



P H I L E M O N

**"I AM
SENDING
HIM BACK
TO YOU,
SENDING
MY VERY
HEART!"**



Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

We gather to worship the only God and Savior: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Things can get better in Christ

September 7, 2025

Trinity 12

Strained relationships, even fractured relationships, are a sad reality in life. This is true also in the lives of Christians, even in relationships with each other.

When we fear that all may be lost and a relationship beyond repair, we come back to Paul's letter to Philemon. Things can get better in Christ.

Today's 8:00 a.m. worship is broadcast live on YouTube. The YouTube link can be found at the church's website:

- holytrinity.church

After the service, the recording can be accessed at the same YouTube site.

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ORDER OF SERVICE — SETTING ONE

Hymn 912 *Open, Lovely Doors*



1 O - pen, love - ly doors, and let me come in - to God's
2 With a song I've come to greet you; come to me, dear
3 You de - serve my deep - est rev - 'rence; sanc - ti - fy me



house to - day! This is where great joys be - set me
Lord, I pray. Where you let your peo - ple meet you
through and through. Let my wor - ship in your pres - ence



more than I can sing or say. Here I view God's
heav - en's light is bright as day. Let my heart your
clear - ly show my love for you. Lord of mer - cy,



glo - rious face, see his light, re - ceive his grace.
heav - en be; Sav - ior, make your home in me.
hear my cry: lift my heart to you on high!

Please stand.

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION

P: We are in God's house.

We humble ourselves before him, confess our sins, and trust his forgiveness.

C: The Lord is in his holy temple.

Let the whole earth be silent in his presence.

P: God's law speaks so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world subject to God's judgment.

**C: No one is justified in God's sight by obeying his law.
Knowledge of sin comes through the law.**

P: We acknowledge and confess to God our sin against him.

**C: Nothing good lives in my sinful flesh.
I do not do the good that I want to do.
I do the evil that I do not want to do.
God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

All have been justified freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

I forgive you in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: I am justified by faith in him.

P: Baptized into his death and burial, we have been raised with him to new life.

**C: We offer ourselves to God as tools for righteousness.
We are not under law but under grace.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

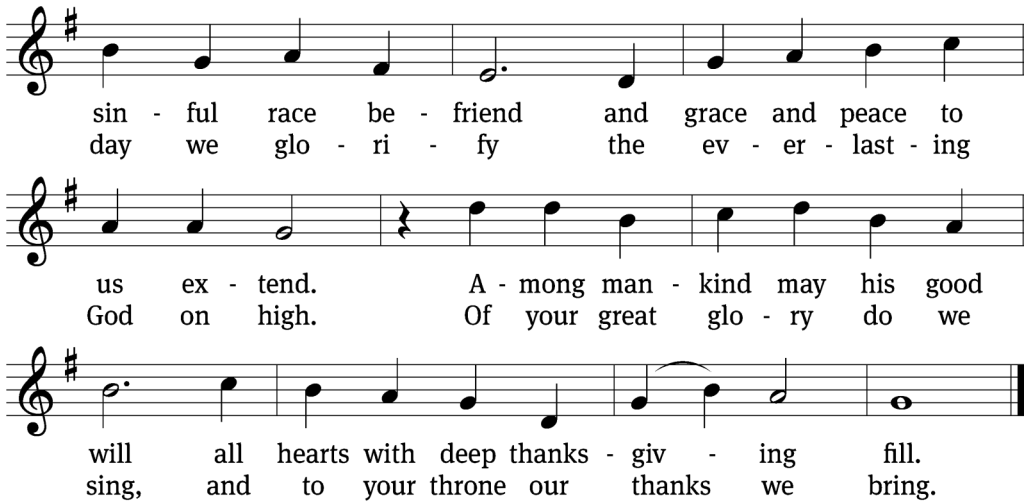
P: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn 936 stanzas 1-2 All Glory Be to God Alone

1 All glo - ry be to God a - lone, for -
2 We praise you, God, and you we bless; we
ev - er - more the high - est One, who did our
wor - ship you in hum - ble - ness. From day to



sin - ful race be - friend and grace and peace to
 day we glo - ri - fy the ev - er - last - ing
 us ex - tend. A - mong man - kind may his good
 God on high. Of your great glo - ry do we
 will all hearts with deep thanks - giv - ing fill.
 sing, and to your throne our thanks we bring.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson—Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and adversity. For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the LORD your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led astray to bow in worship to other gods and serve them, I tell you today that you will certainly perish and will not prolong your days in the land you are entering to possess across the Jordan. I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, love the LORD your God, obey him, and remain faithful to him. For he is your life, and he will prolong your days as you live in the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1



1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the
2 But make the law of God their stud - y
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters
4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such



sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels
and de - light a - mid the la - bors
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their
bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like



nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,
of the day and watch - es of the night.
name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.
emp - ty chaff be - fore the driv - ing wind.

- 5 How will they bear to stand
before that judgment seat
where all the saints at Christ's right hand
in full assembly meet?
- 6 God knows and he approves
the way the righteous go,
but sinners and their works shall meet
a dreadful overthrow.

Second Lesson—Philemon 1, 7-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother:
To Philemon our dear friend and coworker.

I have great joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

For this reason, although I have great boldness in Christ to command you to do what is right, I appeal to you, instead, on the basis of love. I, Paul, as an elderly

man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus, appeal to you for my son, Onesimus. I became his father while I was in chains. Once he was useless to you, but now he is useful both to you and to me. I am sending him back to you—I am sending my very own heart. I wanted to keep him with me, so that in my imprisonment for the gospel he might serve me in your place. But I didn't want to do anything without your consent, so that your good deed might not be out of obligation, but of your own free will. For perhaps this is why he was separated from you for a brief time, so that you might get him back permanently, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave—as a dearly loved brother. He is especially so to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would me. And if he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—not to mention to you that you owe me even your very self. Yes, brother, may I benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. Since I am confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

Gospel—Luke 14:25-35

Now great crowds were traveling with him. So he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

“For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn’t first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This man started to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

“Or what king, going to war against another king, will not first sit down and decide if he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If not, while the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. In the same way, therefore, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.

“Now, salt is good, but if salt should lose its taste, how will it be made salty? It isn’t fit for the soil or for the manure pile; they throw it out. Let anyone who has ears to hear listen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

Hymn 693 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near



1 O gra - cious Lord, with love draw near to these, your
2 Sus - tain the work you have be - gun in these u -
3 De - liv - er them from ev - 'ry wile, from all that
4 Lord, keep them firm in their in - tent to you, your



chil - dren gath - ered here; the Spir - it's gift in
nit - ed to your Son, for in that pure bap -
would their hearts be - guile, from world - ly ways and
Word, and sac - ra - ment. O make them bold, their



them re - new, the gift of faith that clings to you.
tis - mal flood they have been cleansed by Je - sus' blood.
Sa - tan's lies, that they may not your Word de - spise.
faith to share, and make them strong, their cross to bear.

- 5 O Father, grant that by your grace
they may your will each day embrace,
with fruits of faith their lives now bless,
till they at death your name confess.
- 6 Then robed in white before your throne,
your holy saints, by you foreknown,
predestined, called, and justified,
shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

Sermon—Philemon 1, 7-21
Things can get better in Christ

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

The ability to give from the heart is itself a gift from God. We thank God for the means to give. Even more, we thank God for the motive to give. Christ gave himself for us. We give as Christians out of love for Christ.

*You may place your offering in the plates or use Online Giving.
The QR code at right will also take you to the giving site.
Thank you for your offerings.*



MUSICAL OFFERING

Please stand.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, it grieves us when anger, strife, and bitterness become a part of our life. Forgive our sins and renew our spirit so that we will pardon others, correct the mistakes we have made, and be more cheerful toward those around us. Remind us through your Word that your Son's peace provides the needed hope and reason for healing and change.

Holy Spirit, creator and sustainer of Christian unity, open our eyes to see the wonderful privilege it is to be intimately connected to the congregation into which you have brought us. Make us as members ever vigilant to the attacks of the devil's wicked schemes to sow the seeds of disunity and discord among us. By the power of your Word, defend us from those assaults of the evil one and strengthen the bonds of unity and peace in our congregation. Use us as instruments of peace in our congregation.

Lord Jesus, you are the prince of peace. By your life, death, and resurrection, you earned for us peace with God. In a restless and turbulent world, enable us who know your peace to be peacemakers. Help us by word and example to promote harmony in our homes, workplaces, churches, schools, and wherever you place us in life.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private prayers.

Silent prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

C: Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn 736 Lord, You Call Us as Your People (See page 12)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister: Pastor Bart Brauer

Accompanist: Joanna Grassell

Acknowledgements

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Sunday Education

Adult Bible study and Sunday School will restart on September 21. Today there will be an organizational meeting for Sunday School teachers from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. Next Sunday, September 14, there will be a voters' meeting in between services. Sunday education for all ages resumes the following week on September 21.

Voters' meeting

The next voters' meeting is on Sunday, September 14, between services.

Ladies Bible class

Ladies Bible class will start up again on Wednesday, September 10, in the fellowship hall from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Women's group

All the confirmed females of the congregation are invited to a women's service group gathering on Saturday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the gathering is to discuss events and tasks to be done around church or school. Ideas on how to move forward will be welcomed at the gathering. Contact Cindy Smith for more information.

Meditations

There was a shipping issue with the most recent *Meditations* delivery. They should be arriving soon.

International potluck

Join us for the international potluck on Thursday, September 18, at 5:00 p.m. in the gym parking lot. Bring your favorite food from your family's culture, get to know our school families, and sample cuisine from around the world. You may park in the main parking lot and come down the sidewalk to the gym parking lot.

This week at Holy Trinity

Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Bible information class
Wednesday.....	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible class
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Women's group
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Voters' meeting

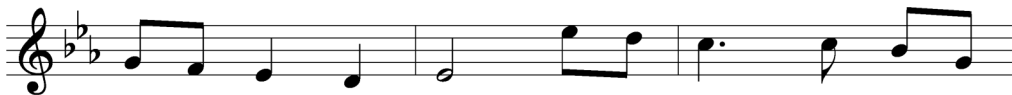
Hymn 736 Lord, You Call Us as Your People



1 Lord, you call us as your peo - ple, out of dark - ness
2 Lord, you call us as dis - ci - ples, walk - ing on your
3 Lord, you send us to the har - vest in your Great Com -
4 Lord, you call us to new ven - tures by a path - way
5 Lord, you call us as your peo - ple, now in faith we



in - to light. You cre - at - ed and re - deemed us, made us
pil - grim way. Cru - ci - fied and ris - en Sav - ior, you are
mis - sion's call, reach - ing out to all the na - tions, bring - ing
yet un - known. Though we can - not see the end - ing, we will
sing your praise: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, al - le -



pre - cious in your sight. Give us faith to trust you
with us ev - 'ry day. Give us wis - dom, give us
life and hope to all. Give us bold - ness and com -
fol - low you a - lone. Know - ing that your hand is
lu - las to you raise. Hold us in your gra - cious



bold - ly and to love you stead - fast - ly. By your
cour - age as you teach us pa - tient - ly. By your
pas - sion, bless us with your eyes to see. By your
guid - ing and you love us faith - ful - ly, by your
pow - er, bless - ed Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, that re -



Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
Spir - it may we ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.
joic - ing we will ev - er faith - ful to our call - ings be.