

The Beginning of the End >



19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

 **OCTOBER 4, 2026** 

THE BEGINNING OF THE END – IT'S TIME TO: **SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER**

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end. Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us. Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready. "The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Sometimes people get braver when they realize they are nearing the end. They speak things they couldn't or wouldn't say before, even to the powerful, because they realize they have nothing to lose. The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins through Jesus' death on the cross has many powerful enemies. Sometimes those enemies are religious people, rebellious spirits and heretics. Sometimes those enemies are people of this world who worship their own personal desires and glory in their shame. It doesn't matter how powerful the enemies are. God persists in speaking his truth and drawing our eyes to his Son, who will help us persevere to the end and speak truth to power.

THE MISSION OF TRINITY

*The members of Trinity are joined together in Jesus' love to **worship** our Lord, **grow** in his Word, and **share** it with others.*

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER IN TODAY'S SERVICE.

St. Paul writes that everyone who receives the Lord's Supper must "recognize the body of Christ," and therefore "ought to examine themselves" (1 Cor. 11:27-29) before eating and drinking. He also writes that it is God's desire that as his people commune, they do so as "one body" (1 Cor. 10:17), "perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Cor. 1:10). For this reason, Trinity follows the biblical and historic practice of closed (or member) communion. We welcome members of WELS or ELS congregations to commune with us. If you are not a member of a church in fellowship with Trinity, please refrain from communing today. We want nothing more than to receive the Lord's Supper with you, but we want to do so in the unity of faith that Jesus wants for his people (cf. John 17:20-23). We hope that can happen soon! Please speak to our pastor after the service, and he would be happy to further explain our practice and help you work toward full unity with us.

Opening Hymn

876 *Fight the Good Fight*

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us
pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

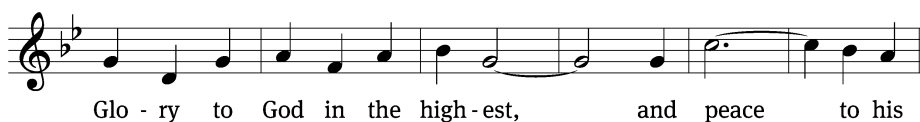
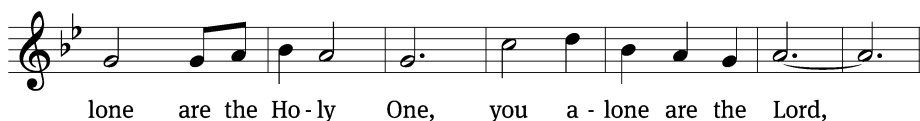
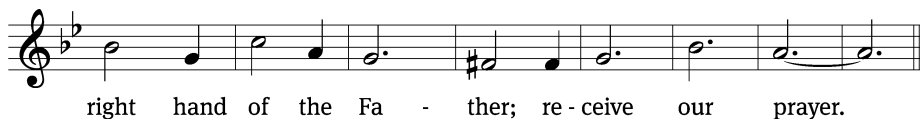
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth. Lord God,
heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your
glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



Tune: Marty Haugen

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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

¹I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.

²He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

³"Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?

When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

⁵Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:

I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;

I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.

⁶I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.

I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”

⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 80A – see p. 8

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12-21

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand – Service continues on p.9

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 80A



1 Shep - herd of the cho - sen flock, Might - y One, en -
2 How long will your an - ger blaze? How long will you
* 3 LORD, you cleared a plot of land, plant - ing there a
* 4 Rec - og - nize our deep dis - tress: LORD, your vine is



throned on high, God, whom an - gel hosts a - dore,
spurn our prayer? How long must our bit - ter tears
ten - der vine; there it spread its leaf - y boughs,
now laid waste; see the saints whom once you chose



hear our hum - ble, ar - dent cry: Let your glo - ry
bring a fore - taste of de - spair? From our neigh - bors
there its fruit was lush and fine. Now that fruit, a -
now, at your re - buke, dis - graced. Let your call a -



flood our sight! Rise in ho - ly, sav - ing might:
we have borne cruel con - tempt and bra - zen scorn:
ban - doned, falls; bro - ken are the vine - yard walls.
gain be known, claim your ser - vants as your own.



Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.
Show your face in mer - cy, LORD— may your peo - ple be re - stored.

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Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:10



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Sung by all: Refrain

Spoken by all: For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good works.

Sung by all: Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

³³"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵"The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹"He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

" 'The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes?'

⁴³"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

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

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon

Isaiah 5:1-7

PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT

1. GIVE GIVES THE OPPORTUNITIES

2. GOD EXPECTS THE RESULTS

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

*Each petition will end with “Lord, in your mercy...” The congregation is invited to respond, “**Hear our prayer.**”*

Offering

*The members of Trinity Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord’s work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. At this time, we ask both members and guests to fill out the **friendship register** found at the end of each pew. When you’ve written your information, please pass it to the next person until everyone has had a chance to sign it. Thank you for helping us serve you with the gospel!*

THE SACRAMENT

As you have the opportunity, take a moment for self-examination before receiving the Sacrament. You may wish to review the “Christian Questions” beginning on page 295 of the hymnal or read through a “Holy Communion” hymn (659-677).



Stand

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right . . . and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est!

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

...The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Be seated

Distribution

In order to receive communion today, we ask that worshipers be able to check all of the following boxes:

- ☐ I repent of all my sins, holding nothing back from God (1 John 1:9).
- ☐ I believe that Jesus took away my sins when he died for me on the cross (John 3:16; 1 John 3:5).
- ☐ I believe that in communion I receive Jesus' true body and blood along with the bread and the wine (Mt. 26:26-27; 1 Cor. 10:16).
- ☐ I have made a statement of my agreement with all the teachings of this church family and its church body (WELS), as I have learned to know them through a Catechism or Foundations Class.

If you are not able to check all these boxes today but would like to commune with us in the future, please speak to our pastor after the service. He would love to help make that happen!

Distribution Hymns

889 *Jerusalem the Golden*

661 *Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord*

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and **✚** give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

853 *I'm But a Stranger Here*

+++

MINISTER: Pastor Daniel Balge

BULLETIN SPONSOR: Darlene Poehler in memory of her husband George

ACCOMPANIST: Lori Enter

SPECIAL THANKS to all others who served in worship today, including our video and screen coordinators, ushers, greeters, and soloists

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship
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OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday 219
Streaming 16
Monday 11

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 10:45 am 26
Kids In Christ 20
Monday 7:00 pm 9
Monday Virtual 0

SUNDAY GIVING

General Fund	6894.00
Vanco	565.08
Capital	45.00

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sun (10/4)	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am	Worship w/ communion Fellowship KID & Bible Study
Mon (10/5)	6:00pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Worship Board of Ed Bible Study
Wed (10/7)	8:05 am 7:00pm	TLS Chapel Unified Meeting
Thur (10/8)	7:00 pm	Men's Bible Study
Sat (10/10)	7:00pm	Women, Wine & The Word
Sun (10/11)	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:45 am 12:00 pm	Worship, Baptism & Choir Sings Fellowship Kids in Christ & Bible Study Call Meeting

TRINITY NEWS

CALL INFO: CALL INFO: Pastor Noah Herrmann of St. John's Lutheran Platteville CO has returned our call. Our next call meeting will be October 11th at noon.

MENS FELLOWSHIP: will be held the first 2 Thursdays of the month. Fellowship will be October 1st at Brandon Fluegge's House at 7pm. Bible Study will be Thursday October 8th in the Fireside room. They are still discussing chapters from the book "Disciplines of a Godly Man".

WOMEN, WINE & THE WORD: Meets Saturday Oct 10th at 7pm. They have recently started the book "Disciplines of a Godly Woman". Pick up a copy and join in on the discussion!

OPEN INVITE TO CHAPEL: Chapel is held on Wednesdays at 8am. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for chapel!

YOUR VOICE @ TRINITY: the Elders would like to encourage those who feel like they don't have a voice here at Trinity to come to the Elders' meetings the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7pm to voice concerns or discuss things that need to come to voters' meetings. Thanks! (Oct 7)

TRINITY CHOIR: rehearsal begins Thursday evenings from 6-7pm. If you are interested in being part of the choir but didn't sign up, please talk to Morgan Ritter.

TRUNK OR TREAT: will be Friday October 23rd. There is a sign up in the Narthex if you would like to be one of our Trunks! Thanks!

CEMETERY REMINDER: Please remove florals and items around the graves before October 1st for the winter months ahead. The grounds crew is planning to spray for weeds mid-October. Please cover or remove any plants and items that need to be protected from the spray. Thank you!

AREA NEWS

121 MINISTRIES: *Faith-centered HIGH SCHOOL event held on the MLC campus - October 18th, 3-5 pm in the MLC Auditorium - Games, Snacks, Worship, Message. Our goal is to help high school students make their faith their own and give them a fun, Christian environment. Please feel free to reach out with any questions to Logan Cook [715-684-9129](tel:715-684-9129) or cookld@mlc-wels.edu*

There's No Denying It!

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:10-11

There's No Denying It!

"There's no denying it. He's the best there ever is, the best there ever was, the best there ever will be." Do you ever find yourself making statements like this? It happens all the time with sports fans. For example, who is the greatest basketball player of all time? Jordan? Kobe? LeBron? Fans will argue whatever data fits their side. "He had more championships" or "The league was tougher during that era" or whatever else they can think of. But whether we're talking about sports, military generals, brainiacs, or business tycoons, there isn't anyone that EVERYONE agrees is, was, and always will be the greatest of all time.

To be honest, the same is true even when it comes to religion. Every religion promotes its teaching or its figurehead as the best. As a Christian, it's not a secret that I say that about Jesus. Hands down, without a doubt in my mind and heart, Jesus is the best. But let me plead my case. Jesus did what no one else could possibly do. Jesus lived a flawless life, a life of complete perfection, a life that he gave up so that his perfection could be gifted to you and me. However, Jesus didn't stay dead. After three days, Jesus rose from the grave and walked out of his tomb, alive. He defeated death, an enemy that no man could but he, the God-Man, did.

Until Jesus returns, religious people will continue to make their claims about their side being right and others being wrong. But there will come a day when there will be no denying it—Jesus is the best.

Prayer:

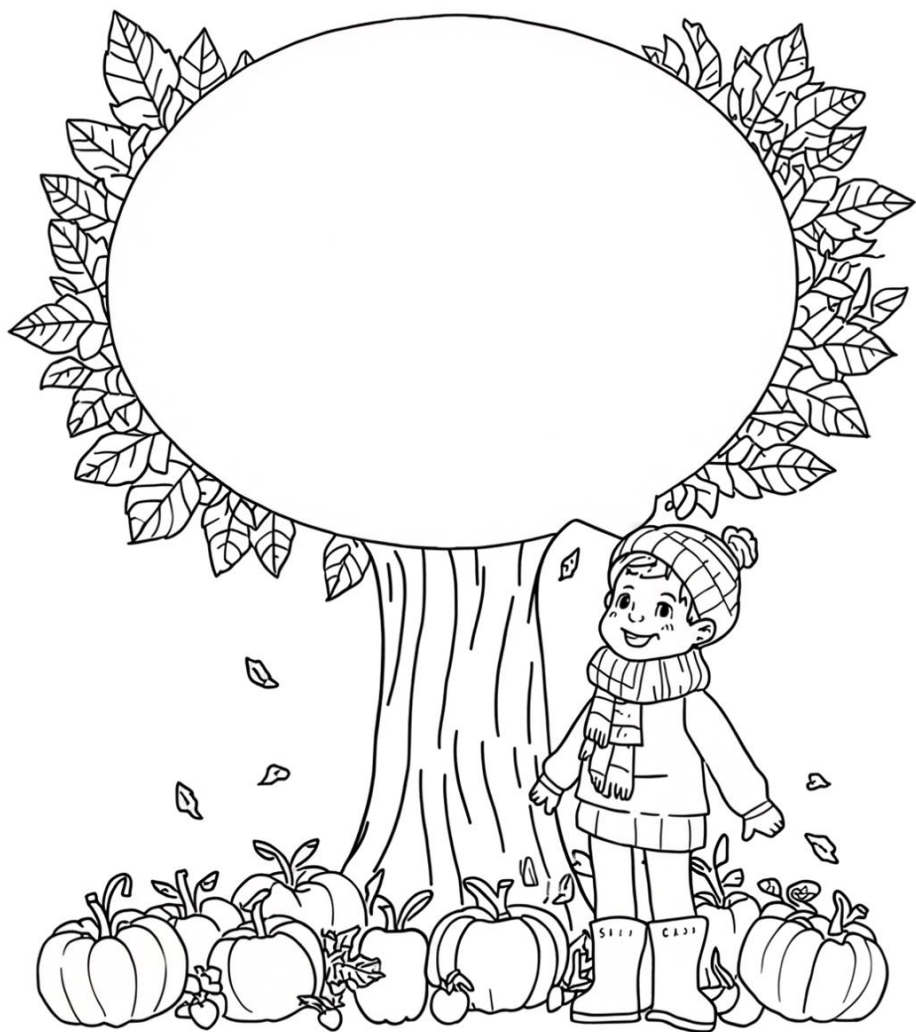
Dear Jesus, keep me faithful in confessing your name until the day when every knee bows and every tongue confesses that you are Lord. Amen.

Daily Devotions is brought to you by WELS.

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Thank You God for





October 2026

TRINITY EV.
LUTHERAN
NICOLLET, MN

Pastor David Carlovsky

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
27 9 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	28 6pm Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	29	30 8:00 am TLS Chapel	1 6pm Choir Practice	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship w/ Communion 10:15 am Fellowship	5 6pm Monday Night Worship 6:00 pm Board of Ed 7pm Bible Study	6	7 8:00 am TLS Chapel Meeting	8 6pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm Mens Bible Study - Ch 12	9	10 7 pm Women, Wine & The Word
11 9 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:45 KIC & Bible Study 12:00 Call Meeting	12 6pm Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	13	14 8:00 am TLS Chapel	15 No School - MEA 6pm Choir Practice	16 No School - MEA	16
18 9 m Worship w/ communion 10:15 am Fellowship 10:45 Kids in Christ & Bible Study	19 6pm Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	20	21 8:00 am TLS Chapel	22 6pm Choir Practice	23 7-8 pm TRUNK OR TREAT	24
25 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:45 Kids in Christ & Bible Study	26 6 m Monday Night Worship 7pm Bible Study	27	28 8:00 am TLS Chapel 7:00 pm Council	29 6pm Choir Practice	30 TLS Early Release	31