



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

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

+ + +

Our worship at Trinity
follows the church's
ancient form.

Everything you need for
worship is in this bulletin.

+ + +

All who trust that
Christ is present in Holy
Communion are invited to
receive Him with us today.

+ + +

Please silence your cell
phone.

+ + +

Our AED is mounted on
the wall in the stairway
next to the baptismal font.



At Trinity, we welcome
all LGBTQ+ people as
full participants in our
common life. We're proud
to proclaim this publicly in
our city and wider church
as a Reconciling in Christ
congregation.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 17, 2024

Congregational words are in bold print.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727
(My heart is filled with longing)

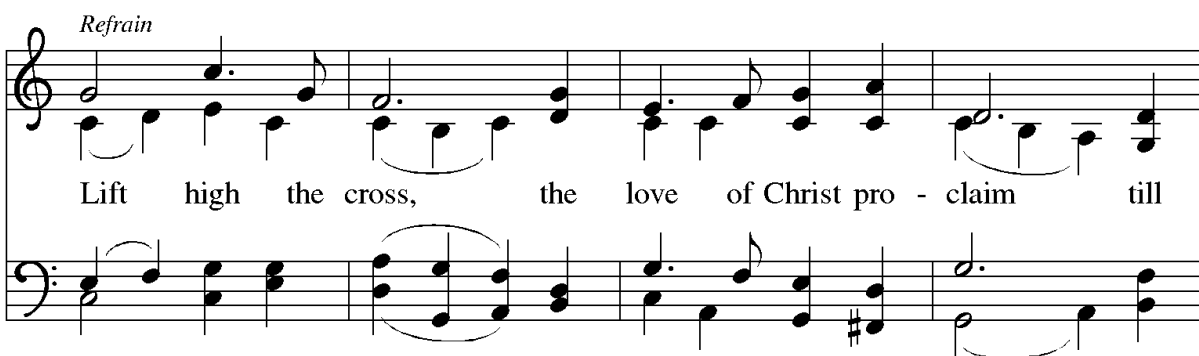
J. S. Bach



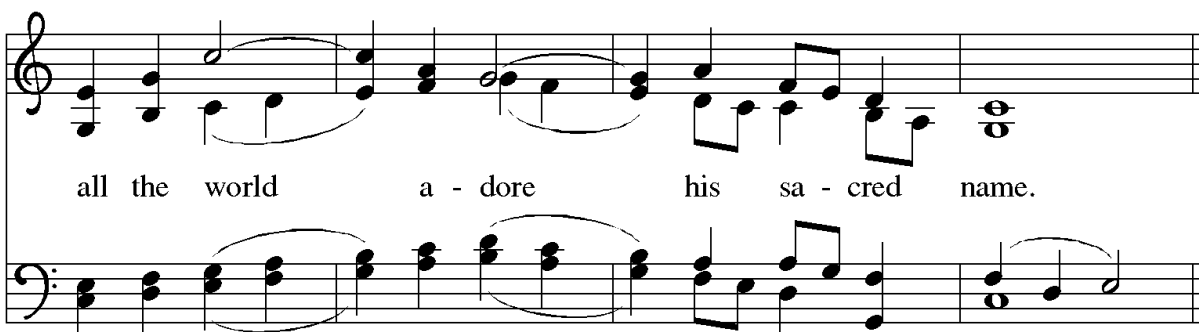
Please stand in body or spirit and face the rear of the sanctuary.

GATHERING HYMN - ELW 660 - Lift High the Cross

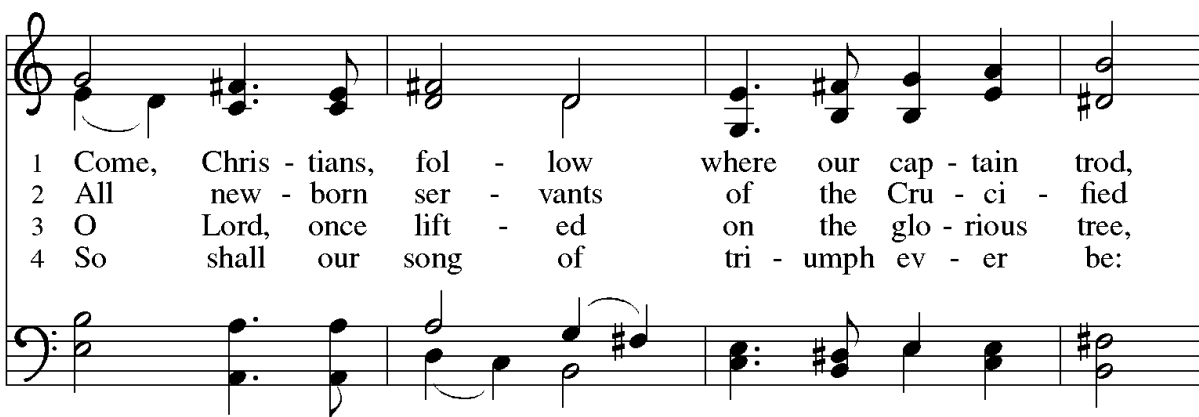
Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

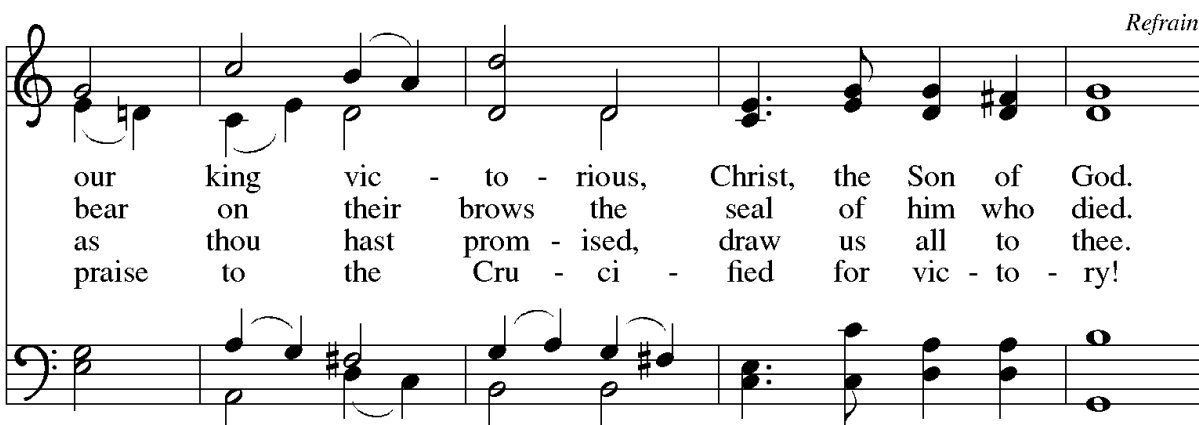


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please kneel or be seated. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.

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 - William Norton, cantor



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



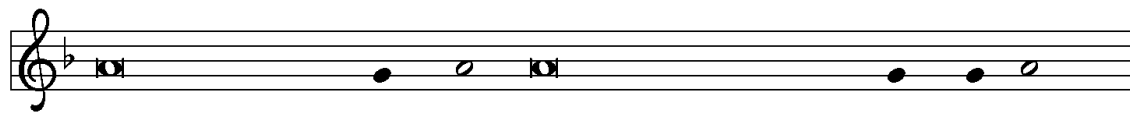
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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 mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself,
and in mercy you receive our prayers.

Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,
that through life and death we may live in your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

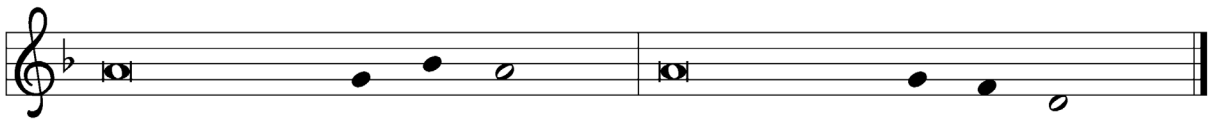
After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

The psalm will be chanted alternately between the choir and the congregation.



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

After the reading:

Word of God, word of life.

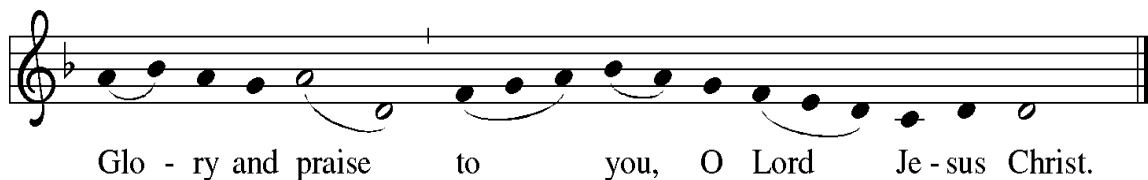
Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The gospel acclamation is sung by all and repeated after the verse.



Verse: *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (John 12:24)*

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

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 - ACS 958 - To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold

1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's
2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as
3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our

won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied
liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all
treasure and our song, in faith we

grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.
thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.
cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.

Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with
The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the
In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the

Christ from death we rise, drawn through the
veil of sin and grief, and in love their
world be - loved and whole. In love re -

night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant
place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and
main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -

life, in - to a - bun - dant life.
peace, and robes of joy and peace.
told, God's won - ders still un - told.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: WONDERS, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

Text © 2011 Susan R. Briehl, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © 2011 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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.**

Please kneel or be seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and for all of God's creation.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

After the final petition:

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

OFFERTORY

Psalm 130 - Out of the Depths

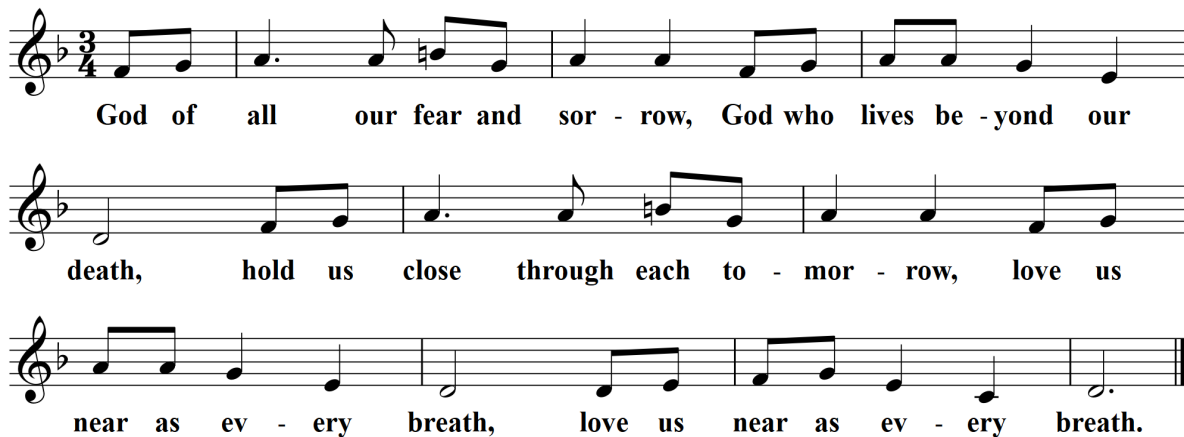
John Ferguson

The Trinity Choir

*Out of the depths I cry to you; O Savior, hear me calling.
Out of the depths have I cried to you; let your ears consider the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for the Lord, whose word is my hope.*

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY CANTICLE



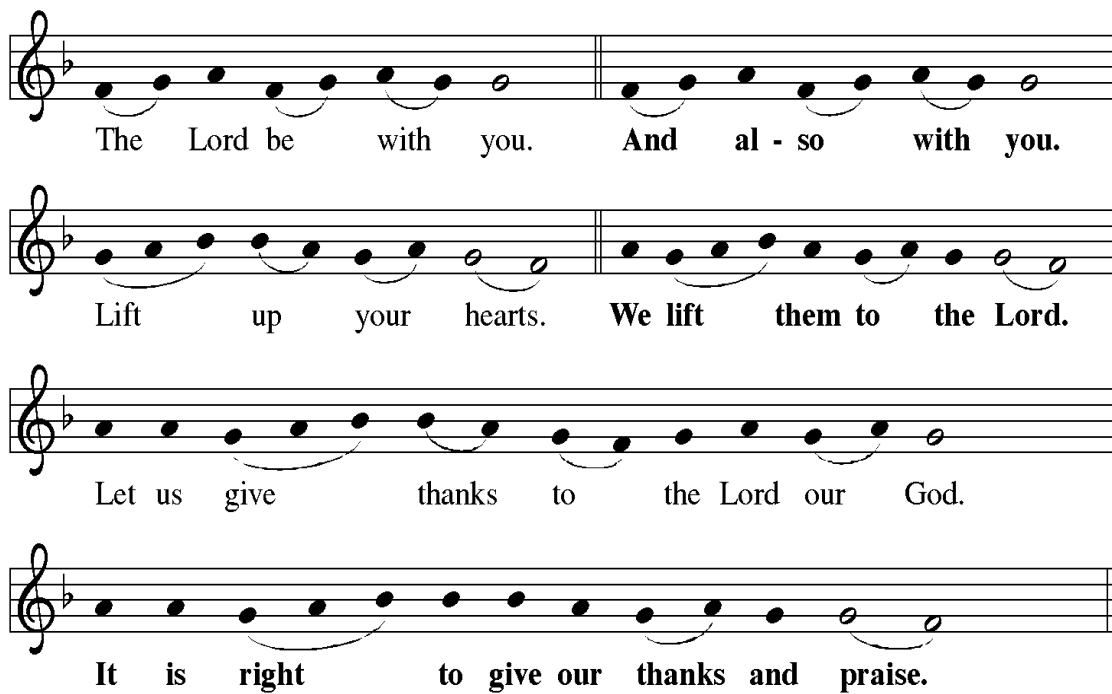
Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

THOMAS
87 877

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
Amen.

DIALOG



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

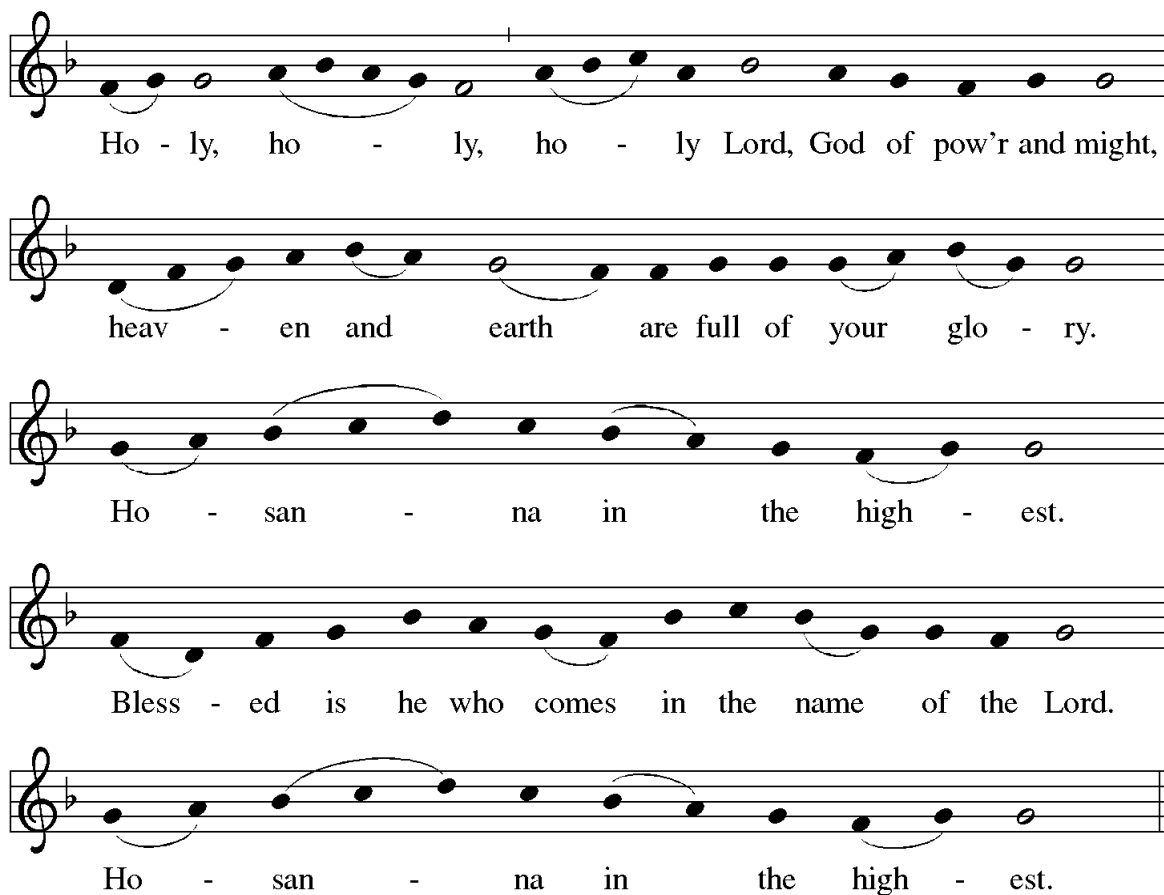
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, we give you thanks,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son...
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Be seated.

COMMUNION CANTICLE

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. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.

When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.

Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION - ELW 330 - Seed that in Earth Is Dying



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929

Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944

Tr. © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh

Music © Norsk Musikforlag

SÅKORN SOM DØR I JORDEN

7 6 7 6 8 7 6

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.

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

BLESSING

Almighty God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN - ELW 340 - A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



1 A lamb goes un - com - plain-ing forth to save a world of sin - ners.
2 This lamb is Christ, our great-est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav - ior,
3 Our Sav - ior an - swered from his heart that he would take the bur - den:
4 Of death I am no more a - fraid; your dy - ing is my liv - ing.



He bears the bur - den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors.
whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver.
"My Fa - ther's will is my com-mand; I'll do as I am bid - den."
You clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.



He goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -
"Go down, my child," the Fa - ther said, "and free my chil - dren
Oh, won-drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what mor - tals
Your love is dress e - nough for me to wear through all e -



out com - plaint; his spot-less life he of - fers. He bears the shame,
from their dread of death and con-dem - na - tion. The pain - ful stripes
can - not right the Son was sent from heav-en. What love, O Love,
ter - ni - ty be - fore the throne of heav-en, where we shall stand



the stripes, the wrath; his anguish, mock - er - y,
are hard to bear, but by your death they all
who came to save by lov - ing e - ven to
close by your side, your church, the well - ap - point -

and death for us he glad - ly suf - fers.
can share the joy of your sal - va - tion."
the grave un - til the stone was riv - en.
ed bride, when all the faith - ful gath - er.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON, Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ah, Holy Jesus

Setting by Helmut Walcha

*Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Hintz Room immediately following worship.
Today's reception is hosted by Ralph & Vickie Unruh and Dave & Sue Shellong.*

✚ ✚ ✚

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Sunday, March 17, 2024 - Lent 5

Leaders in Today's Liturgy

Presiding and Preaching: Pr. Hans E. Becklin

Assisting Minister: Fred Opalinski

Minister of Music: Karen S. Eddinger

Lector: Tom Hofmann

Communion Assistant: Amy Bornhofen

Acolyte: Abbie Smith

Greeter: Pam Wasmuth

Ushers: Anita Dolak and Raye Watson

Media Team: Amy Bornhofen, Tom Hofmann,

Grace Norton-Ritz, and Danielle Smith

Altar Guild: Michael Faust, Linda Grim,

Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov and Doris Strobel

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Russell Diesinger in loving memory of Shirley A. Diesinger

Immediate Prayer Requests

Ann Harnish, Sandra Sittler, Jerry Holleran, Harry Feinauer, Terry Hack (brother-in-law of Maggie Shelly), Sandi & Tom McCarthy (friends of Carolyn & Jerry Holleran), Jonathan Bloom (friend of Jenn Smith), Patrick (manager of KRE security guard, Allen Greenawalt), and Fred Strause (friend of Peter & Deborah Graf)

Trinity Households and Ministry Partners

Allison Huyett; Dan & Ellen Huyett; Bruce & Berni Ilgen; Kirsten & Guy Irwin; and Marian Jameson; Christ Episcopal Church and Fr. Bryce Wandrey; and the Common Ground Recovery Community, Pr. Tom Scornavacchi, and Pr. Jayme Babczak

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Bette Ashton (Christine Motley's grandmother, John Bornhofen, Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), Dick Evans, Ed Harlin, Bob & Carol Hoffman (Christine Motley's parents), Katy Jablonowski (daughter of Nancy Everson), Darryl Jeffries, Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith), Nancy Nagle, Jan Opalinski, the Sawyer family, Walter Schur, Dar Unger, and David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh)

Church attendance on Sunday, March 10: 82

Broadcast Schedule for March on Comcast Channel 190

Sundays

6:00 PM World Views:

World Hijab Day

6:30 PM Music From Trinity:

Soli Deo Gloria (Part 1)

7:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM Trinity Worship Service

5:00 PM Music From Trinity:

Soli Deo Gloria (Part 1)

5:30 PM World Views:

World Hijab Day

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.

Sunday Forum: Due to other events happening at Trinity, Sunday Forum will not be held on Palm Sunday and Easter. Join Pastor Hans for the conclusion of Lutheran Worship Under the Microscope on April 7th and 14th.

Spring Garden Cleanup Workday: Join us on Saturday, March 23 from 9:00 AM - noon. Pizza will be provided.

Worship at Trinity this Lent!

Midday worship: Join us at 12:05 PM in Trinity's chapel for a simple, 25-minute Eucharist on March 20. We'll also hold brief midday services on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. For those who cannot worship mid-day, we are also welcome to join Common Ground Recovery Community (5 Wyomissing Blvd.) for Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM.

Holy Week (March 24-30)

We'll gather on **Palm Sunday** at 9 AM for a Palm Procession and Prayer Walk through our neighborhood. Our 10 AM worship will include Erik Meyer's setting of the St. John Passion. This beautiful setting is written for four soloists and the choir singing the part of the crowd. The congregation will sing verses of "Herzliebster Jesu" throughout the piece as reflections.

We'll hold **brief midday services** on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 12:05 in our chapel.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we'll gather at 7:30 PM for a Festival Eucharist as we celebrate Jesus' institution of the sacrament, his washing of the disciples' feet, and his command to love one another. The service music will include Oliver Messiaen's *Le Banquet Céleste*, Ola Gjeilo's stunning *Ubi Caritas*, and Zebulon Highben's haunting setting of Psalm 88. This service will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 190 and streamed on Trinity's YouTube channel and Facebook page.

On **Good Friday**, we'll gather at 12:05 PM for worship—with scripture, preaching, and song all focused on the scandal and glory of the cross. In keeping with ancient tradition, the Eucharist is not celebrated on this day and Trinity's bells are silent.

Easter Sunday (March 31): Join us for a very special Eucharist as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord at 10 AM. Music will include the Trinity Brass and Ralph Manuel's *Alleluia*. Join us after the service for an intergenerational egg hunt!

SURPRISE! Intergenerational Easter Egg Hunt after Easter Sunday Worship

In the past, our hunt was for young children; older youth hid eggs full of candy and small gifts. This year, the eggs will also contain surprises for older youth and adults. We will gather in the Hintz Room after worship to begin the hunt together. (Please wait for Deaconess Deborah to join you.) Spectators are welcome, but you may just want to join the fun. Donations of candy and small trinkets (to fit inside the eggs) are welcome and appreciated. They can be dropped off on Sunday in the narthex or in the Bard House during office hours, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

This Week's Calendar

Sunday, March 17

9:00 AM: Sunday Forum (Hintz Room)
10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
11:30 AM: Acolyte Experience (Nave)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal
3:00 PM: Stronger Together Bowling at Berks Lanes

Monday, March 18

1:00 PM: Program Staff Meeting (Bard House)
7:00 PM: Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, March 19

9:30 AM: Full Staff Meeting
5:45 PM: Property Work Night

Wednesday, March 20

12:05 PM: Noonday Lent Worship (Chapel)
6:30 PM: Handbell Choir (Robing Room)
7:30 PM: Trinity Choir Rehearsal (Balcony)

Thursday, March 21

3:30 PM: Refresh Berks (Hintz Room)
4:00 PM: Property Committee Meeting

Saturday, March 23

9:00 AM: Spring Garden Clean-up (Trinity)

Sunday, March 24

9:00 AM: Prayer Walk
10:00 AM: Worship (Nave)
11:15 AM: Coffee & Conversation (Hintz Room)
2:00 PM: Common Ground Worship and Meal

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

Staff of Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Hans E. Becklin	Senior Pastor
Deaconess Deborah Graf	Deacon for Formation & Service
Karen S. Eddinger	Minister of Music
Matthew Mellen	Media Director
Rachel Gambone	Parish Secretary
Peter Graf	Financial Administrator
Dave Troche	Sexton

The Rev. Fred S. Opalinski Pastor Emeritus

Vestry of Trinity Lutheran Church

Amy Litvinov +	President, <i>Congregational Life</i>
Jennifer Smith +	Vice President, <i>Media</i>
Martha Good +	Secretary, <i>Congregational Life</i>
Erica Hofmann +	Treasurer, <i>Finance</i>
Steve Welz +	<i>Personnel</i>
Donna Osborne	<i>Worship & Music</i>
Eric Rosenbaum	<i>Property</i>
Tom Hofmann	<i>Outreach & Service</i>
Pr. Hans E. Becklin +	

+ indicates members of the Executive Committee

Email the Vestry: vestry@trinityreading.org

Email Pastor Hans: hbecklin@trinityreading.org