



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

527 Washington Street
Reading, PA 19601
(610) 374-4861
www.trinityreading.org

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Masks are welcomed,
but no longer required.

Vaccinations are highly
recommended.

Please maintain
appropriate distancing
between households and
use hand sanitizer.

+ + +

All are invited to join us at
the Lord's table for Holy
Communion.

+ + +

Our AED machine is
mounted on the wall in
the stairway near the
baptismal font.

+ + +

Please silence your
cell phone.



Trinity Lutheran Church
is recognized by
Reconciling Works as a
"Reconciling in Christ"
Congregation which
welcomes all LGBTQ+
persons into all facets of
congregational life.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM JANUARY 29, 2023

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Congregational words are in bold print.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"V. Improvisation" from *Sketches for Organ*

Wilbur Held

Please stand in body or spirit and face the font.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—
the Ontelaunee Lake,
the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth, the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River, calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well, healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

Continued on page 2...

We praise you, O God, for this font,
for through this water you have birthed us into the family of Christ,
bathed us in forgiveness, and enlivened us in the Spirit.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.

O God, you are the River, saving us from death.

O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.

We praise you, O God, today, tomorrow, forever.

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

GATHERING HYMN - ELW 669 - Rise Up! O Saints of God

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

SONG OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

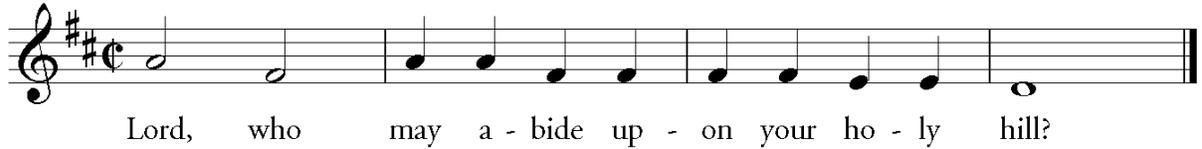
After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

The choir introduces the refrain. The congregation repeats the refrain and sings the refrain where indicated.



Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,

who speak the truth from their heart;

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;

they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor. *Refrain*

In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. *Refrain*

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The acclamation will be sung by all before and after the proper verse.



Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. (Matt. 5:12)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Be seated.

SERMON

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW 710 - Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

After the final petition:

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen

PEACE

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

Please greet one another and then be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

Offertory

John Ness Beck

The Trinity Choir

*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?*

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Liberating God,
**you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.**
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,
Amen

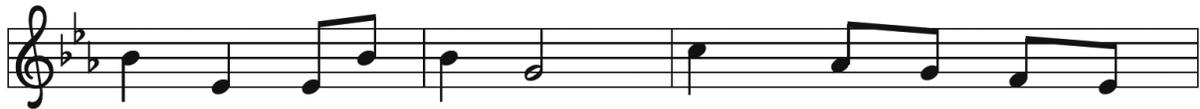
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore...And let the church say, Amen.

Amen

Send your Holy Spirit...And let the church say, Amen.

Amen

Join our prayers...almighty Father, now and forever.

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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!

Be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



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



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Following the direction of the usher, approach the altar, maintaining a safe distance between households. Please ask your server if you need a gluten-free wafer or prefer grape juice. As you return to your seat, place your empty glass in the corner tray. Those not partaking of communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to approach the altar for communion, inform the usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.

After all have received Communion, please stand in body or spirit.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.
Amen

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always.
Amen

SENDING HYMN - ELW 551 - The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve - see page 13

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

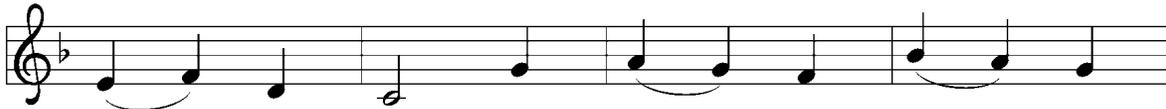
Bachiana from *Fifteen Pieces for Church or Recital*

Gordon Young

SENDING HYMN - ELW 551 - The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to
joy like seed and, all our days, to
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
share a dream and help the blind to see.
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939

Music: CHESTERFIELD, atr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

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Leaders in Today's Liturgy: January 29, 2023 - Epiphany 4

Presiding and Preaching: Pr. Drew Neidig

Assisting Minister: Russell Diesinger

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Lector: Russell Diesinger

Greeter: Russell Diesinger

Ushers: TBD

Communion Assistant: Hannah Long

Altar Guild: Bernadette Ilgen, Jacinda Motley, Joshua Motley, Linda Motley, Charlene Norton, Robin Oberholtzer and Beth Welz

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Katie Hannon and dedicated to the beautiful music of Trinity and Karen



Immediate prayer requests: Pr. Rick Chaveas, Jenn Smith, Ralph Unruh, Bp. Christopher deForest, Cathy Manning, Harry Feinauer, Jonathan Bloom (friend of Jenn Smith), Linda Liptak (sister of Dick Horst and Robin Oberholtzer), Elizabeth (Bette) Ashton (Christine Motley's grandmother), Bruce Ilgen, Micah Long and Megan Zobian

Ongoing prayer requests: Christopher Drayer, Dar Unger, Darryl Jeffries, David Strobel, John Kirby, Dick Evans, Ed Harlin, Luther Routté, Walter Schur, David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), Doris (friend of Pat McMahan), Jim Hofmann (brother of Steve Hofmann), Barbara & Dave Regar (friends of Barbara Ketchum), Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), John Matern (father of Deaconess Deborah), Leonard Smith (father of Andrew Smith), Nathan Hudson (son-in-law of Anita Dolak), Ruth Adam (friend of Graf family), the Sawyer family, and Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith)

Trinity households in prayer: Walter Schur, Holly Shaffer, Cindy & Holt Sheirich; Dave & Sue Shellong; and John, Maggie & Hannah Shelly

Prepare for Worship February 5: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

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Upcoming Sunday Forums

February 5: LightHouse – We will welcome Kate Alley, director of the Hope Rescue Mission Women’s and Children’s Shelter, who will update us on the progress and mission of LightHouse.

February 12: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services – Rev. Eric Shafer, LIRS Pastor in Residence, will share about this ministry, connecting the plight of contemporary refugees to historic Lutheran values.

February 19: Meet Pastor Drew – This forum will give us a chance to get to know our interim pastor a little better. Who knows what will happen?

In Case of Inclement Weather

If winter weather causes us to cancel worship or other Trinity events, we will share those changes with Channel 69 and post the notice on Trinity’s website and Facebook page.

Property Work Day on Sunday, February 12

The property committee is scheduling a work day Sunday, Feb 12, after church service, to work on the 2nd floor Sunday School rooms. Work will consist of paint scraping, drywall patching, and light replacement. Anyone interested in helping can reach out to Eric Rosenbaum (484-788-7263 / ericrosenbaum@rosetreeconsulting.com).

Also, the next **Property Committee meeting will be Thursday, February 16, from 4-5 PM** in the conference room. All are welcome.

Steeple Notes for the season of Lent

Our next edition of *Steeple Notes* will come out on or near February 19 and will cover the season of Lent. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and concludes on April 8.

Open Altar Flower Sponsorship Dates January through March

February 26 and March 26 are open for altar flower sponsorship. Full sponsorship is \$80 and half sponsorship is \$40. You may sign up in the large black binder on the narthex counter (near the organ gift recognition plaque on the wall) or email Rachel Gambone at rgambone@trinityreading.org. When you send in your payment to the church office, please mark on the check memo line that it is for flower sponsorship and the date of sponsorship. Thank you very much for helping beautify our worship space.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, January 29

- 9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (Auditorium)
- 10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
- 11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble (Bard House)
- 2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Monday, January 30

- 9:45 AM: Program Staff

Tuesday, January 31

- 9:30 AM: Full Staff Meeting

Wednesday, February 1

- 6:30 PM: Trinity Ringers (Nave)
- 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal (Hintz Room)

Sunday, February 5

- 9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (Auditorium)
- 10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
- 11:15 AM: Mixed Ensemble (Bard House)
- 2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

Church office hours are 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Monday through Thursday.

Broadcast Schedule for February

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190, Reading Hospital Channel 80, online at www.trinityreading.org, on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch. Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.

Sundays

- 6:00 PM World Views:
Metropolitan Community Church
- 6:30 PM Music From Trinity:
Nicolás Gómez Amín, violin and
Jean Pierre Kiklikian Herrera, piano
- 7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

- 4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service
- 5:00 PM Music From Trinity:
Nicolás Gómez Amín, violin and
Jean Pierre Kiklikian Herrera, piano
- 5:30 PM World Views:
Metropolitan Community Church

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