

**17th Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023**

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

Greeting

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

Praise Songs
able

We Sing Alleluia

Please stand as you are

The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord is on His heavenly throne,
We bring our praises unto Jesus for all the love that He has shown.
Singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

We sense the beauty of His presence, we hear the great triumphant shout!
The lamb for sinners slain is worthy, how can we keep from crying out?
Singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord is in His holy temple, and we are in His presence now.
The ones who've gone before have gathered as one before the Lord we bow.
Singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Glorify Thy Name

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You,
Glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name,
Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

First Reading *Jonah 3:10-4:11*

Please be seated

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.

When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die

than to live.” But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

....*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Second Reading *Philippians 1:21-30*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

....*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel *Matthew 20:1-16*

Jesus said to the disciples “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘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.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

....*The Gospel of the Lord.*

Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time

Please be seated

Anthem

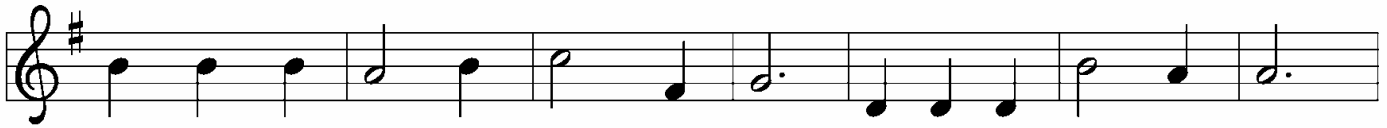
A Servant’s Heart

TOL Choir

Meditation

Hymn

Jesus, the Very Thought of You



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

A Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who sends the wind and the sun, help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is ready to forgive, impart your compassionate wisdom to lawmakers and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who is slow to anger, may we praise the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find joy in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Bless the ministries of TOL and Augustana, and show us your will as we serve our neighbors in love.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from adversity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind *especially* Dorothy, Glenda and Ralph.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for all first responders. We also ask for your mercy and blessing on those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

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 God thanks and praise.

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. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn (*sung*):

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

{P Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.}

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: *Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come to the communion rail and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion cup tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.*

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing
able

Please stand as you are

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

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Blessing

P 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. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (next page)

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Dismissal

Please be seated

A Go in peace. God is at work in you.
C Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

PASTOR: The Rev. Frederick Kopp

Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email: trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Pastor's Study: 716-836-4990 Email: pastor_tol@verizon.net

Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com

Music Minister: Don Grabau Media Minister: Jeff Ward

Today's Worship Assistant: Sue Wloch

Today's Prayer Partner: Diane Schmidtke

Today's Ushers: Dick and Barb Edwards

Prayers and Announcements

Prayers

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the altar following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Diane Schmidtke.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God from Debbie Feger in memory of her Mom on her birthday, and from Linda Sternin in celebration of Paul and Linda's 29th wedding anniversary.

Coffee Hour: Please plan to join us following worship today for some coffee, goodies and fellowship in the Fireside Lounge.

The Book of Revelation Study: Pastor Fred is leading an eight week Study of the Book of Revelation which continues this **Friday, Sept. 29, from 10-11:30 am** at Augustana in Luther Hall. Everyone is welcome (in person or on Zoom) to one or all of the study dates.

Adult Education Fall 2023 through Spring 2024: The first two classes are listed below. The classes begin at **1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. The focus this year will be on Biblical events – examining context and discussing what they mean.

Monday, Sept. 25	The Flood
Monday, Oct. 9	Sodom and Gomorrah

Tai Chi at TOL: If you are looking for a form of exercise that consists of slow gentle movements, meditation and breathing, you might want to consider learning Tai Chi. The sessions at TOL continue tomorrow, **Monday, September 25 at 6:30 pm**. Charlie Schmidtke will be the instructor, and there is a \$20 charge which covers the 10-week session. Please use the signup sheet on the bulletin board to indicate your interest.

Sermon Discussion/input: Pastor Fred is asking for participants to join him in a **bag lunch** discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. We will meet the 4th Wednesday of each month in the Fireside Lounge, at noon for two hours. The next discussion group is this **Wed., Sept. 27**. Please inform Pastor Fred if you are interested; there will be some preparation in order to have a discussion about the text/world events/church challenges.

Workday at TOL: On **Saturday, October 7 from 9 am till noon**, the Property Team is planning a workday to tackle some projects here. All levels of knowledge and expertise will be needed, there are tasks for everyone! Please use the sign up sheet on the main bulletin board if you can help. Thank you!

Women's Luncheon Group: We will meet at Otto's Restaurant on Union Road at George Urban, on **Thursday, October 12, at 12:30 pm.** If you need a ride, or have any questions, please contact Judy Menz at 716-435-6077 or Barb Maugans at 716-692-8116. All are invited to join us!

WWI Planning Meeting: Following worship on **Sunday, Oct. 22,** there will be a meeting to plan the coffee hours and activities for the upcoming year. We will meet in the Fireside Lounge and everyone is invited.

Finding Grace in Life's Transitions: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Williamsville has invited TOL and other area churches to participate in seminars concerning aging and serious illness. Sessions will be held at their church, located at 68 Eagle Street, Williamsville, on **Sept. 30** (Legacy Giving), **Oct. 28** (Planning Your Funeral) and **Nov. 18** (Healthcare Decisions, Advance Planning and Hospice Care) from 10 – 11:30 am, followed by lunch and conversation. There are flyers in the narthex – please take one if you are interested in attending these sessions.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL's website homepage (www.trinityoldlutheran.com). If you have a smartphone, you can download the Tithe.ly app. Instructions for both ways of giving through Tithe.ly are on our website's homepage. Please call the office at (716) 836-4868 if you have any questions.

Food Drive: Thank you to Frank and Karen Modlich for delivering all the groceries this week to Good Shepherd food pantry. We continue to welcome grocery donations of non-perishable items, gift cards to grocery stores, paper goods (toilet paper, paper towels, etc.), personal care (feminine hygiene products, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers, etc.) Food items can be dropped off here at TOL Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. – noon - just ring the doorbell to let the office know that you're here. Thank you for your generosity!

September Mission: This month our focus is Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). This organization has been welcoming migrants and refugees from around the world for over 80 years. Please use the marked envelopes in the narthex, use tithe.ly, or mail your donation to the church office, indicating that your donation is for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, or LIRS. Thank you for your support.

Friends of Night People: The Sandwich Team ministry continues to make and deliver 100 sandwiches each week and also collect clothing and personal hygiene products. There is a barrel in the main hallway for clothing donations, and in the narthex there is a tote for new socks, soap, shampoo, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Thank you to everyone involved in this ministry!

Operation Christmas Child: The suggested donations for October will be children's books, puzzles, travel size games, and flash cards. Thank you for your support.

‘God’s Work. Our Hands’: We are collecting baby items for Harvest House and Response to Love agencies in the City of Buffalo. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Williamsville will gather the donated items from each church and transport them to both agencies. The items most needed are new or lightly used baby clothes (newborn to toddler), diapers (all sizes, but especially sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5), baby bottles, towels and washcloths, baby lotions. There is a basket for donation items in the narthex. Thank you.

Book and Puzzle Sale: Stop by the TOL Book and Puzzle sale in the Resource Library near the main bulletin board anytime. Browse the many books and puzzles being offered at low, low prices – new items are being added weekly!

Christ in Our Home: If you would like a devotional booklet for **October - December 2023**, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office at 836-4868 to have one mailed.

Announcements: *If you’d like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday. Thank you.*

This week’s calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 am–12 noon. Please note that the office is unstaffed on Mondays. For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i>	Sun	9/24	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Coffee Hour Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings
	Mon	9/25	10 am 1 pm 5:45 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Yoga (in Studio and Zoom) Tai Chi Sandwich Team #3
	Tues	9/26	7 pm 7:30 pm	C-E-O Teams CoDA
	Wed	9/27	12 noon 12 noon 5:45 pm	Yoga (via Zoom) Sermon Discussion with Pastor Fred Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)
	Thurs	9/28	9:30 am 5:45 pm	Yoga (in Studio and Zoom) Yoga (in Studio and Zoom)
	Fri	9/29	10 am 6 pm	Bible Study at Augustana Adult Retreat begins
	Sat	9/30		Adult Retreat continues
	Sun	10/1	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Adult Retreat ends Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings

TOL’s Free WiFi and Password:
N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

