



Trinity Lutheran Church

July 26, 2026
Common Time 8

*The grace of God
is like a tree
that becomes
a sheltering home.*

GATHERING HYMN:

Gather Us In (ELW 532)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Based on Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose kingdom comes near in ways both hidden and surprising,
whose mercy is our greatest treasure.

Amen.

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

(Silence for reflection.)

Gracious God,

**Your kingdom is like a mustard seed—
small, unnoticed, yet filled with life.**

Too often we overlook the quiet work of your Spirit.

**We expect greatness in power and success,
while you come in humility, compassion, and grace.**

**Your kingdom is like yeast,
working unseen until everything is changed.
Yet we resist the ways you seek to transform us.
We cling to old fears, old resentments, and old habits
rather than trusting your renewing work.**

**Your kingdom is a treasure hidden in a field
and a pearl of great value.**

**Yet we confess that we often chase lesser treasures—
approval, comfort, possessions, certainty, and control—
forgetting that life with you
is worth more than anything this world can offer.**

**Forgive us for the times we fail to recognize your presence,
for the ways we neglect your call,
and for the moments we choose what is temporary
over what is eternal.**

Plant your kingdom within us again.

**Fill us with your Spirit,
that we may become signs of your grace,
sharing your love with the world you cherish.**

The kingdom of heaven has already drawn near to you in Jesus Christ.
Before you ever sought the treasure, God sought you.
Before you found the pearl, Christ gave himself for you.

Because of his life, death, and resurrection,
your sins are forgiven.
God is already at work within you,
growing faith like a mustard seed,
raising hope like yeast in the dough,
and gathering you into the joy of God's kingdom.
Amen.

CONFESSIONAL HYMN:

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty (ELW 533)

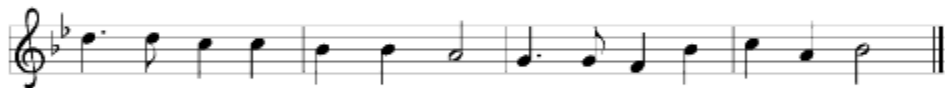
♩ = 120



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

**God, you have given us a dream of your world made whole,
a heavenly realm that is near in heart and close at hand,
and it is ours to choose each day.**

**May our smallest acts of courtesy, when transformed by your love,
grow abundantly into a realm of flourishing for all. Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

¹ Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

² **Sing to the LORD, sing praises,
and speak of all God's marvelous works.**

³ Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ **Search for the strength of the LORD;
continually seek God's face.**

⁵ Remember the marvels God has done,
the wonders and the judgments of God's mouth,

⁶ O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,
O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

⁷ **The LORD is our God,
whose judgments prevail in all the world,
⁸ who has always been mindful of the covenant,
the promise made for a thousand generations:**

⁹ the covenant made with Abraham,
the oath sworn to Isaac,

¹⁰ which God established as a statute for Jacob,
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

¹¹ saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan
to be your allotted inheritance."

^{45b} **Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else?

³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?”

They answered, “Yes.”

⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SERMON HYMN:

Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)

 = 115



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Based on Romans 8:26-27.

We are on a journey of becoming
and do not fully know how to pray.
Yet the Spirit helps us in our weakness
and intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
Therefore, let us offer our prayers,
confident that the Spirit prays in us
according to God's will.

Holy God,
you have blessed humanity with understanding
and the ability to choose the good.

**Give to all leaders and people
a vision of your world made whole,
the wisdom to pursue it,
and the will to accomplish it.**

You have given your world the gift of Jesus
to transform our suffering into healing and hope.

**Be with all who suffer hardship, distress, or need,
and help us to honor you by serving together,
as we grow in the mercy and compassion of Christ.**

You blessed us with the gift of creation
and call us to uphold its purpose of declaring your holy splendor.
**Join us with the Spirit's movement in caring for your world
as together we await our redemption from glory into glory.**

We give thanks for the gift of hope that never ends
and that we are more than victors through him who loved us.
**We remember all who have died
and give thanks that nothing can separate us from you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PEACE

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

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and
may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Please place offering in one of the Bulletin Stand offering plates at the end of worship as you leave the church.

OFFERTORY: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (ACS 942)

Upbeat Taize-style: piano plays through once before the congregation sings.

Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,
2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,
3 . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.
asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Holy One,

receive these offerings as you receive our lives.

**Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts,
our generosity and our reluctance.**

**Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known,
that our lives might show forth your glory,
for we pray in the name of Jesus
and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

THE 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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,

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

COMMUNION

All are welcome to join in the gift of Holy Communion.

White grape juice is available and all altar bread is gluten-free.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our lord and savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Compassionate God,

through the gifts of bread and wine

our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.

Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,

may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Based on Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 and Romans 8:26-28.

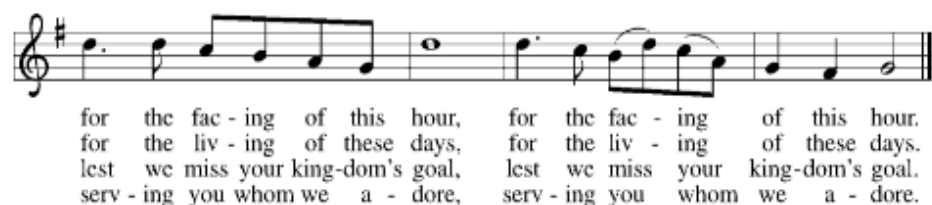
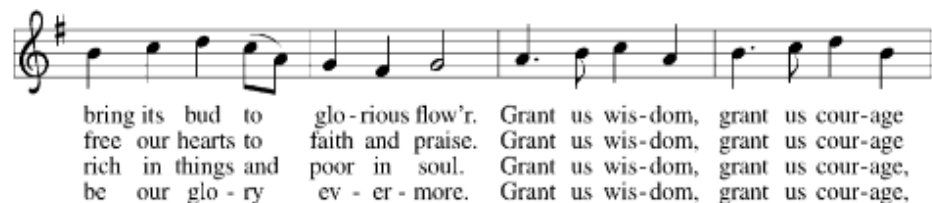
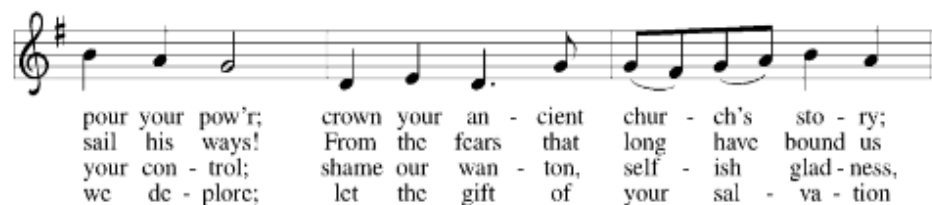
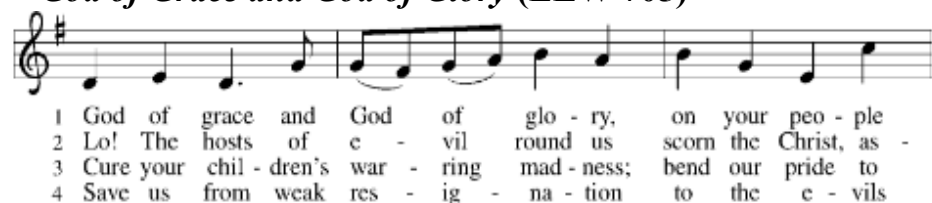
Now let us go—as seed and yeast,
willing to lose our lives in the larger purposes of God.
Let us go—as fisherfolk and treasure seekers,
pouring out our days in search of hidden grace.

And may God, who searches the heart,
✠ Jesus, whose love overcomes all division,
and the Spirit, which helps us in our weakness,
continue to lead you into life
that you may serve with abandon and joy.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN:

God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)

♩ = 125

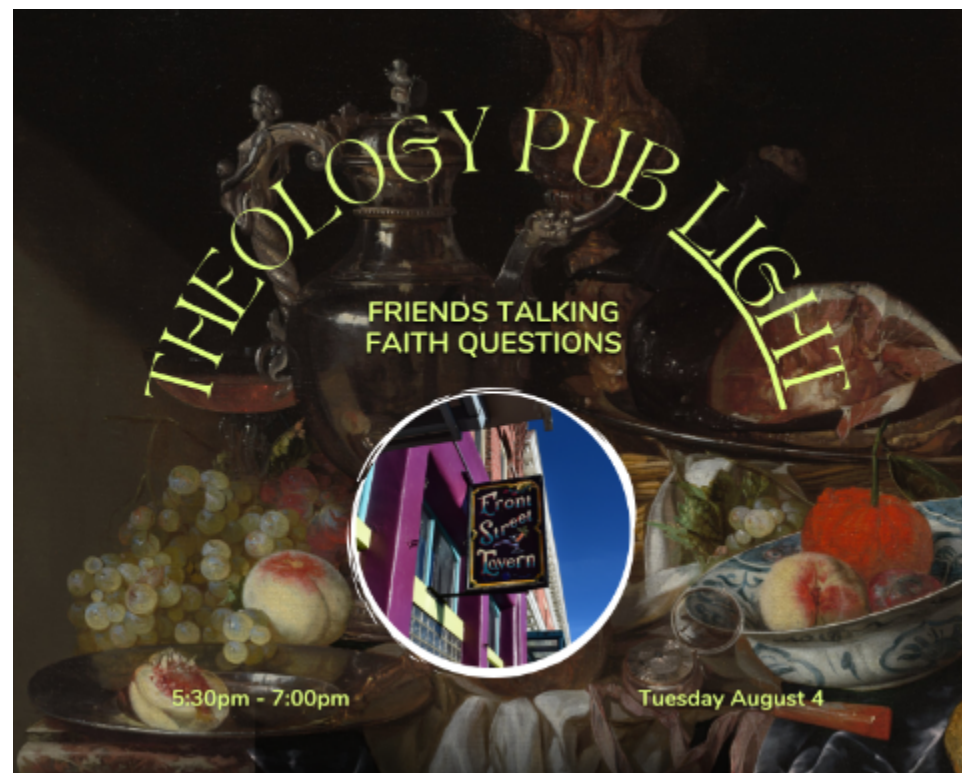


DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Trinity Happenings:

Sun, Jul 26:	9:00am	Worship Service
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm
Mon, Jul 27:	9:00am	Becoming
Wed, Jul 28:	11:30am	Cabinet/Closet Hours til 1:30pm
Sun, Aug 2:	9:00am	Worship Service w/ E. Boss
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm
Mon, Aug 3:	9:00am	NO Becoming
Tue, Aug 4:	5:30pm	TheologyPUB Light
		@ Front Street Tavern



Wed, Aug 5:	11:30am	Cabinet/Closet Hours til 1:30pm
Sun, Aug 9:	9:00am	Band Worship w/ J. Apronti
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm
Mon, Aug 10:	9:00am	<i>Becoming</i>
Tue, Aug 11:	6:15pm	Church Council in Gruver Rm
Wed, Aug 12:	11:30am	Cabinet/Closet Hours til 1:30pm
Sun, Aug 16:	9:00am	Worship Service
	10:15am	Fellowship in Gruver Rm

Thank You

2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Steven Barret, President
- Adam Huck, Vice President
- Samantha Weatherston, Secretary
- Tyler Bartholme
- Molly Bredehoft
- Thom Edgar
- Paul Kunkel
- Martha Leonard

*The Council traditionally meets on the
second Tuesday of each month at 6pm.*

As we continue to discern where God is leading Trinity Lutheran Church, your church Council would love to hear from you. If you have hopes, dreams, ideas, or a vision for our congregation's future, we invite you to share them. Whether your thoughts are big or small, they are an important part of our shared ministry and our ongoing discernment together.

Please email or reach out to any member of the Church Council to share your thoughts. As we listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance, may we continue to grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and lean into God's vision for our life and ministry together. The council president's email is telc.steven.barrett@gmail.com.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Cards available in your pew!



Serving in Worship

THIS SUNDAY — Jul 26, 2026

Altar: **James Apronti**
Livestream: **Paul Kunkel**
Reader: **Helen Coates**
Assistant: **OPEN**
Fellowship: **OPEN**

NEXT SUNDAY — Aug 2, 2026

Altar: **Conyers Family**
Livestream: **OPEN**
Reader: **Thom Edgar**
Preacher: **Erik Boss**
Fellowship: **OPEN**

Congregation President	Steven Barrett
Pastor	Nathan Keith
Accompanist	Soyeon Kang
Financial Director	Linda Lebeda
Financial Secretary	Alison Lebeda
Custodian	James Apronti
In the Office	Lisa Guarnieri

QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING? If you ever have any questions about your financial gifts to Trinity, please contact Trinity's financial secretary, Alison Lebeda, at alebeda@uwyo.edu. If you need an up-to-date statement of giving, please contact the church office.

2026 Snapshot thru June

Income - \$113,000.23

Expenses - \$115,654.83

