

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”**  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from “God’s Work, Our Hands” Toolkit)**

L: The ELCA is “a visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in communities and around the world.” (*Goal 4, ELCA Future Directions 2025*)

All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

**P: Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.**

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

**P: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG HYMN: “Earth and All Stars”/“God’s Work, Our Hands”**

**Text: Wayne L. Wold**

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkUINcJ3KXA&feature=youtu.be>

God's work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal.  
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

(continued on next page)

**SONG: “Earth and All Stars”/“God’s Work, Our Hands” (continued)**

God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** Written by Moira Laidlaw  
*(holding your hands in front of you)*

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you used your hands to heal; to lift up; to bless; to sow kindness and tenderness in desolate lives.

**P: Forgive us when we keep our hands at our sides when we could be reaching out in love.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you used your hands to bear the burdens of others and to feed the hungry.

**P: Forgive us when we use our hands to take care of ourselves without any thought for those who are hungry or overwhelmed with adversity.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you used your hands to welcome and to include those who were considered outcasts in the society of your time.

**P: Forgive us when we clench our fists and exclude people simply because they are different from us.**

L: Lord Jesus Christ, open our hands and our hearts to love as you loved and to care as you cared.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: Hear the good news: there is forgiveness and steadfast love with God who saves us from all our sins. God has shown this love for us in that, while we still were sinners, Christ died for us.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN’S TIME: *Blessing the School Year* – Video by Sophie Consie on Facebook**

**SONG: “Go My Children with My Blessing” Koine**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edq3iV4sw6o>

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray:

**P: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**SONG: “Change My Heart, O God”**

**ELW #801**

Change my heart, o God; make it ever true.  
Change my heart, o God; may I may be like you.  
You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as God is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way Joseph reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 103:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

<sup>9</sup>you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

**SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those

who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

**MESSAGE:**

**Shivon Miller**

**SONG: "With Every Act of Love" Jason Gray**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4bB7BUxBbY>

We bring the kingdom come  
(Oh oh oh-oh oh oh oh)  
With every act of love  
Jesus, help us carry You  
Alive in us, Your light shines through  
With every act of love  
We bring the kingdom come

## CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE 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.**

## THE OFFERING

*Looking for a way to give to support Trinity ministry? Simply text the amount you'd like to give to 833-610-0635. Kathy will also continue to check the mail and make deposits weekly Thank you for your generous giving that enables continued ministries.*

**OFFERING SONG: "Do Something" Matthew West**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8)

## OFFERING PRAYER

**God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With open hands and open hearts, let us pray for the needs of all the world.

Generous Provider, renew the strength, energy and courage of your church. Through our acts of service, may your love overflow and your grace be proclaimed for us, for our neighbors and for all the world. God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

Generous Provider, we celebrate the earth that yields its fruit in due season. Make us good neighbors to every corner of creation. Save us from our desire to hoard abundant resources for ourselves at the expense of other people and of the earth itself. God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

Generous Provider, guide leaders who set economic policy. Set free those burdened by debt. Provide assistance to those who cannot make ends meet. Teach us to steward our gifts with generosity and with concern for the whole community. God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

Generous Provider, raise up daily bread where there is famine. Bring nourishing food to those who live in food deserts. Create networks of support to feed the hungry in our communities. God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

Generous Provider, you heal all diseases, comfort all sorrows, restore all things. Make our hands, our feet, our mouths and our hearts agents of that healing in the world. Especially today we pray for...

**Mae, Julia, Fred, Myrt, Jim, Grayson, Will, Zoie, Kaylie, Betty, Dorlene, Alex and Trista, and Adrien**

Bring healing to those suffering from the coronavirus and lead researchers to a vaccine. Guide us in boldly serving the needs of neighbors near and far. God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

Generous Provider, your love holds us in life and in death. Thank you for the faithful witness of those who have died. Direct our vision to the time when every knee shall bow, every tongue confess and every hand reach out to serve in praise of you. God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

We commend these and all things to your gracious care, trusting in Christ Jesus, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered together 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.**

**SONG: "Thuma Mina /Send Me Jesus"**

**ELW #549**

Send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Jesus, Send me Lord.  
Lead me Jesus, lead me Jesus, lead me Jesus, Lead me Lord.  
Fill me Jesus, fill me Jesus, fill me Jesus, fill me Lord.

### **COMMISSIONING OUR HANDS:**

**L:** As children of God, we have been marked by the sign of the cross of Christ forever. We are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.

**P:** **Lord, we ask for your blessings upon our hands. Hands that will be about your work. Hands which will spread love and compassion in your world. Amen**

### **AFFIRMATION OF SERVICE (by Rebecca Breddin)**

**L:** Sisters and Brother is Christ, God is at work. God is working through us, in us, and by our hands. Will you look to Jesus, who frees us from a service of sin and death, as our example in freely serving others with our hands in love, compassion and humility?

**P:** **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**PRAYER OF COMMITMENT (ELW)**

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours. Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.

**SONG: “*Your Hands and Feet*” Justin Gambino**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fFHntnAGOA>

**BLESSING**

The God of compassion, hope and joy,  
Our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,  
Bless your feet to stand in hope.  
Bless your lips to proclaim love and mercy.  
Bless your heart to love and listen to those you encounter in new ways.  
Bless your hands to care for the needs of your neighbors with new imagination.  
Bless you to be a blessing to others.  
Now and always.  
**Amen.**

**SONG: “*I Want My Life to Make a Difference*” Rachel Kurtz**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVw0ml7lukw>

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**