

Welcome to TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany February 16, 2025



The Sermon of the Beatitudes (1886-1896) James Tissot (1836-1902)

Almost every face is obscured in this masterful watercolor, but that's the point. Tissot wants us to notice Jesus' diverse and growing following and imagine ourselves in their shoes. Jesus' arms are outstretched in a gesture of blessing-helping us to imagine his animated preaching about the nature of true blessedness.

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church Founded in 1751

The Rev. Hans E.

Becklin
Senior Pastor

Deaconess Deborah

Matern Graf

Deacon for

Formation

AND Service

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Cantor

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
Congregational Life
Coordinator

Peter Graf Financial Administrator

Pam Wasmuth

John McKeon Property Manager

> Dave Troche Sexton

+ + +

The Rev. Fred S.

Opalinski
PASTOR EMERITUS

Karen S. Eddinger Minister of Music Emerita



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.



CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.



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.



Our worship is an act of offering. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

We no longer pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 AM

Congregational words are in bold print.

After the prelude, stand in body or spirit and face the processional cross.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Silence is kept for reflection.

PRELUDE

Prelude on "What a Friend"

Gordon Young

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess

that we have turned from you

and given ourselves

into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry

and humbly repent.

In your compassion

forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you

in newness of life

through Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

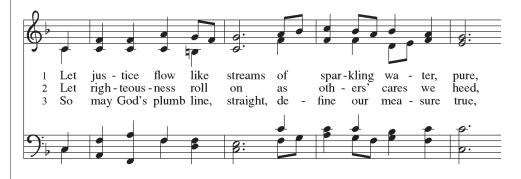
Amen.

Continue to face the processional cross, turning when it passes you.

GATHERING HYMN

Let Justice Flow like Streams

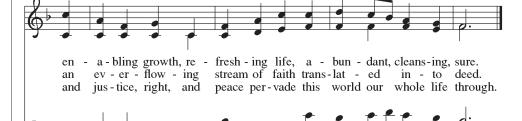
ELW 717



Text: Jane Parker Huber, 1926-2008

Music: ST. THOMAS Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

> Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press



Apostolic 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

We praise God using this ancient prayer from Setting Three in Evangelical Lutheran Worship.



Continues on the next page...

Hymn of Praise



This prayer relates
to the readings
appointed for the day
and asks for God's
help in applying them
to our lives.

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals

and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Jeremiah 17:5-10

sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalm 1

The choir introduces the refrain.

The congregation repeats the refrain and sings the refrain where indicated with the symbol R.

The choir and congregation sing alternating verses.





Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

It is not so | with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has

not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

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

SERMON

Please be seated.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

"But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.
"Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.".

Pastor Fred S. Opalinski

HYMN OF THE DAY

Light Dawns on a Weary World

all

as

the

world in

won - der

ech - oes

sha - lom.

ELW 726



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE William P. Rowan, b. 1951

> Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

IN OUR PRAYERS

In Immediate Need

- Peg Coleman
- Maggie Shelly

Trinity Households

- Sandi Sittler
- Danielle, Abbie,

Andrew & Jennifer Smith

- George & Pamela Sonon
- Anne, Michael, Kristen, & Brandon Pruss Sonon · Quillan, Faye,
- Tom & Kristin Soper

ONGOING NEEDS

- the Sawyer family
- David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh)
- Harry Feinauer
- Linda Motley
- Walter Schur
- Christine Wells (friend of Jan Opalinski)

- - Darryl Jeffries
 - Nancy Souders-Negri and Fred Negri
 - Rachel Gambone
 - Barbara Lykens

Please greet one another and then be seated.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The offering, bread, and wine are brought forward **OFFERTORY**

When the Poor Ones

David Cherwien

The Trinity Choir Peter Graf, guitar

and the altar is set.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Come, Beloved of the Maker

ELW 306







in body or spirit.

Please stand

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957

Text © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

> Music© 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

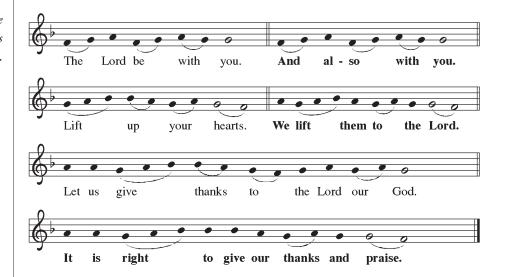
Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presider greets the assembly and invites all to give thanks.



PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,

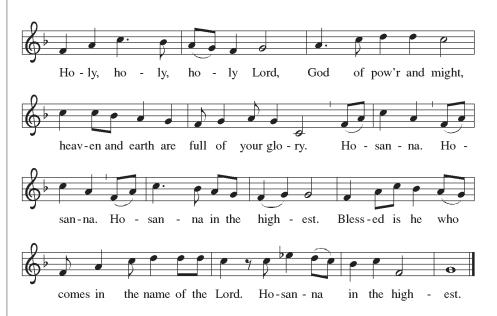
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



During the Words of Institution, the bread and wine are elevated for the congregation to revere and adore Christ's presence in our midst.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal...

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

With this bread and cup we remember your Son...

all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate... sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise...

in your holy church, 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.

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

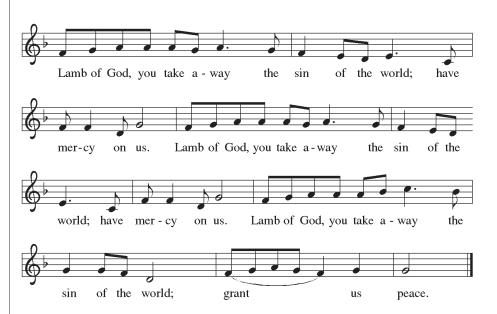
Please be seated.

Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19.

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

LAMB OF GOD



This hymn can be found in the red hymnal.

Music during Distribution

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

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.

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news

of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

As a sign of God's blessing, you may make the sign of the cross.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and \pm give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn printed on the following page (18).

SENDING HYMN

Oh God, My Faithful God

ELW 806

You may remain in the sanctuary for prayer and contemplation during the postlude. If you depart, please do so quietly.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

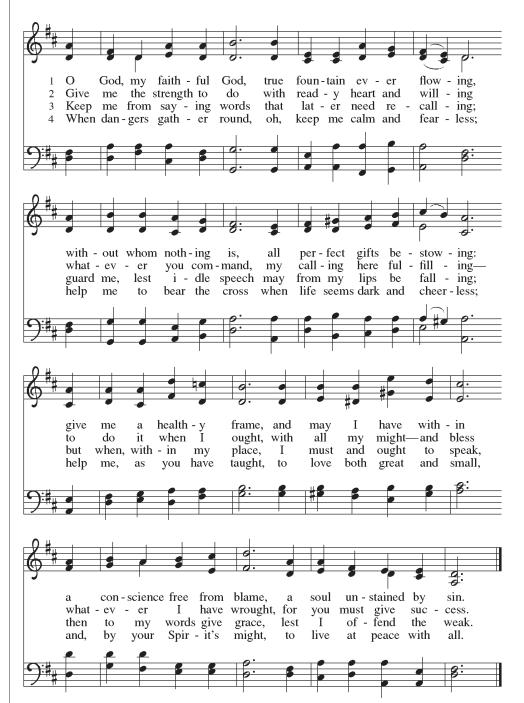
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

Theodore Beck

Oh God, My Faithful God



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1629-1701 1848-1918

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Communion Instructions



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.

WORSHIP PLANNERS

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER Pr. Fred S. Opalinski
ASSISTING MINISTER Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
CANTOR Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
LECTOR Steve Hofmann
COMMUNION ASSISTANT Hannah Long
ACOLYTE Danielle Smith
GREETERS Pam Wasmuth

USHERS Lawrence Fredericks, Andrew Smith,
Joseph Speece
MEDIA TEAM Amy Bornhofen, Declan Rosenbaum,
Veronika Shick
ALTAR GUILD Anita Dolak, David Himes &
Amy Stewart-Himes, Avery Mazur, Donna Osborne,
Amy Reinsel, Raye Watson

Today's flowers are sponsored by Barbara Ketchum in loving memory of her husband Ezekiel Ketchum

Attendance Sunday, February 9: 55 Attendance, Wednesday, January 5: 10

Tom & Louise Souders

Sources and Permissions

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room SUNDAY TIME- Meet in Chapel

10:00 ам

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

Monday, February 17

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

Tuesday, February 18

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

Wednesday, February 19

12:05 рм

MID-WEEK CHAPEL WORSHIP

6:30 рм

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 pm

TRINITY CHOIR - Hintz Room

Thursday, February 20

4:00 pm

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Bard House

7:00 рм

WORSHIP AND MUSIC- The Highlands

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00 ам

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room SUNDAY TIME- Meet in Chapel

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

ALTAR GUILD TRAINING - Nave

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS AT TRINITY WITH THE LET'S DANCE BIG BAND!

Join us on Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00pm to celebrate Mardi Gras by listening to the Let's Dance big band led by our very own Charlie Randazzo.

A free will offering will be taken to provide funding for Refresh Berks, a new nonprofit working to bring a mobile shower trailer to Berks County.



Join us for a lively reception afterwords in the All Saints Room!

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available

Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.

