

The Sower and the Seed



TRINITY  LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Sunday, July 12, 2026
9:00 am Service

Order of Worship

**stand as you are able*

Prelude

Karla Keller

Welcome

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God and one another.

Compassionate God,

We confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Hymn #533

verses 1, 3, 5

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be fruitful unto life in me.

Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

***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.

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy."

page 184

Refrain:

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, every day.

1. For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*
2. That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,
That we may live out truth and justice and grace,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*
3. For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family.
For life and for love, for our work and our play,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*
4. For your Spirit to guide, that you center our lives in the water and the Word,
That you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord... *(Refrain)*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,

We thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.

**By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it,
and grow in faith and hope and love,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Reading

Matthew 13

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Pastor Paul Lutter

Hymn of the Day

As Rain from the Clouds

Hymn #508

1. As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

2. As grain that is scattered your word has been sown
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.
3. As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,
awaking and warming and healing our land.
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

***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 the Church**

Congregational Response: Hear our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace / Announcements**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Council Moment

Adam Rowan

Offering

*Thank you for your continued financial support.
An offering plate can be found in the back of church as
you leave worship. Or give online at www.trin.org/give.*



Offertory Response

Lord, Be Glorified

Hymn #744

1. In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.
2. In your church... 3. In your world...

Holy Communion

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Distribution of Holy Communion

*Please come forward for Holy Communion this morning by using the center aisle and
returning by the side aisle. If you prefer, gluten free wafers are available on the
center table and white grape juice is located in the inner circle of the tray.*

***Closing Prayer**

Compassionate God,
**Through the gifts of your grace and word, our hearts are filled with the
abundance of your love. Strengthen us now as we go forth into the world, that
we may share your light freely, just as you have shared with us. We ask this in the
name of Jesus, through the Spirit guiding and sustaining us now and forever.
Amen.**

***Benediction**

**Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

May the God of Hope Go With Us

May the God of hope go with us ev - 'ry day,
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.
May the God of jus - tice speed us on our way,
bring-ing light and hope to ev - 'ry land and race.
Pray-ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our
joy with all; work - ing for a world that's new,
faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.

Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Karla Keller

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513 Madison Street SE | Watertown, MN 55388
952-955-1891 | www.trin.org

Paul Lutter, Interim Pastor
Karla Keller, Accompanist

In Our Prayers:

Jim Morrow, Steve Boylan, Frank Fritzke, Eddie Galbreath, Stacey Lewandowski,
Randy Feltmann (brother of Shirley Domjahn), Elyse Hirsch
(daughter-in-law of Kelly & Liz Hirsch), Aiko Landgraf (niece of Sue Magnuson)

We extend our sympathy to Kate & Rob Illies and family upon the recent passing of
Kate's father, Jerry Untiedt. May God grant you peace and comfort.

Announcements

Special Congregational Meeting The Call Committee is thrilled to recommend a
candidate for our next pastor. Join us for a Special Congregational Meeting today,
Sunday, July 12 at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to vote on issuing the call.

Connect & Celebrate: Fall Kickoff at Trinity! Let's launch our next program year
with a strong, connected community! Trinity is bringing back our Fall Kickoff Event,
and we want you to be part of the fun. Help the Church Council plan logistics,
activities, and meaningful service projects that we can do together as a congregation.
Grab a friend, share your ideas, and join the planning crew by signing up at
www.trin.org under the EVENTS menu.

Share your musical gifts with us this summer! We invite you to participate in
special worship music this summer with a Gospel Band on Sunday, July 26 and a
pick-up choir on August 16. Let Penny Koets or Hannah Rosholt know if
you're interested in being a part of either of these groups.

Trinity's World's Smallest Marching Band Grab your instrument and join the band
in downtown Watertown! We are hitting the streets to represent Trinity in the annual
Rails to Trails grand parade on Saturday, July 25. Contact Jason Koets or the church
office for details and to sign up to march with the band.

Trinity Youth Group Trip to Valleyfair Youth in grades 6th-12th and friends are
invited to Valleyfair on Tuesday, July 28. Sign up at **www.trin.org under EVENTS.**