

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

PRELUDE

Dave Roos

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
source of hope for every people, 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,
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. 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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

TFF #149

"Seek Ye First"

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 And His righteousness
 And all these things
 Shall be added unto you
 Allelu alleluia

- 2 Man shall not live by bread alone
 But by ev'ry word
 That proceeds
 From the mouth of God
 Allelu alleluia
- 3 Ask and it shall be given unto you
 Seek and ye shall find
 Knock and the door Shall be opened unto you
 Allelu alleluia

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.**

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 105:1-8

O give thanks to the LORD; call on God's name;
 make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

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

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

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

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

**O offspring of Abraham, God's servant,^[a]
 O children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.**

The LORD is our God;
 whose judgments prevail in all the world,
**Who has always been mindful of the covenant,
 The promise made, for a thousand generations.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Beloved and sovereign God, **through the death and resurrection
 of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit,
 give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ,
 our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Word

BIBLE READING

Romans 8:26-39

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #721 "Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil"

Goodness is stronger than evil;
 love is stronger than hate;
 light is stronger than darkness;
 life is stronger than death;
 vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,
 through God who loves us.
 Vict'ry is ours, vict'ry is ours,
 through God who loves us.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SERMON

"The Impossible Dream of Our Faith"

Pastor Julie Brenden

HYMN OF DAY ELW #754 "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"

- 1 Jesus, the very thought of you
 fills us with sweet delight;
 but sweeter far your face to view
 and rest within your light.
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
 nor can the mind recall
 a sweeter sound than your blest name,
 O Savior of us all!
- 3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
 O joy of all the meek,
 how kind you are to those who fall!
 How good to those who seek!
- 4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
 help us to prize your love;
 grant us at last to hear you say:
 "Come, share my home above."

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

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

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

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

(You are welcome to share the peace with others.)

OFFERING & HYMN

ELW #692

"We Are An offering"

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours, we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you, we are an offering, we are an offering.

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.**

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.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

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 ELW # 399 "O Holy Spirit, Root of Life"

- 1 O Holy Spirit, root of life,
 creator, cleanser of all things:
 anoint our wounds, awaken us
 with lustrous movement of your wings.
- 2 Eternal vigor, Saving One,
 you free us by your living Word,
 becoming flesh to wear our pain,
 and all creation is restored.
- 3 O holy Wisdom, soaring pow'r,
 encompass us with wings unfurled,
 and carry us, encircling all
 above, below, and through the world.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.
Thanks be to God.