

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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* BARTHOLOMEW

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth. Amen.*

*Let us bring every burden to God.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

**God of all mercy, we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of † Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.*

**HYMN #893** *Before You, Lord, We Bow* DARWALL'S 148TH

## **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



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** *Let us pray together. Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

**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."*

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

<sup>12</sup> Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**PSALM 145: 8-14**

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> **Lord, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup> All your works shall praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup> **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup> that all people may know of your power  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> **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.

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** Diane Adler, flugelhorn *Here I Am, Lord* PETTIT

**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.*

<sup>15</sup> I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.*

## **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.*

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

<sup>17</sup> ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

<sup>18</sup> “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; <sup>19</sup> 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.”

<sup>25</sup> 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; <sup>26</sup> yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*

**SERMON** *Pastor Tucker O’Leary, n/OLF*

**HYMN** ACS 1062 (pg 10) *Build a Longer Table* NOÉL NOUVELET

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

*With voices united, let us confess our faith*

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.

## THE PRAYERS

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

*...God of grace, hear our prayer.*

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

**OFFERING** *Bread of Life from Heaven* CHILDS

**OFFERTORY #689** *Praise and Thanksgiving (stanza 1 only)* BUNESSAN



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

## 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.

*It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOL Y]



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*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.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven: Taste and know that God is good to all.*

## AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]

The musical score for "Agnus Dei" is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of three main parts:

- First Stanza:**
  - Congregation:** "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, fear: peace: love."
  - Congregation or Assistant:** "you break the chains of ha - tred and you are the way of jus - tice and you are the way of mer - cy and"
- Second Stanza:**
  - Congregation:** "mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace."
  - Congregation or Assistant:** (Implied accompaniment for the congregation's part)
- Final Stanza:**
  - Congregation or Assistant:** (Implied accompaniment for the final phrase)

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

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Let us pray. We thank you, God of heaven and earth, 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

*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. Amen.*

SENDING HYMN #890 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* BATTLE HYMN

## DISMISSAL

*Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.*

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

### *America the Beautiful*

HOBBY

## Build a Longer Table



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,  
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;  
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.  
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.  
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.  
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.  
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,  
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,  
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,  
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.  
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.  
Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.  
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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**Summer Sunday Worship 9:30**

*Hear Our Prayer*

**Welcome to First Lutheran Church.**

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

**WE ASK EVERYONE** to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING** are given to the glory of God in honor of the First Lutheran musicians.

**A CARD WRITING MINISTRY** has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

**OPEN POSITION:** The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.

**THE 2026 FLOWER CHART** is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

**STUFF THE BUS** will be July 23rd—24th. Watch for the Big Blue Box for gathering school supplies to help Christian Clearing House fill the school bus at McDonalds on Tiffin Ave

**SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS** across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Don't forget about Vacation Bible School! This will be a combined effort between the Findlay area Lutheran Churches. If you would be interested in volunteering, you can contact Julie Buck at 419-306-2186 or jabuck67@hotmail.com

**DON'T FORGET THE COMMUNITY DINNER!** Here we are in the midst of summer and vacations, but our Community Dinners continue! Happy 250th to America! Come **TODAY** to help with prep, cleanup, OR **JUST COME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LUNCH!!** Hope to see you there! Thanks.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Christmas in July – A Journey to Bethlehem!**  
**July 13-17, 2026 9am – 12pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Findlay**

Youth in Preschool–5th grade (at least 3 years old) will experience the story of Jesus' birth through engaging stories, crafts, and games in a fun and meaningful way. VBS will take place from 9:00 AM–12:00 PM. This year, we're combining our programs, TLC Preschool will join our church youth, along with friends from St. John's Lutheran, First Lutheran, and First Presbyterian making it a wonderful opportunity to build friendships. Invite a friend to join! Contact Nicole at youth@trinityfindlay.org for more information.

**HELP IS NEEDED** on Tuesday afternoons between 4:15 & 5:15 to pick up the donation from Riehm Farms. During the summer, the drop off is weekly instead of biweekly, and volunteers are needed! There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Remember, the box can be used by the volunteer or donated. Thank you!! Any questions, contact Carolyn Bryant, 567-232-0160.

**THE APOSTLE BUILD** will be September 23rd for house #71. Social Ministry will partner with St. John's Lutheran church to help finish trim at that house at 1664 Bishop Lane, Findlay. We will need 4 volunteers for each shift and helpers for Hospitality that day. Watch for more details as time gets closer.