

Weekend of September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



I Am My Brother's Keeper



HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

N50W35181 Wisconsin Ave.
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
www.holytrinityels.org

Divine Services:

Thursdays 6:30pm and Sundays 9:00am

Radio Broadcast:

Sundays 10:00am over WTKM 104.9 FM

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Evangelical
Lutheran
Synod

www.els.org

Welcome to Holy Trinity

We're glad you came today to join us in worshiping the one true God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He has graciously created us, mercifully redeemed us, and freely gives us all the treasures of heaven through His Word and Sacraments!

If you are a visitor with us today and want to find out more about what we teach, or are curious about church membership, please talk to our pastor. Please be sure to provide us with your contact information in our friendship register that is passed around before or after the service.

A **Parents' Room** is located at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily leave to calm a child.

Wheelchair accommodations are found halfway down the rows of pews in the center aisle of the church.

HOLY TRINITY is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), a national church body headquartered in Mankato, Minnesota. We confess that we are saved by Grace Alone (Eph. 2:8) through Faith Alone (Acts 16:31) revealed in Scripture Alone (John 5:24). Though we are totally sinful from birth, Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross and gives us eternal life in heaven. We subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions (the Book of Concord, 1580) because they are a faithful and accurate summary of this Biblical doctrine. The ELS has been in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) since 1872.

A Note to All Our Guests Regarding the Lord's Supper:

During this service, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Since this sacrament is the Lord's Supper and not ours, we are careful to follow our Lord's instructions. In particular, we take to heart these important truths:

1. In the Lord's Supper, Jesus truly gives us His body and blood together with the bread and the wine. Jesus says, "Take and eat; this is my body...Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood" (Matthew 26:26-28).
2. In the Lord's Supper, we express a unity of faith with one another. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf" (1 Corinthians 10:17).
3. Our Lord urges us to practice this unity with great love and care. "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:27,29).

Because we take these truths seriously, we invite all communicant members of our congregation or of a sister congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) or the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) to commune with us today. However, we ask that those who are not members of a sister congregation refrain from taking the Lord's Supper with us at this time. In doing this, we are not judging anyone's faith. Out of love for our Lord and all people, we simply desire to discuss the Bible's teachings with our guests before communing together. We want all who commune to receive the Lord's Supper for their benefit and in a way that follows our Lord's instructions. If you have any questions about this or any other teaching of the Bible—or if you would like information about how to join our congregation—please feel free to speak to our pastor.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

RITE TWO

ELH pg. 60

Hymn • *“If Thy Beloved Son, O God”*

[ELH 374]

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. If Thy beloved Son, O God,
 Had not to earth descended
 And in our mortal flesh and blood
 Had not sin’s power ended,
 Then this poor, wretched soul of mine
 In hell eternally would pine
 Because of its transgression.</p> | <p>3. I trust in Him with all my heart;
 Now all my sorrow ceases.
 His words abiding peace impart;
 His blood from guilt releases.
 Free grace through Him I now obtain;
 He washes me from ev’ry stain,
 And pure I stand before Him.</p> |
| <p>2. But now I find sweet peace and rest;
 Despair no more reigns o’er me.
 No more am I by sin oppressed,
 For Christ has borne sin for me.
 Upon the cross for me He died
 That, reconciled, I might abide
 With Thee, my God, forever.</p> | <p>4. All righteousness by works is vain;
 The law brings condemnation.
 True righteousness by faith I gain;
 Christ’s work is my salvation.
 His death, that perfect sacrifice,
 Has paid the all-sufficient price;
 In Him my hope is anchored.</p> |

– Stand –

Invocation

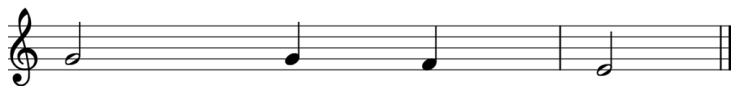
PASTOR *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*



Confession and Absolution

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: *Our help is in the name of the Lord.*



C Who made heav'n and earth.

P: *I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord;*



C And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: *Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

Psalm • 32

[NIV84]

P: *Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,*

C: whose sins are covered.

P: *When I kept silent, your hand was heavy upon me;*

C: my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

P: *Then I acknowledged my sin to you*

C: and did not cover up my iniquity.

P: *I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"*

C: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

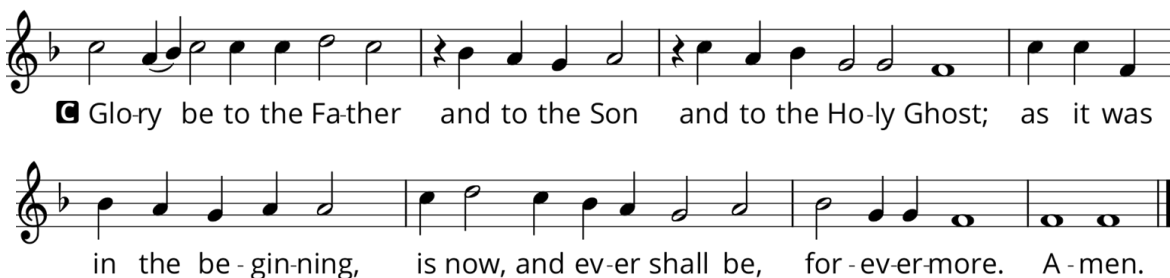
P: *You are my hiding place;*

C: you will protect me from trouble.

P: *Many are the woes of the wicked,*

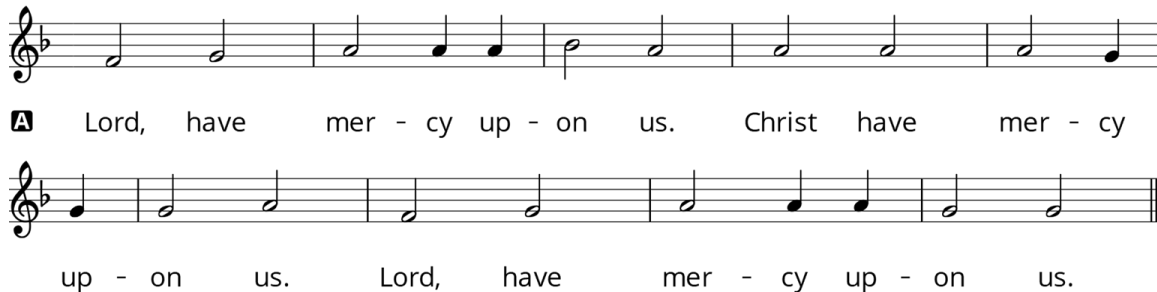
C: but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds those who trust in him.

Gloria Patri



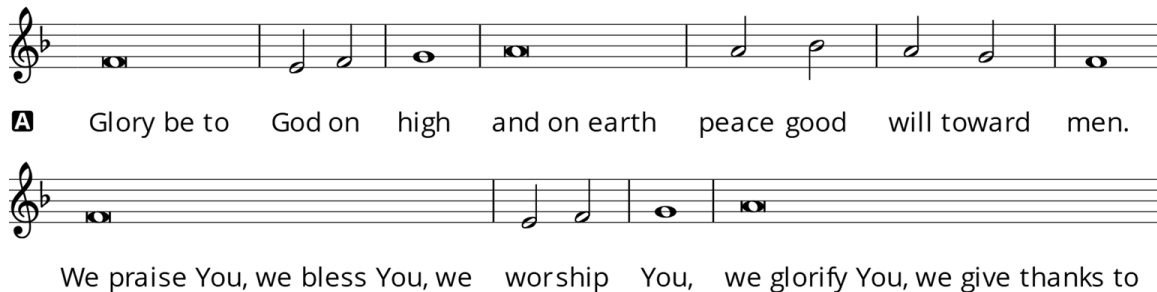
G Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was
in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for-ev-er-more. A-men.

Kyrie Eleison



A Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ have mer - cy
up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo



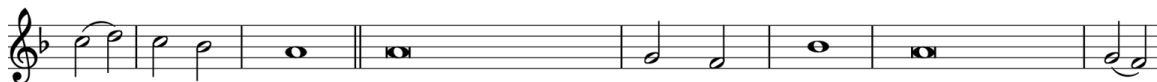
A Glory be to God on high and on earth peace good will toward men.
We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to



You for Your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al -



mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,



Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on



us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on us.



For You only are holy. You on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation

P: *The Lord be with you.*



And with your spir - it.

Prayer of The Day

P: *Let us pray.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

-Be seated-

First Reading • Ezekiel 33:7-11

The LORD told Ezekiel if he didn't warn the Israelites about their sin, he would hold Ezekiel accountable.

But I have appointed you, son of man, to be a watchman for the house of Israel. So whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you are to warn them from me. ⁸When I say to a wicked man, “Wicked man, you shall surely die,” if you do not speak to warn the wicked man against his way, that wicked man will die because of his guilt, but I will also hold you responsible for his blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he will die because of his guilt, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰So you, son of man, say the following to the house of Israel.

This is what you people are saying: “Certainly our rebellion and our sins weigh us down, and because of them we are rotting away. How then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, “As I live, declares the LORD God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from their way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why should you die, O house of Israel?”

Second Reading • *Galatians 2:11-16*

Paul wins his brother Cephas (Peter) over to the truth of the gospel.

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly wrong. ¹²For before some people came from James, he ate with the Gentiles. But when those people came, he drew back and separated himself, because he feared those from the circumcision group. ¹³And the rest of the Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not acting according to the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of all of them, “If you, a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, why do you compel the Gentiles to live like the Jews?”

¹⁵“We are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners. ¹⁶We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. So we also believed in Christ Jesus that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law.

-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation

1 Timothy 2:4

P: Alleluia. God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Alleluia.



A Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel • Matthew 18:15-20

[NIV84]

P: *The holy Gospel is written in the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the fifteenth verse.*



☐ Glo - ry be to You, O Lord!

Jesus teaches us how to practice Christian discipline lovingly.

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. ¹⁶But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸“I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

P: *Here ends the Gospel.*



☐ Praise be to You, O Christ!

Confession of Faith ~ *Nicene Creed*

☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead, and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

-Be seated-

Chief Hymn • *“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”*

[ELH 426]

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Jesus sinners doth receive;
O may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve—
Jesus sinners doth receive.</p> | <p>2. We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe—
Jesus sinners doth receive.</p> |
|--|--|

5. I, a sinner, come to Thee
 With a penitent confession.
 Savior, mercy show to me;
 Grant for all my sins remission.
 Let these words my soul relieve—
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6. O how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter Passion,
 For these words I now believe—
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7. Now my conscience is at peace,
 From the Law I stand acquitted;
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my every sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve—
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

8. Jesus sinners doth receive.
 Also I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave—
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sermon • *Matthew 18:15-20*

Reaching Out to a Fellow Christian Who Has Gone Astray

-Stand-

Offertory Psalm



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir-it

with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your presence and take not Your

Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va -

tion, and up - hold me with Your free Spir-it. A - men.

-Be seated-

Offering

-Organ Interlude-

An offering plate is located in the entryway in the back of the church.

Offerings can be placed in the plate either before or after the service.

Please fill out the friendship register and pass it down the row. Thank you.

Prayer of the Church

-Stand-

Preface

P: *The Lord be with you.*



☐ And with your spir - it.

P: *Lift up your hearts.*



☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: *Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.*



☐ It is good and right so to do.

Preface for the Season

P: *It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:*

Sanctus



A Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth; Heav'n and
earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the
high-est. Blessed is He, blessed is He, bless-ed is He who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

Lord's Prayer

P: 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.



A For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er A - men.

Words of Institution

P: *Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."*

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My + blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P: *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*



C A - - men.

Agnus Dei



A O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world,



have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You



take a-way the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. A - - men.

-Be seated-

Distribution

Guests, please read and take note of the explanation of our Communion practice on page 2 in this service folder.

Hymn • “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

[ELH 286]

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.
2. Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law’s demands.
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly—
Wash me, Savior, or I die!
4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eye-lids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!

Hymn • “Salvation unto Us Is Come”

[ELH 227]

1. Salvation unto us is come
By God’s free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom;
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.
2. What God doth in His law demand
No man to Him could render.
Before this Judge all guilty stand;
His law speaks curse in thunder.
The law demands a perfect heart;
We were defiled in ev’ry part,
And lost was our condition.
3. False dreams deluded minds did fill,
That God His law had given,
As if to Him we could at will
Earn grace and enter heaven.
The law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to sight
That lurks within our nature.
4. From sin our flesh could not abstain,
Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain,
Our guilt was e’er increasing.
None can remove sin’s poisoned dart
Or purify our guilty heart,
So deep is our corruption.

5. Still all the law fulfilled must be,
Else we were lost forever,
Then God His Son sent down that He
Might us from doom deliver;
He all the law for us fulfilled
And thus His Father's anger stilled
Which over us impended.

6. As Christ hath full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
So may each Christian now be glad
And build on this foundation:
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Thy death is now my life indeed,
For Thou hast paid my ransom.

7. Not doubting this, I trust in Thee,
Thy Word cannot be broken,
Thou all dost call, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood hast Thou spoken:
"He who believes and is baptized,
He shall be saved," say'st Thou, O
Christ,
And he shall never perish.

9. The law reveals the guilt of sin,
And makes men conscience-stricken;
The Gospel then doth enter in
The sin-sick soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, look up and live!
The law no peace to thee doth give,
Nor can its deeds bring comfort.

10. Faith to the cross of Christ doth cling
And rests in Him securely;
And forth from it good works must spring
As fruits and tokens surely;
Still faith doth justify alone,
Works serve thy neighbor and make
known
The faith that lives within thee.

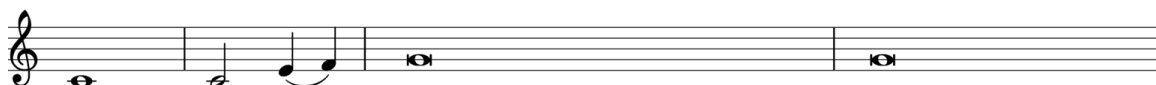
13. All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace,
All glory to His merit.
O Father in the heav'ns above,
The work begun performs Thy love,
Thy worthy name be hallowed.

-Stand-

Nunc Dimittis



A Lord, now You let Your servant de - part in peace ac - cord-ing to Your



word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have pre -



pared be - fore the face of all people, A light to light - en the
 Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry
 be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it
 was in the beginning, is now, and ev-ershall be, for - ev-er-more. A - men.

Communion Verse

P: *O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.*



C And His mercy en - dures for-ev - er.

Collect of Thanksgiving

P: *O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.*



C A - men.

Benediction

P: *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 +.



C A - men, a - men, a - men.

-Be seated-

Closing Hymn • “If Thy Beloved Son, O God”

[ELH 374]

5. My guilt, O Father, Thou hast laid
On Christ, Thy Son, my Savior.
Lord Jesus, Thou my debt hast paid
And gained for me God's favor.
O Holy Ghost, Thou Fount of grace,
The good in me to Thee I trace;
In faith do Thou preserve me.

Acknowledgments:

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