

Announcements

-Worship: Outdoor worship continues, alternating with fully-online worship. Outdoor worship at Trinity is scheduled for Sept. 22 and Oct. 20. Safety guidelines include social distancing and wearing masks. Full details at trinitytipton.org/outdoor-worship/.

-World Communion Sunday: Our three-year tradition of worshipping with the Methodists on the first Sunday in October has undergone a transformation this year. We will worship in the Tipton City Park on October 4 at 10am, with congregations from Tipton & Bennett.

-Zoom Fellowship today at 11am

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/601353237?pwd=YjhXSE5rZ2hPaUg1SIIzMUNMNVI2dz09>)

-Lawn mowing! We need your help to mow our church lawn. Volunteers can sign up for a two-week shift. For more information and to sign up, follow this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a4daea922a4fb6-summer2>

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

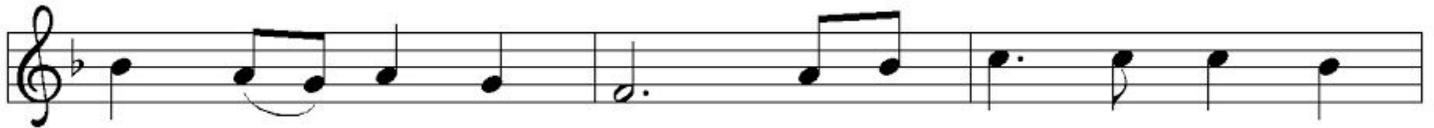
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 stran-ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

GREETING

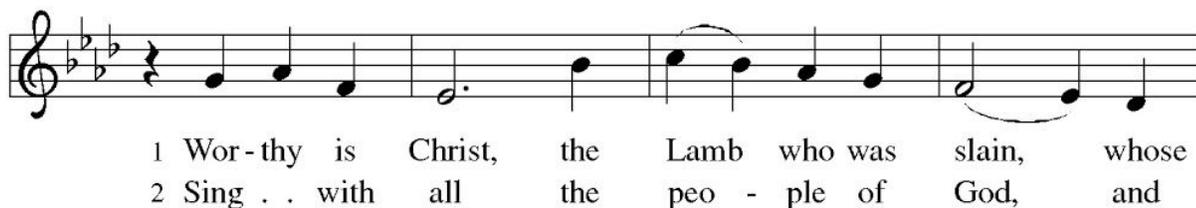
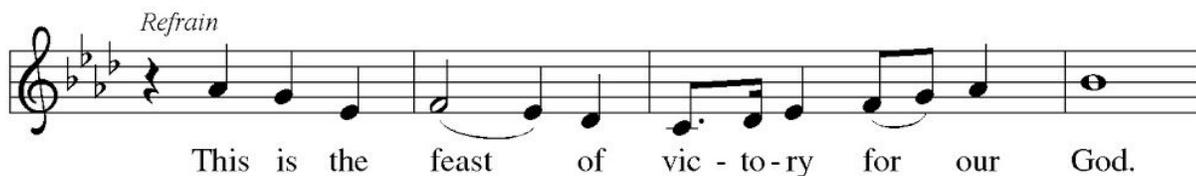
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, you give us the example of faithful witnesses like Paul and others. Help us to be faithful and courageous witnesses to all you have done in our lives. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our savior and lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
 Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain
 hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

WORD

5Vltg'5Vltg'&% +!%(ž' \$! '&&. , ž'&&. &&!' \$ž'&' .%#%%'
 H\Y`Ugh'Y][\h'WUdhYfg'cZ5Vltg'gdYYX'i d'H\Y'g'rcfnž'HY`][b['H\Y`cb['bUffUHj'Y'cZDUi`Ej`Ugh'
 fYhi fb'hc'>Yfi gUYa ž'žc`ck YX`Vmi\]g'UffYgh'UbX'U'gYf]Yg'cZhf]U'g''=b'YUW'hf]Už'DUi`HU_Yg'
 H\Y`cddcfhi b]mhc`VY'U'k]hbYgg'žcf'>Ygi g'7\]gh''

Continuing our voyage, we sailed from Tyre and arrived in Ptolemais. We greeted the brothers and sisters there and spent a day with them. The next day we left and came to Caesarea. We went to the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven, and stayed with him. He had four unmarried daughters who were involved in the work of prophecy. After staying there for several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He came to us, took Paul's belt, tied his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In Jerusalem the Jews will bind the man who owns this belt, and they will hand him over to the Gentiles.'" When we heard this, we and the local believers urged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

Paul replied, "Why are you doing this? Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I'm ready not only to be arrested but even to die in Jerusalem for the sake of the name of the Lord Jesus."

Since we couldn't talk him out of it, the only thing we could say was, "The Lord's will be done."

...
K \ Yb \ Y [ch'hc' >Yfi gUYa ž'DUi ` `a UbU[YX'hc' `Ugh'U'k YY_ 'VYZcfY' [Yth]b['gi ffc' bXYX'VmiUb' Ub[fm'Vřck X'' < Y'k Ug'UffYghYXž'Vi h'h Y'WdhU]b'cZ'HY' [i UfX'U'ck YX'\]a 'hc'gdYU_ 'hc' h'Y' Vřck X'' < Y'gdc_ Y'UVci h'\]g'nYU'Zcf'; cXž'\]g'YI dYf]YbW'cZVY]b['V]bXYX'Vmi>Ygi g'cb' h'Y' 8Ua UgW'g'FcUXž'UbX'\]g'a]b]ghfnt' h'Ybž'\ Y'gU]X' h'Uh; cX'\UX'Uddc]bhYX'\]a 'hc' [c'hc' h'Y' ; Ybh]Ygž'bch'h'Y'>Yk g''

The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they shouted, "Away with this man! He's not fit to live!" As they were screaming, throwing off their garments, and flinging dust into the air, the commander directed that Paul be taken into the military headquarters. He ordered that Paul be questioned under the whip so that he could find out why they were shouting at him like this.

As they were stretching him out and tying him down with straps, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Can you legally whip a Roman citizen who hasn't been found guilty in court?"

When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. He asked, "What are you about to do? This man is a Roman citizen!"

The commander went to Paul and demanded, "Tell me! Are you a Roman citizen?"

He said, "Yes."

The commander replied, "It cost me a lot of money to buy my citizenship."

Paul said, "I'm a citizen by birth." At once those who were about to examine him stepped away. The commander was alarmed when he realized he had bound a Roman citizen.

The commander still wanted to know the truth about why Paul was being accused by the Jews. Therefore, the next day he ordered the chief priests and the entire Jerusalem Council to assemble. Then he took Paul out of prison and had him stand before them.

Paul stared at the council and said, "Brothers, I have lived my life with an altogether clear conscience right up to this very day." The high priest Ananias ordered those standing beside Paul to strike him in the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God is about to strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit and judge me according to the Law, yet disobey the Law by ordering that I be struck."

Those standing near him asked, "You dare to insult God's high priest?"

Paul replied, "Brothers, I wasn't aware that he was the high priest. It is written, You will not speak evil about a ruler of your people."

Knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, Paul exclaimed in the council, "Brothers, I'm a Pharisee and a descendant of Pharisees. I am on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead!"

These words aroused a dispute between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. This is because Sadducees say that there's no resurrection, angel, or spirit, but Pharisees affirm them all. Council members were shouting loudly. Some Pharisees who were legal experts stood up and insisted forcefully, "We find nothing wrong with this man! What if a spirit or angel has spoken to him?" The dispute became so heated that the commander feared they might tear Paul to pieces. He ordered soldiers to go down and remove him by force from their midst. Then they took him back to the military headquarters.

The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Be encouraged! Just as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so too you must testify in Rome."

SERMON

Have you ever been a witness to a crime? In high school, I was a witness to an increasingly violent relationship between two of my friends. One day, I decided it had gone too far, so I told a teacher. She sent me to tell a different teacher. He sent me to tell an administrator. The administrator reported it to the police. Within a few days, I was sitting with my mom in front of a detective, telling the same story I had told three times to school staff, then telling it yet again with the recorder on. Then a different detective came in and we repeated the process.

I learned that day that being a witness is not nearly as glamorous as TV dramas make it seem. Instead, it was just repeating, over and over, what I had seen until the right person heard it.

As Christians, we are called by the Holy Spirit to witness. That's what Paul was doing. He had a message to tell about what God had done for him. He had seen what difference Jesus

Christ had made in his life. He had seen the power of the Holy Spirit to change his heart and mind. He knew that people needed to hear about it.

So he told them.

Some people gladly heard his witness. Some people ignored his witness. Some people angrily rejected his witness. He told them about Jesus Christ anyway.

Most Christian witness to what Jesus Christ has done is not glamorous. It doesn't catch people's attention. It doesn't make the news. Even so, Christians around the world offer their testimony to their family, their neighbors, their friends. Christians witness to the good news: that Jesus Christ came to save us from death and forgive us completely. We repeat it over and over until the right person hears it.

Some churches have a tradition of including testimonies from congregation members regularly in worship. If you were asked to describe something God has done for you, what would it be? What has the Holy Spirit done in your life?

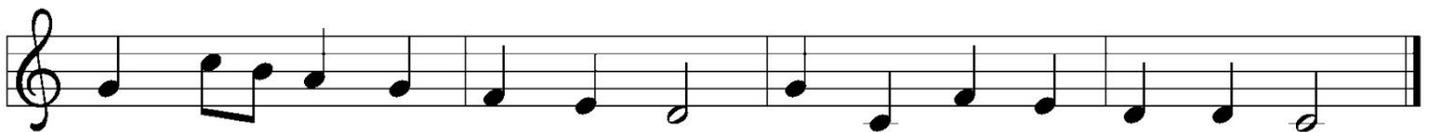
Who needs to hear your testimony, your witness? Will you be a witness for Jesus Christ today?

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spread, Oh, Spread, Almighty Word



- 1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
- 2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
- 3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
- 4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav - en's gifts ex - tend to all.
 and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
 strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
 let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYERS

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Make us bold and inviting witnesses to the work Jesus Christ has accomplished in our lives: forgiveness, resurrection, and reconciliation. May we share this good news with the people around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Bless animals preparing for winter by migrating or stockpiling. Protect lives and property from damage by wildfire. Deliver creation from the harm of natural disaster. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the leaders of our congregation: council members, committee chairs, group leaders, and staff. Grant them wisdom and strength for the work ahead of them, that all may be done for your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need. For those who lack employment, clothing, shelter, or food. For those who long for healing of body and spirit. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed, especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for relief from this pandemic. Where we are frustrated, grant us peace. Where we are frightened, grant us courage. Where we are divided, grant us understanding. Where we seek for vaccines and treatments, grant us success. Where we are in danger, protect us. Where we are ill, grant healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died in faith. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us join together in the prayer Jesus 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.

PEACE

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

H]g'k YY_ž'g\ UFY' h Y' dYUW' cZ7\ f]gh'Vm hU_]b['Ub' cddcfh' b]hmhc' k]hbYgg'Zcf'>Ygi g'7\ f]gh'

OFFERING

; cX'\ Ug'[]j Yb'hc' YUW' cZi g' 'ci f'gY'j Ygž'ci f'h]a Yž'UbX'ci f'dcggYgg]cbg''; cX'[]j Yg'h Y'Vt'c'` VfyYnY'cZUi hi a bž'h Y'cmicZU'Z]YbX'mhYI hž'h Y'[i]XUbW'cZGV]dhi fY''K \Uh; cX'\ Ug'[]j Yb'hc' i gž'; cX'YI dYV]g'i g'hc'g\ UFY''=Znci UFY']b' U'dcg]h]cb'hc'a U_Y'U'Vt'bf]Vi h]cb'hc'gi ddcf'ci f' Vt'b[fY[Uh]cb]a]b]ghfnž'nci 'VWb'a U]'nci f'VWYV'hc' h Y'Wi fVW/'h Y'a U]']g'VY]b['VWYV'YX' fY[i 'Uf'm' 'h Ub_'nci 'Zcf'nci f'gi ddcf'h'

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Let all that we offer be in service to you to the glory of the risen Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING HYMN

In our prayers this week:

Brit Montgomery (Hospitalized, Covid-19)

Millie Mracek (Sally Kruse's great-niece, cancer treatment)

Our members in nursing homes or assisted living: Ron & Carolyn Belitz, Marge Seebeck,
Delores Werling

Reproduced and distributed with Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number SAS027026 and OneLicense A-732405.