

***Trinity Lutheran Ev. Lutheran Church
of South Newstead
July 5th, 2026
6th Sunday after Pentecost
& US Semiquincentennial***



The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. The prophet describes an everlasting realm that contrasts with earthly nations, one marked by peace, humility, and freedom. Jesus associates with those excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with selfish desires; we lament flawed systems; and we seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather around word, water, and meal by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Here we find rest for our souls and hope for life in beloved community.

**PRELUDE – WELCOME –
ANNOUNCEMENTS – PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please stand as you are able

GATHERING SONG: My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Green Book: 566

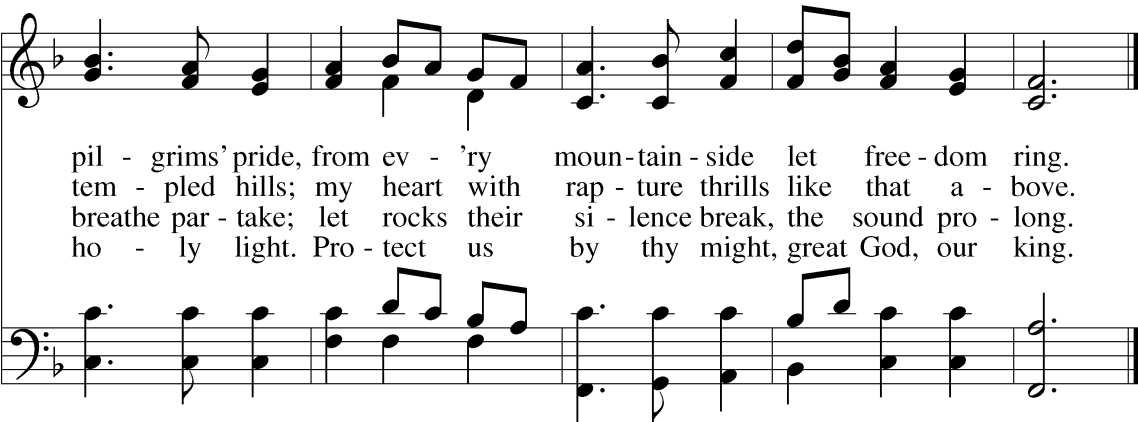
My Country, 'Tis of Thee



1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty,



of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free-dom's song; let mor - tal tongues a - wake; let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free - dom's



pil - grims' pride, from ev - 'ry moun-tain - side let free - dom ring.
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light. Pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our king.

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1808–1895

Music: NATIONAL ANTHEM, *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, 1744

GREETING:

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

ALL: And also with you.

L: You are treasured people of the Lord,

ALL: a people holy to the Lord our God.

L: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

ALL: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

L: One does not live by bread alone,

ALL: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SCRIPTURE SONG:



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul-er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☐ For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One. All



na-tions will draw near and wor-ship be-fore you,



for your just and ho-ly works have been re-vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray,

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

L: ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 145:8-14

L:⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

ALL:⁹ Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

L:¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

ALL:¹¹ They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

L:¹² that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

ALL:¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

L:¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

L: ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me,

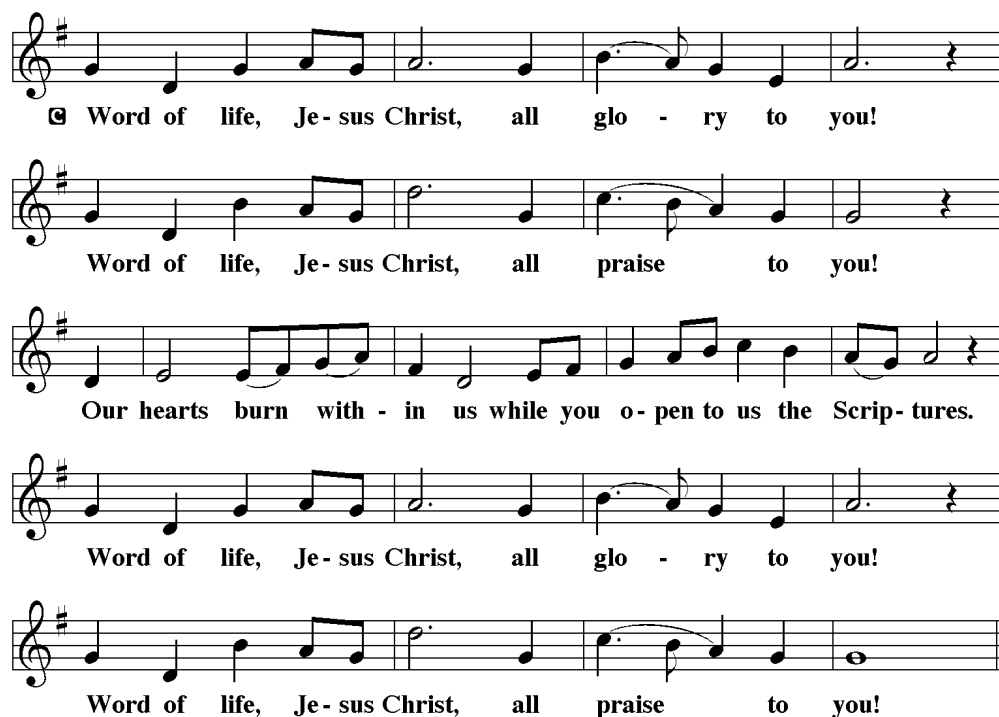
that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The word of the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand if you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The musical notation consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a square symbol. The lyrics are: "Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!". The second staff has the lyrics: "Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!". The third staff has the lyrics: "Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.". The fourth staff has the lyrics: "Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!". The fifth staff has the lyrics: "Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!".

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip- tures.

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!

Word of life, Je- sus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: [Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes,

Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S BACKPACK CHALLENGE

SERMON: Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill

**HYMN OF THE DAY: O Beautiful for
Spacious Skies**

Please stand as you are able

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain:
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life:
thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears:

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - 'ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - 'ry gain di - vine.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

The musical score is written for a three-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with three parts and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

ALL: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

ALL: 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 power of 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.

L: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

ALL: pray in the Holy Spirit.

L: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

ALL: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

ALL: Everything old has been passed away; behold, everything has become new!

L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

A moment for silent prayer.

Gracious God,

ALL: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

ALL: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

*You are invited to greet your neighbors
with a sign of Christ's peace.*

Please be seated



SCAN ME

OFFERING

Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed around or at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also give your offering online using the QR code provided or go to trinitysouthnewstead.org/give. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

Please stand as you are able

OFFERTORY

Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray together, Loving God,

ALL: we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to

witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. We also pray for our sibling churches of the NOEL cluster: First English, Lockport; St. John's, Lyndonville; St. Peter, Medina; Trinity, Wolcottsville; and Zion, Gasport. God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

L: All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

L: Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

L: You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression. We also lift up to you those who are ill, or who are in any other kind of need (*especially those sick, injured or otherwise suffering...*). God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember before you those who have died in every generation, and especially those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us (*especially anyone who has recently died...*), and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

L: And God, we know your Spirit intercedes for us even when our sighs are too deep for words to express. Hear us as we share our deepest needs in this time of silent prayer.

A moment for silent prayer.

L: God of grace,

ALL: hear our prayer.

L: Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: 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

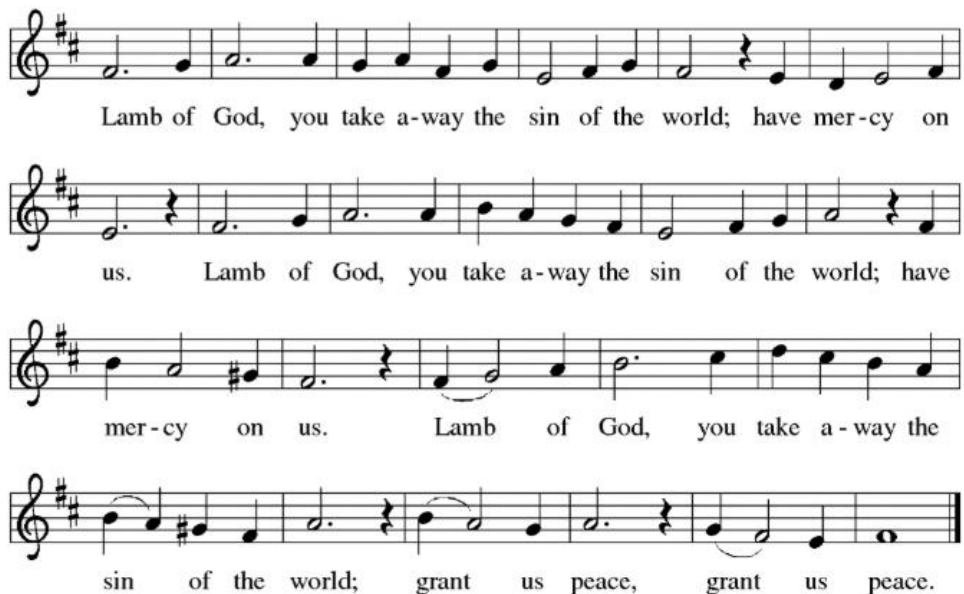
L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb Of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lift Every Voice and Sing – Green Book: 562

To be sung during the distribution of communion

Lift Every Voice and Sing



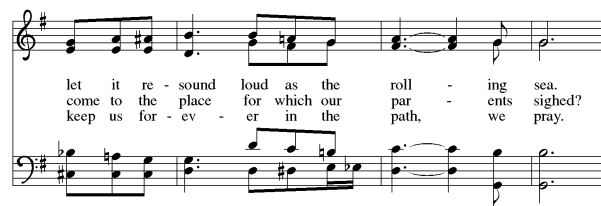
1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



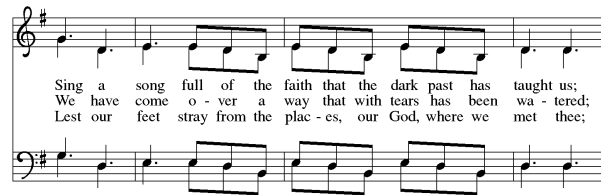
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



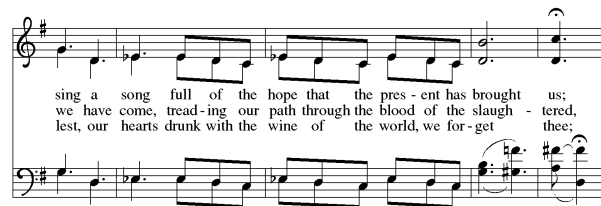
Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

COMMUNION HYMN: *by request as needed*

Please stand as you are able

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **ALL:**
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray together,
We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
ALL: that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

L: The Author of life,
the Word of salvation,
the Breath of new birth,
✠ one God, bless you
and equip you for living and serving,
today and every day.
ALL: Amen

SENDING HYMN: Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
 2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
 3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
 with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
 Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
 As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
 Our God is march - ing on.
 while God is march - ing on.



Refrain
 Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.



Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819–1910
 Music: BATTLE HYMN, North American, 19th cent.

DISMISSAL

L: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

About Today's Readings:

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

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WI-FI: To access our community wifi, go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password:
BeABeacon

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Trinitysouthnewstead.org

trinitysouthnewstead@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Hold in Prayer:

To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list in the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared through our One Call system, please call Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095.

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Tony Kaminski, Jr.

Ray Francis

Rosemary Doyle

Nancy Dean (Pastor's Dean's wife)

Catherine Schoenthal

Pastor Wiedman and his wife, Carol

Helmut Bauder

Dave Raquet
Emily Sciolino (Mike and Paula's granddaughter)
Ty Kropelin
Healing for those suffering from Ebola and praying for a cure
Healing for the people in Venezuela suffering from flooding

Thanksgiving for:

- Elaine Koch's successful eye surgery
- Shirley Domen's son-in-law's successful surgery
- Pastor David Wiedman's new stent
- The birth of Milton Paul to Jason and Molly Fix
- Successful tumor removal for Shirley Smith

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:

Norman Bosser
Ken Schmidt, Jr. (*Gordy's Cousin*)

Memorial for Diane Hurne's son, James is going to be on Saturday July 25th at 11 am.

Weekly:

Choir is off for the summer!
Sunday School is off until September
Sunday Worship at 9:30
Bible Study: See list below

Food Pantry:

First Monday of the Month: setup @ 8am
First Tuesday of the month: distribution @ 8:30am

Council: July 14th @ 7pm

Office Info:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment
Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

Summer office hours updates:

Things change slightly in the summer. If you need to stop in the office, here are the changes:

July 14th and 16th – office open from 1:30-6ish
July 28 – office is closed (Tracy is away)
August 11th and 13th – office open from 1:30-6ish
August 14-30th – Pastor is away

Bible Study

Trinity is part of the NOEL (Niagara Orleans Ev. Lutherans) cluster of churches' Bible Study. Consider this your invitation to join, make new friends, and gain new insights into the Word and faith.

Pastor Rick, Pastor Craig, and Pastor Sohail lead this Bible Study, which is at 10 am Thursdays. The location rotates among the NOEL churches:

7/9- St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103

7/16 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001

7/23 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067

7/30 – St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098

8/6 – Here at Trinity!

8/13 – St. Peter – 1355 West Ave, Medina, 14103

8/20 – Trinity Wolcottsville – 6369 Wolcottsville Rd, Akron 14001

8/27 – Zion - 4447 Central Ave, Gasport 14067

9/3 - St. John's - 10213 Roosevelt Hwy, Lyndonville, 14098

Bucks for Boxes Total

It was a great success, we **brought in \$747.75!** Yay!

July 4th Parade

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the parade! A special shoutout to Christine Johnson and David Hofmeier for their hard work and planning.

Worship in the Park

Next Sunday at 10:30am we will have our annual Worship in the Park at Akron Falls Park at shelter **off of the Brooklyn St. entrance**. This year, we will be joined by our brothers and sisters from Zion Gasport. (There will be no worship here at Trinity.)

Then on **August 2nd at 10:30am, Veteran's Park in Gasport** – only one shelter in the park, you can't miss it. The address is 7992 State St. in Gasport.

For both picnics, bring a dish to pass and a comfy chair if you like.

**Sign up sheet is out in the narthex now

Sunday School Staff Meeting

Sunday school teachers, please stay after worship on **July 19th** for a meeting to plan next year.

Monday July 20th Listening Session

Rev. Imani Olear will be visiting Trinity on **Monday evening, July 20th at 6:30 pm** for a listening session with us around what's called the CaSTLE Project, an opportunity being

offered to rural congregations to help strengthen their ministry in their setting. Please consider coming to share your thoughts.

A detailed summary of what to expect is forthcoming in the July Beacon, but briefly summarized, it is:

Simply a conversation. We are not coming to evaluate, assess, or judge the congregation. We are coming to listen. During our time together, we will discuss:

- What you love most about your congregation
- Where you see God at work
- The strengths of your community and congregation
- Challenges facing your church and community
- Leadership and lay ministry opportunities
- Hopes and concerns for the future
- Partnerships and collaborations in your community
- Resources, training, or support that might be helpful

What This Is Not

This is not:

- A congregational assessment
- A financial review
- A strategic planning session
- A conversation about closing churches
- A meeting with right or wrong answers

Your Voice Matters

The experiences of your congregation matters. The stories, wisdom, challenges, and hopes you share will help shape future conversations, resources, and support for rural and small-town congregations across the Upstate New York Synod and beyond. We are grateful for your willingness to participate and look forward to learning from you.

Pies in the Park

July 31st is the annual **Pies in the Park**. Stay tuned for a signup sheet for that but mark your calendars in the meantime.