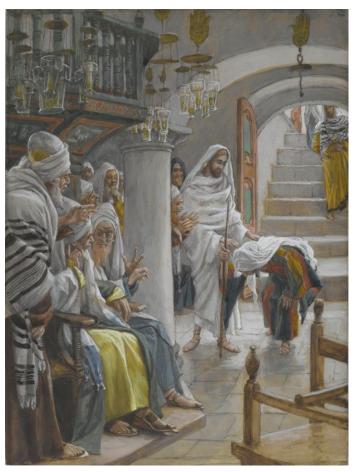


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 21 August 24, 2025



The Woman with an Infirmity of Eighteen Years James Tissot (1836–1902)

Tissot's meticulous watercolor of Luke 13:10-17 places viewers in a first-century synagogue, rendering textiles, architecture, and gesture with archaeological care (a hallmark of his Life of Christ series). The bent woman rises as Jesus confronts rigid Sabbath legalism—an image that speaks to modern debates about policy versus people. Tissot's Paris-to-Palestine naturalism embodies late-19th-century Bible illustration as serious art reporting.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1751

The Rev. Hans E.

Becklin
Senior Pastor

Deaconess Deborah

Matern Graf

Deacon for

Formation

AND Service

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Cantor

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
Congregational Life
Coordinator

Peter Graf Financial Administrator

Pam Wasmuth

John McKeon Property Manager

> Dave Troche Sexton

+ + +

The Rev. Fred S.

Opalinski
PASTOR EMERITUS

Karen S. Eddinger Minister of Music Emerita



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.



CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



Our worship is an act of offering. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

After the prelude, please stand in body or spirit and face the processional cross.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Prelude

Andante

Elfrida Andrée

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Apostolic 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.**

Hymn of Praise

We praise God throughout this service using Setting Three from Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Continue to follow the processional cross, turning as it passes you.



Continues on the next page.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and

body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

This prayer relates
to the readings
appointed for the day
and asks for God's
help in applying them
to our lives.

Please be seated.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong,

and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;

if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable;

if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;

I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The psalm is read responsively; the congregation reads the bold text. **PSALM**

Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on

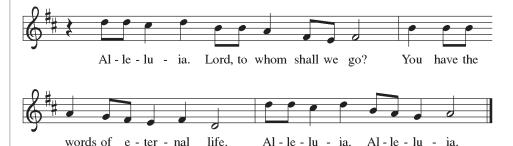
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.



GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured

and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water?

And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Day of Rest and Gladness

ELW 521



Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833 Together, we confess the faith of the Church.

Apostles' Creed

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.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

After the final petition:

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Please greet one another and then he seated.

PEACE

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

The offering, bread, and wine are brought forward and the altar is set.

Announcements

OFFERTORY

Allegro from "Fantasy" Sonata for Viola

Philipp Scharwenka

Mason Shultz, viola

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love

endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these

gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- Peg Coleman
- David Ruth
- Darryl Jeffries
- David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh)
- Sandi Sittler
- Frances Frezeman

Craig & Robin

Oberholtzer

• Michelle, Shea,

& Teagan O'Brien

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Stephen & Helen Najarian
 - Bill & Charlie Norton
- Grace, William, Amy Norton-Ritz,
 - & James Ritz

- Jerry Rhodes
- - Walter Schur
 - Yadar (friend of Pat McMahon)
 - Susan Templin
 - cousin)
 - Noah Kaufmann (friend of Pr. Hans)

ONGOING NEEDS

- Harry Feinauer
- Linda Motley
- Nancy Souders-
- Negri & Fred Negri
- Hildegard Pohl
- (Amy Barrett's sister)
- (Robin Oberholtzer's
 - Dar Unger

- David Strobel
- Danielle Andress
- (Sonon/Mazur family member)
 - Carlton Palmer (friend of the Norton's)
 - Nancy Nagle
- Christine Motley
- Raymond Donald Diesinger (Donnie)
- Carol Batdorf
- Mary Drehs

The presider greets the assembly and invites all to give thanks.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

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,

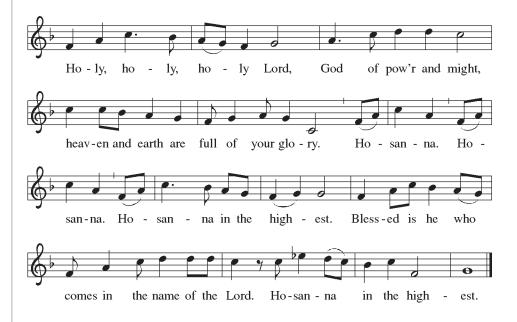
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

During the Words of Institution, the bread and wine are elevated for the congregation to revere and adore Christ's presence in our midst. 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

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,

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

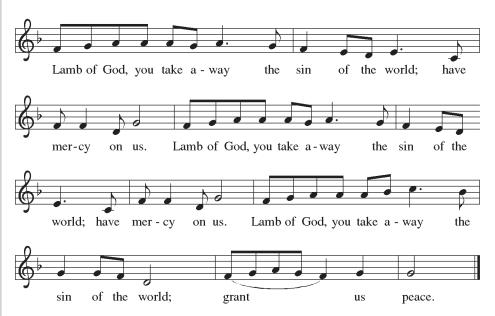
Please be seated.

Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19. Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD





Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: MARTYRDOM Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. Please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to

hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ourselves away as bread for the

serve all in need and to give

As a sign of God's blessing, you may make the sign of the cross.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn can be found on page 18.

SENDING HYMN

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Prelude in D Major

J.K.F. Fischer

Face the processional cross, turning as it passes you.

SENDING HYMN

Ι

too

sing

prais - es

Earth and All Stars! **ELW 731** Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan ets! Trum - pet En - gines 2 and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym bals! Loud pound - ing steel! and ham mers! Loud boil - ing Class-rooms labs! tubes! and test Knowl-edge Loud sound-ing truth! wis dom! and Sing to the Lord new song! a Sing Lord the to a new song! Sing the Lord to new song! a Lord Sing to the new song! a Sing the Lord song! to new Hail, wind, rain! Loud blow - ing and snow storm! Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel los! Lime - stone beams! Loud build - ing and work ers! Ath - lete band! cheer - ing and Loud peo ple! Daugh - ter son! Loud pray - ing and bers! mem Sing to the Lord a new song! Lord Sing the song! to a new Sing Lord the to a new song! Sing Lord the song! to a new Lord Sing to the new song! a Refrain God has done vel - ous things. mar

with a

new

song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926-2009

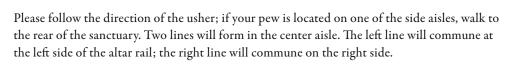
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS David N. Johnson, 1922-1987

Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Communion Instructions



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.





When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister	Pr. Hans E. Becklin
Assisting Minister	Virginia Biniek
Cantor	Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Lector	Fred Opalinski
Communion Assistant	Doris Strobel
ACOLYTE	Jacinda Motley
Greeter	Russ Diesinger

Ushers	Erika Hofmann, Steve Welz
Media Team	Amy Bornhofen, Danielle Smith,
	Jennifer Smith, Jorge Tomás
Altar Guild	Anita Dolak, David Himes,
Amy Stewart-Himes, Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel	
WORSHIP PLANNERS	s Jill Hull & Don Bechtel

WORSHIP SPONSORS

These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.

MILES & BETTY DECHANT in loving memory of Betty's parents, Robert & Elma Younger

Sunday, August 24

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

4:00 рм

OUTREACH & SERVICE COMMITTEE-Birthday Party at the Lighthouse Center

Monday, August 25

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

Tuesday, August 26

9:30 ам

STAFF MEETING

Wednesday, August 27

12:00 рм

COURTYARD CAFE

Thursday, August 28

7:00 pm

FIRST FLOOR RENOVATION TEAM

Saturday, August 30

9:00 AM

MEDIA ROOM & CHOIR ROOM CLEANUP

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by Mason Shultz. Next week's special music will feature Kathleen Stevens Bahena.

Mason Shultz is a junior at Governor Mifflin High School. He is an active musician, studying viola, string bass, and bassoon with aspirations of majoring in music in college.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

10:00 ам

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

Coffee & Conversation - Hintz Room Evangelism & Media Committee - Welcome Center

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in

the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



Sources and Permissions

Liturgical components are from Sundays and Seasons © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #22196. Hymns reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 17: