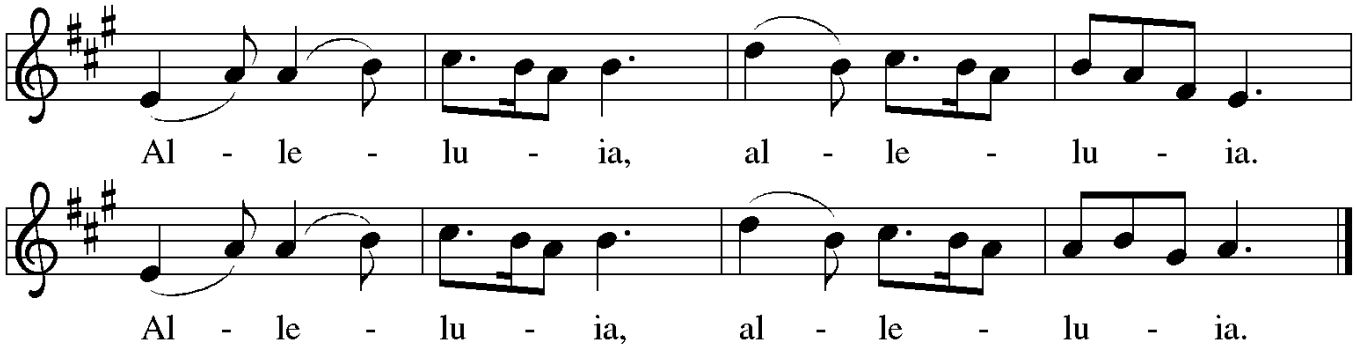
7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More
than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ
Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as
rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of
my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the
righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his
resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if
somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on
to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not
consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies
behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, toward the
prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L Word of God. Word of life. **C Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** – "Celtic Alleluia" ELW 174 *One License: A-727907*

*(*Please stand as you are able.)*




Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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***Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46**

*Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.*

P The holy gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 33 “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to
tenants and went away. 34 When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the
tenants to collect his produce. 35 But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed
another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they
treated them in the same way. 37 Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect
my son.’ 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir;
come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39 So they seized him, threw him out of the
vineyard, and killed him. 40 Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to
those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and
lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

43 “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a
people that produces its fruits. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces,
and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

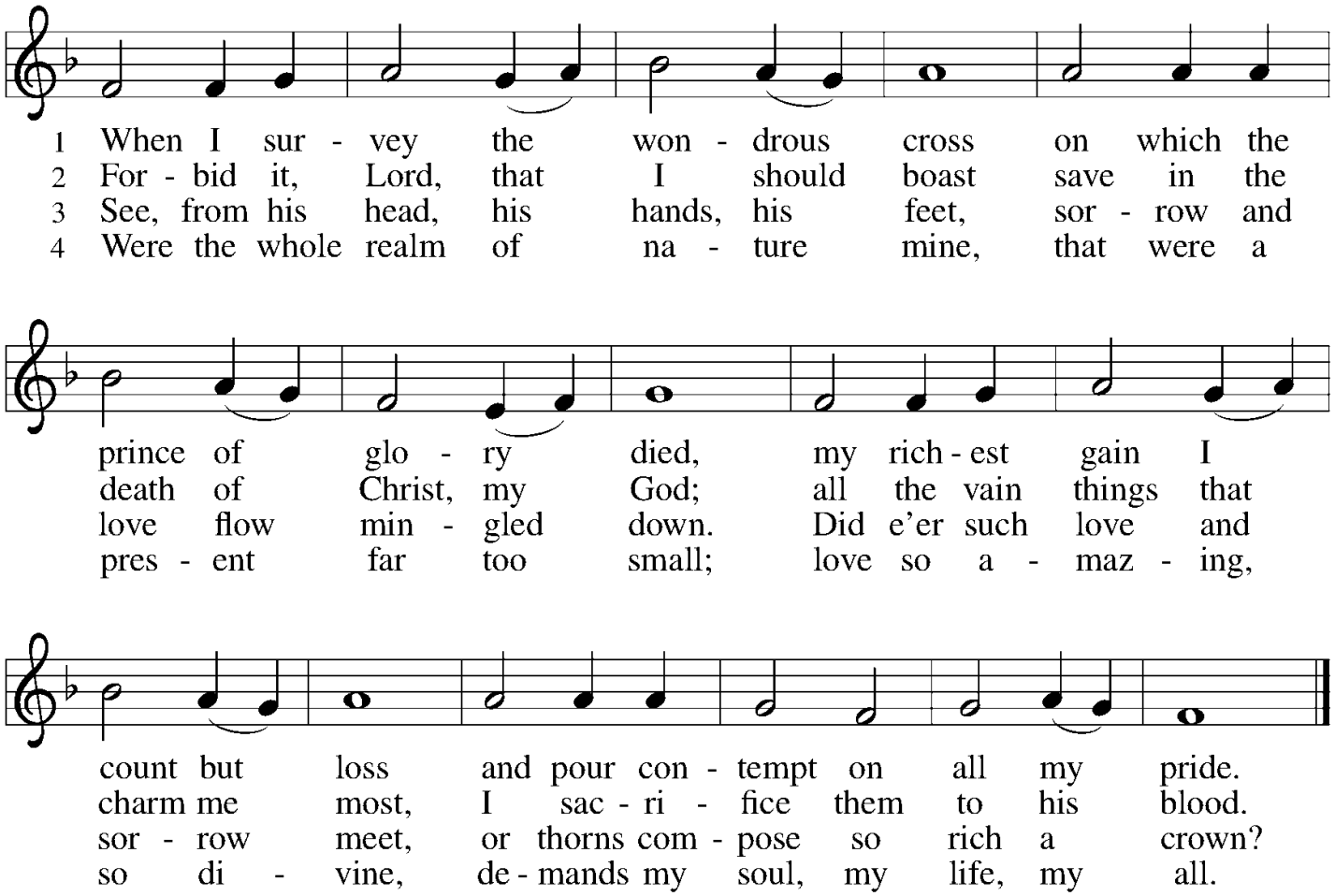
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he
was speaking about them. 46 They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds,
because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

**Sermon –** Pastor Jerry O’Neal

***Hymn of the Day:** "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803 *Public Domain*

*(*Please stand as you are able.)*




Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

***Apostles' Creed:**

**P&C 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:** (Congregation's response in bold type.)
*(Led by the Lay Worship Leader)*

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
*A brief silence*.
God of every generation, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God of every creature, bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your Spirit in creation. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God of every comfort, you made us in your own image. Grant healing and relief to all who are sick or suffering, especially for those we now name either aloud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God of every truth, you draw us nearer to you through your holy word. We give thanks for teachers of the faith. Fill their hearts with your Spirit, that they inspire others with your truth. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God of generosity, you give all people unconditional love. We give thanks to you and the love you have given to us through your Son on the Cross. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
God of every soul, you are the one who calls us home. We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. Hear us, O God.
**Your mercy is great.**
Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace:**

P The peace of our Risen Savior be with you always.
**C And also with you.**

**Offering:**
If you would like to give electronically, you may
1. Download the ELCA Giving App from Google Store or Apple Play, or
2. Go to our website www.holytrinitylutheranchurch.com and click on the green "Give" button.
3. Using your bank's online BillPay features.

Thank you for your support of Holy Trinity and our ministries!

**Offering Music:** "20" from the Thirty-Five Miniatures for Organ by Flor Peeters

**Offertory Presentation:** "Alabaré" WOV 791 *One License: A-727907*

Text: Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán; English text composite
Music: ALABARÉ, Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán
Text and music © 1979 Manuel José Alonso, José Pagán, and Ediciones Musical PAX, admin. OCP Publications

***Offering Prayer:** *(*Please stand as you are able.)*

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

**C Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving:** (ELW Setting 1)

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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” ELW 190 *One License: A-727907*

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

*(The Words of Institution will be said in Spanish, then English.)*

P La noche en que fue entregado, nuestro Señor Jesús tomó pan y dio gracias; lo partió y lo dio a sus discípulos, diciendo: Tomen y coman; esto es mi cuerpo, dado por ustedes. Hagan esto en memoria mía.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P De igual manera, después de haber cenado, tomó la copa, dio gracias y la dio a beber a todos, diciendo: Esta copa es el nuevo pacto en mi sangre, derramada por ustedes y por todo el mundo para el perdón del pecado. Hagan esto en memoria mía.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

P To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer:**

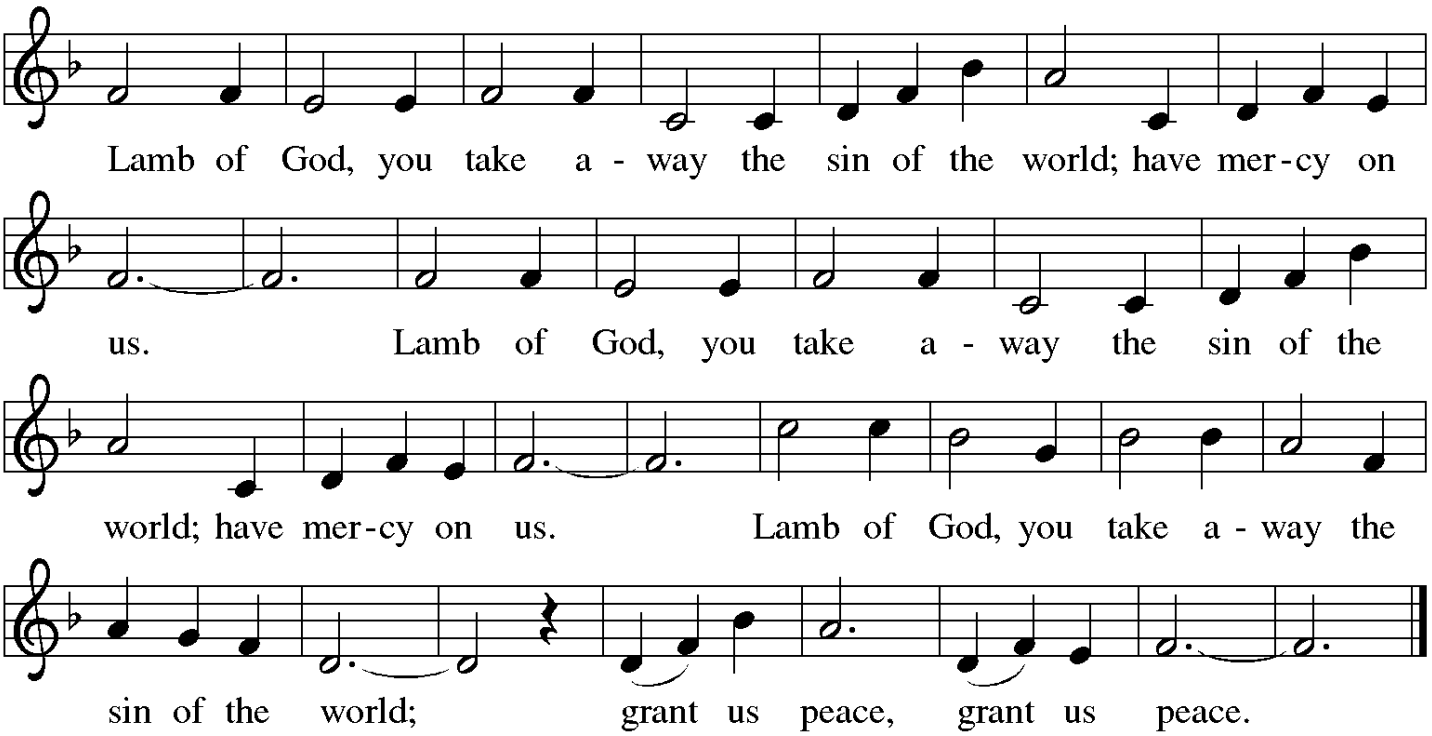
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All 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.**

***Invitation to Communion:**

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

**Communion Hymn:** "Lamb of God" ELW 195 *One License: A-727907*

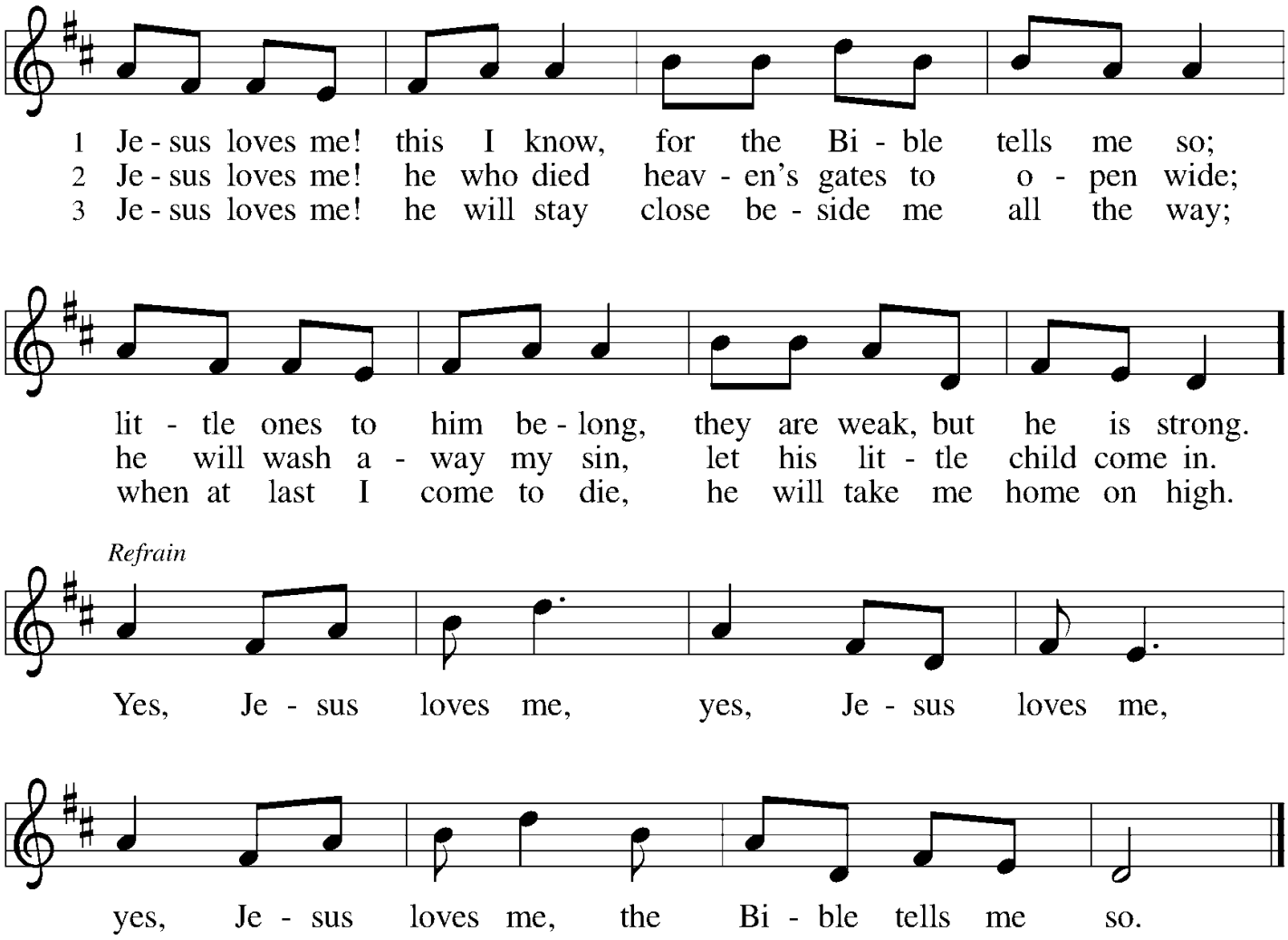



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## Distribution:

*This is the Table of Grace for all who belong to Christ and seek his gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. We extend to you all that we have in the Lord Jesus and invite you to his Holy Supper. Those communing with us who haven't been baptized and desire God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation in Holy Baptism are invited to talk to the Pastor. Communion is continuous as we kneel at the altar. White grape juice is offered as an alternative to wine. Communicants come to the altar down the center aisle, fill in the communion rail from left to right and return by the side aisles.*

**Communion Hymn:** "Jesus Loves Me!" ELW 595 *Public Domain*




Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

***Post Communion Blessing** *(*Please stand as you are able.)*

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All Amen.**

***Post Communion Prayer**

L Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C Amen**

**Quilt Blessing:**

P God, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy. Help these quilts travel safely across distances to reach our most weary neighbors and surround them with your grace and peace.

**C Open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

P God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, and sewing machines. We give thanks for the generosity of Thrivent and its members. May these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love.

**C Open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

P We give thanks for all those who have taken part in creating these quilts, from those who donated sheets and fabric, to those who created the beautiful tops, to those who put them together and finished them. May the quilts provide comfort and relief to those who are downtrodden around the world.

**C Open our hearts to love our neighbors.**

P Emboldened by God's eternal and unconditional love for all people, let us go and do likewise and share our blessings with neighbors near and far. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

***Sending Call and Response:**

L God's work!
**C Our hands!**
L God's love!
**C Our hearts!**
L God's story!
**C Our voices!**

***Benediction:**

P "Barocha" - Michael Card
**C Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** "All Creatures, Worship God Most High!" ELW 835 (Verses 1-4)

*One License: A-727907*

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

***Dismissal:**

L Go in peace. We are

**C Gathering in faith and joyfully sharing Christ's love for the world.**

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Have you ever heard someone say, "Give until it hurts"?** This advice implies that a truly generous gift should be large enough to have a negative impact on the giver. Though sometimes heard in the church, "Give until it hurts" is not advice from the Bible.

The Bible says, "Give until it feels good." Jesus says, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35 Good News Translation). Over and over, the Bible connects generosity with happiness. Stinginess is what leads to hurting.

Think about your own giving of money and time. Think of an instance when you made what, for you, was a very generous gift. How did it feel? Did it hurt, or did it bring a smile to your face? As you think back on that gift, do you still have happy feelings about it?

God invites us to live generously not only because other people have needs that we can help meet but also because God knows what is good for us — and generosity is good for us. Generosity brings us things far more valuable than whatever we have given away.

As the Rev. Michael Binder, assistant professor at Luther Seminary, rightly notes, "Generosity is what God wants for us, not from us."

WEEK ONE

# THE JOY OF GENEROSITY

**Announcements for October 4, 2026**

**Serving in Worship Today:**
**Presiding:** Pastor Jerry O'Neal
**Holy Trinity Organist:** Karen Huff
**Acolyte:** Gail Bader
**Ushers:** Larry Ahlersmeyer and Steve Donnellan
**Greeter:** Kathy McCauliff
**Lay Worship Leader, Communion Assistant and Lector:** Betsy Ahlersmeyer
**Altar Guild:** Ann Santoni and Diane Calvin

**Flowers at the Altar:**
The bouquet of flowers at the altar are given by Becki Bergs in celebration of Kelli Smith's birthday and to the glory of God.

**Sign-Up for Altar Flowers:**
If you would like to purchase a $10 flower arrangement to decorate the altar, please fill out the flower chart on the closet door in the lobby/gathering space and make sure to fill out a slip and put the slip in the envelope with your check or money and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Thank you.

**Prayer Requests:**
We invite you to send us any prayer requests that you want included in our weekly emails or the Holy Trinity Prayer Chain. Send requests to: holytrinitymuncie@gmail.com.

Please keep the following people in your prayers:
Laura Fisher, Rosemary Young's daughter
Tom, Linda Reynolds brother
Mailey, Jennifer Sanderfer's friend
Debbie and Clyde Stafford
Freda Bird

**Ongoing Prayers:**
Janel Peterson
Billy Broughton
Neal Lambert
Toni Rowray
Shiloh, Kenton Barlow's grandson
Bill Pinckney, John Pinckney's brother
Tony and Betsy Dowell, friends of John and Karen Huff
Gary Santoni
Shirley Foster
Mary Broughton
Grace Village BSU Campus Ministry
Don Park
Audrey Snyder, friend of Amy O'Neal's
Robyn Klaus, friend of the O'Neal's
Al Smith, Karen Wenger's husband
Bradley Wuthrich, Gwen Carey's grandson
Chrissy Miller, friend of Kent Barlow
Debbie Singer, Sherri Elwood's sister-in-law
Kent Windmiller, Karen Wenger's brother
Janis Foster, Shirley Foster's daughter-in-law
Shelle Richardson, Kristen Dashler's sister-in-law
Matthew Santoni
For those not named
For all who are sick and suffering

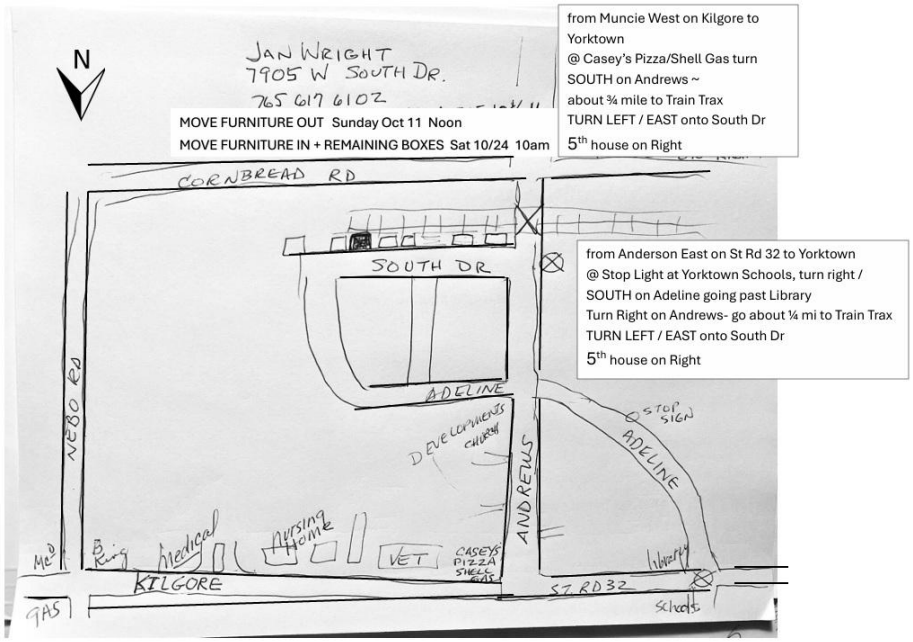
**Two Reminders:**
1] Please remember to silence your cell phones before entering the sanctuary. Let's keep this space peaceful and prayerful for everyone. Thank you.
2] Remember that we live stream our service on Facebook and YouTube each week and the congregation mic is live throughout the service. (Food for Thought: This means your conversations may be heard online if you are close to the sound system.)

**Calendar of Events for the Week of October 4, 2026:**
**Sunday, October 4 –** Bible Study (9am) and Quilt Blessing and Worship (10am)
**Monday, October 5 –** Bible Study (10am) and Choir Rehearsal (4pm)
**Tuesday, October 6 –** Walking Group (8am) and Staff Meeting (9:30am)
**Wednesday, October 7 –** WELCA Meeting (6pm)
**Thursday, October 8 –** Girl Scout Meeting-Kelli Smith (6:30pm)
**Friday, October 9 –** Better Together Wellness (9:30am)
**Saturday, October 10 –** Step Aerobics (9:30am)

**Birthdays and Anniversaries for October 2026:**

**Birthdays:**
October 3 – Betsy Ahlersmeyer
October 3 – Dan Beard
October 5 – Larry Wood
October 9 – Kelli Smith
October 11 – Mary Broughton
October 17 – Bill Hoodlebrink
October 19 – Dawn-Marie Oberly
October 21 – Rosanna Scholl
October 26 – Virginia Finchum

**Anniversaries:**
October 6 – Pete and Barbara Mattucci
October 10 – Janel and Susie Peterson
October 19 – Bill and Bonnie Hoodlebrink
October 28 – Mark and Dawn-Marie Oberly

**A Better Way UPDATE:**
Our donation center volunteering is finally back up and running! The next date is **Wednesday October 14th**. We will meet from 9:00 -12:00. Hope you can join us! Kathy

**Volunteer Help Needed!**
Jan Wright's home, 7905 W. South DR, Yorktown, sustained damage from the floods and is having to have her floors redone throughout the house. Which means she needs to move everything out and when they are finished move everything back in. She is asking for help, (1) moving boxes and furniture out of her house on Sunday, October 11th, after church and (2) moving them back in on Saturday, October 24th. Below is a map with directions to her house. Please let Pr. Jerry know if you can help with either of these dates. Thank you!