



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
READING, PENNSYLVANIA
Second Sunday of Lent
March 16, 2025



Christ Lamenting over Jerusalem (1846)
Charles Lock Eastlake (1793-1865)

Jesus sits with His disciples alongside a road, but he is distracted by the city below. His lament is symbolized by the axe in the precipitously leaning tree behind him, symbolizing Jerusalem's fall. The mother carrying water and talking to her child along the road recalls Christ's identification as the Mother Hen who gathers Her children through the sacrament of baptism.

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
BOOKKEEPER

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.

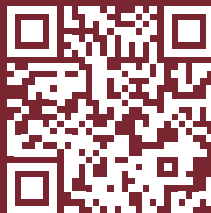


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway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

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

Trinity Ringers

Linda Scholes

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Let us return to God,
confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

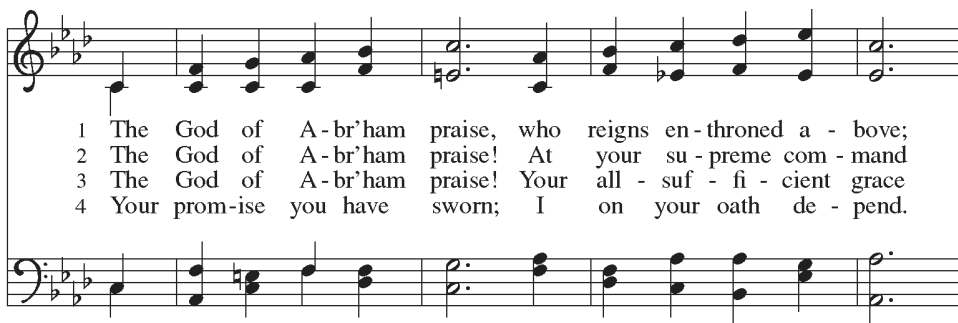
Amen.

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

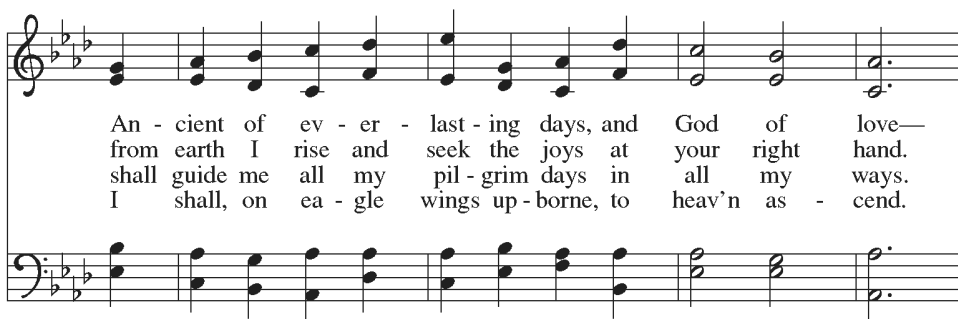
GATHERING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise (vs. 1-4)

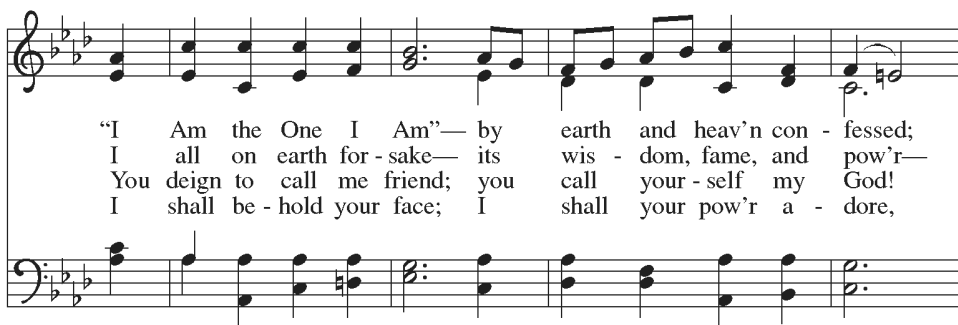
ELW 831



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand
3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all-suf-fi-cient grace
4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de-pend.



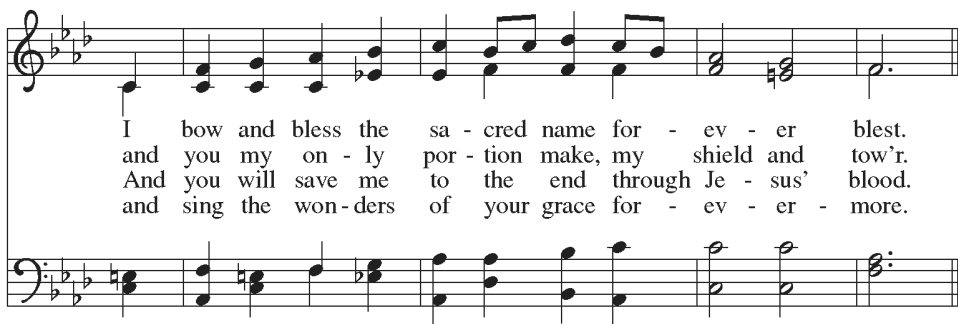
An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,

Text: Thomas Olivers,
1725-1799, alt.,
based on *Yigdal*,
c. 14th cent.

Music: YIGDAL
Jewish Melody; arr.
Meyer Lyon,
1751-1797



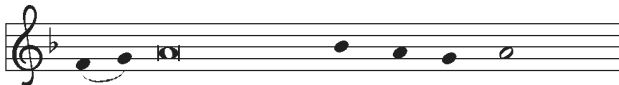
I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

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.

KYRIE

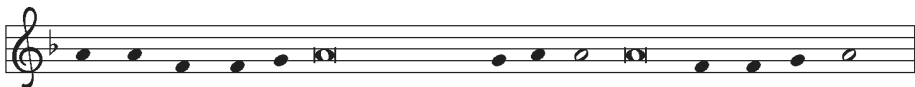
*The Kyrie is sung in
dialogue between
a soloist and the
assembly.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



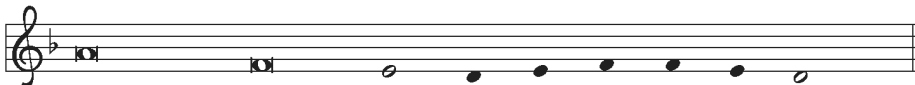
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



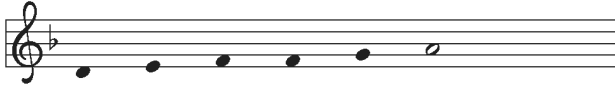
Lord, have mer - cy.

*Continues on
the next page...*

KYRIE



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.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

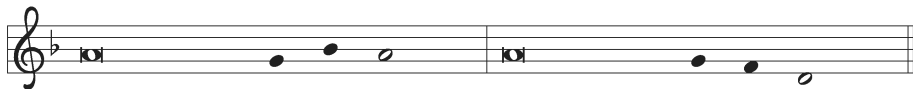
God of the covenant, in the mystery
of the cross you promise everlasting
life to the world. Gather all peoples
into your arms, and shelter us with
your mercy, that we may rejoice in
the life we share in your Son,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN



The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

**When evildoers close in against me to de- | your my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.**

For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,
and raise me high up- | on a rock.

**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.**

Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;
have mercy on me and | answer me.

**My heart speaks your message-- | "Seek my face."
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.**

Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.
Cast me not away--you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

**Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,
the LORD will | take me in.**

Teach me your | way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

**Subject me not to the will | of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

This I believe--that I will see the goodness | of the LORD
in the land | of the living!

**Wait for the LORD | and be strong.
Take heart and wait | for the LORD!**

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from

there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand
 in body or spirit.*

*Congregation sings
 the refrain before and
 after the proper verse,
 which is sung by the
 choir.*

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

*The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may
 have eternal life. (John 3:14-15)*

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

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside

of Jerusalem.’ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

Text: Carolina
Sandell Berg,
1832-1903, sts. 1, 3;
Gracia Grindal, b.
1943, st. 2;
tr. composite

Music: BRED DINA
VIDA VINGAR
Swedish folk tune;
arr. hymnal version

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text © 1983 Gracia
Grindal, admin. Selah
Publishing Co., Inc.

Arr. © 2006
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.*

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

*After the final
petition:*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

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
- ♦ Carol Batdorf
- ♦ Cathy Kirckof
- ♦ Linda Messner
- ♦ Mary Drehs

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Jane, Ben, David
& Megan Souders-
Zobian
- ♦ Nancy Zweig
- ♦ Alexander, Diana
& Gholam Ahmadi
- ♦ Franki Aitken
- ♦ Tina & William
Angstadt

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
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Yadar (friend of
Pat McMahan)
- ♦ Donna Osborne
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Maggie Shelly
- ♦ Joyce (friend of
Linda Motley)
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Martha Good

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

*The offering, bread,
and wine are
brought forward
and the altar is set.*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Gilbert M. Martin

The Trinity Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 186

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 pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The music is written in a single voice line.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

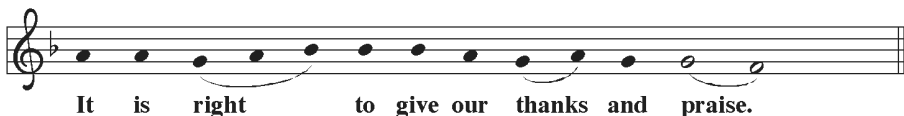
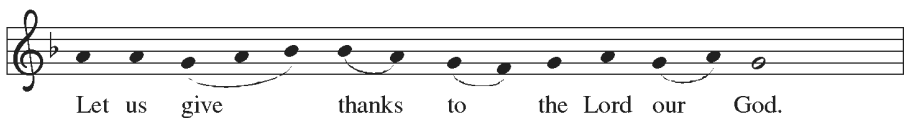
Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures
among us, opening your heart to
the world. As we prepare to feast
on your bountiful love, deepen

our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others, through
our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



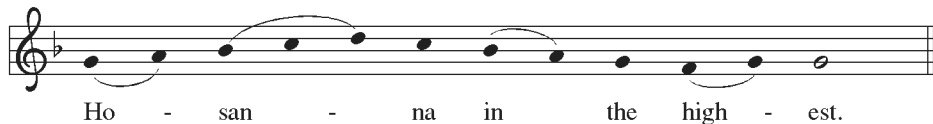
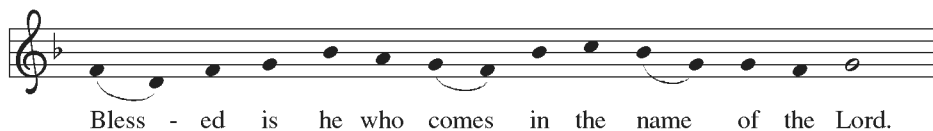
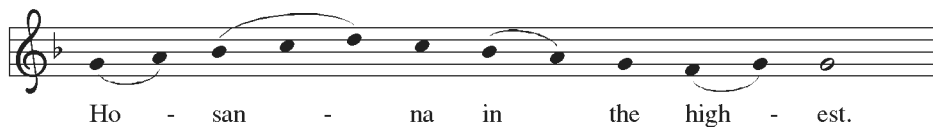
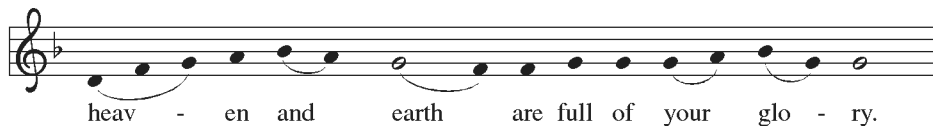
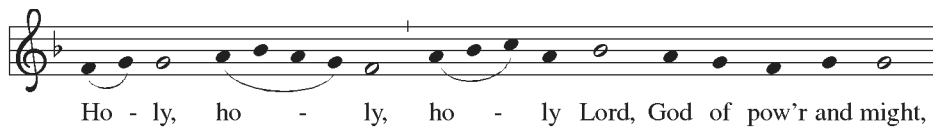
PROPER PREFACE

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

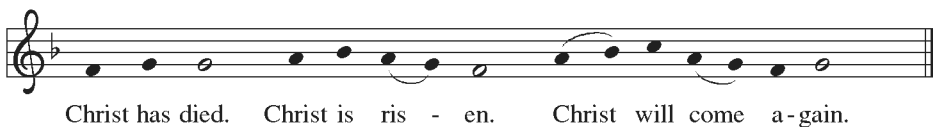
SANCTUS



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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting...
we proclaim the mystery of faith:



O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit...
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

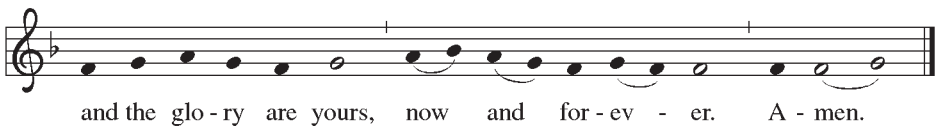
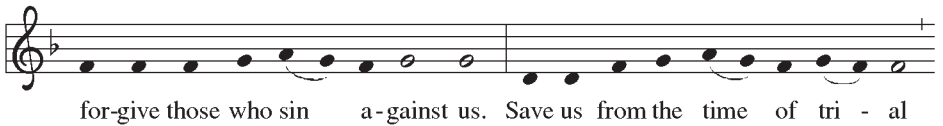
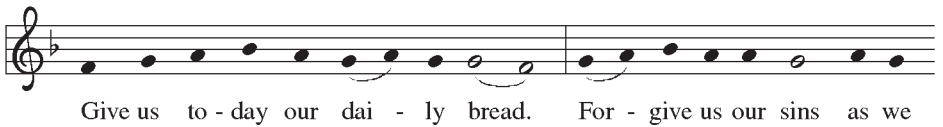
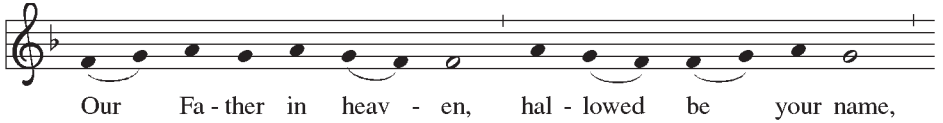
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking...
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones...
blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

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



*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

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. A - men.

*This hymn can be
found in the red
hymnal.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW 468

*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 Host,
you have shared your feast with us
and made us new. Send us now to
set tables of love and grace in our
communities, that your liberating

love might nourish the world
into freedom, in the name of the
crucified one, Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Hymn printed on the
following page (18).*

SENDING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise (vs. 5-8)

ELW 831

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

*In keeping with Lent's contemplative and penitential nature,
we leave the sanctuary in silence.*

You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for prayer and meditation.

Coffee and conversation follows the service in the Hintz Room.

SENDING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise (vs. 5-8)

ELW 831

*Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.*

5 Though na - ture's strength de - cay, and earth and hell with - stand, to
6 The good - ly land I see, with peace and plen - ty blest; a
7 Be - fore the great Three - One the saints ex - ult - ing stand and
8 The whole tri - um - phant host give thanks to God on high. "Hail,

Ca - naan's bounds I urge my way at your com - mand. The
land of sac - red li - ber - ty and end - less rest. There
tell the won - ders God has done through all their land. The
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!" they ev - er cry. Hail,

wat - 'ry deep I pass, with Je - sus in my view, and
milk and ho - ney flow, and oil and wine a - bound, and
list - 'ning spheres at - tend and swell the grow - ing fame and
A - br'ham's God and mine! I join the heav'n - ly lays: to

Text: Thomas Olivers,
1725-1799, alt.,
based on *Yigdal*,
c. 14th cent.

Music: YIGDAL
Jewish Melody; arr.
Meyer Lyon,
1751-1797

through the howl - ing wil - der - ness my way pur - sue.
trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
sing the songs which ne - ver end, the wond - rous name.
you be glo - ry, might di - vine, and end - less praise!

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.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin

USHERS

Amy Reinsel, Jennifer Mazur,

ASSISTING MINISTER

Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf

Donna Osborne

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

MEDIA TEAM

Declan Rosenbaum, Veronika Shick,

LECTOR

David Himes

Danielle Smith

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Steve Hofmann

ALTAR GUILD

Michael Faust, Linda Grim,

ACOLYTE

Jane Zobian

Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov, Doris Stobel

GREETERS

Larry Kummerer

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Program Staff

Today's flowers are sponsored by
Sandra Sittler
in loving memory of her niece,
Carol Smith Reed.

Today's broadcast is sponsored by
Fred Opalinski
in honor of Jan & Megan Opalinski's
shared birthdays on March 18.

Attendance Sunday, March 9: 99
Attendance, Ash Wednesday, March 5: 71

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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SUNDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room
SUNDAY TIME- Classroom #4

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

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

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 17

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK CLUB AND COMPLINE
Hintz Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

12:05 PM

MID-WEEK CHAPEL WORSHIP

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Hintz Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

11:00 AM

WORSHIP & MUSIC - Hintz Room

4:00 PM

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Bard House

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

9:00 AM

SUNDAY FORUM - All Saints Room
SUNDAY TIME- Classroom #4

10:00 AM

WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

4:00 PM

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY CHOIR - Sanctuary

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 in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



JOIN US FOR AN AMAZING AFTERNOON OF MUSIC



The Susquehanna University Choir
Dr. Amy Vorhees, director

SUNDAY, MARCH 23RD AT 4:00 PM
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH