



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## READING, PENNSYLVANIA

### First Sunday of Lent

March 9, 2025



*The Temptations of Christ (1480-1482)*

*Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510)*

*At the top left, the Evil One takes the guise of a hermit, challenging Jesus to turn the stones to bread. In the center, Jesus is taken to the pinnacle of the (historically inaccurate) Temple in Jerusalem and is challenged to throw himself down. In the right corner, Jesus is promised all the things of the earth if he bows down and worships Satan. Beneath the three vignettes, normal life and commerce continue, with a few signs of Jesus' ministry peeking through, like the young man presenting himself to the priest after being healed of leprosy.*

# 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.



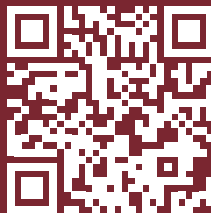
WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.



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

Vater unser im Himmelreich

J. S. Bach

## 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

### I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 611



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar,  
1808-18 89

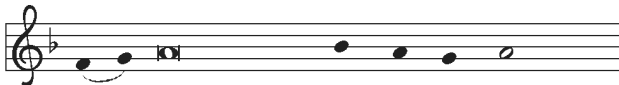
Music: KINGSFOLD,  
English folk tune

## 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

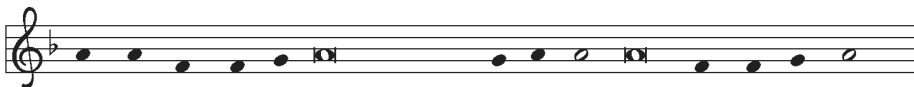
*The Kyrie is sung in  
dialogue between  
a soloist and the  
assembly.*



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



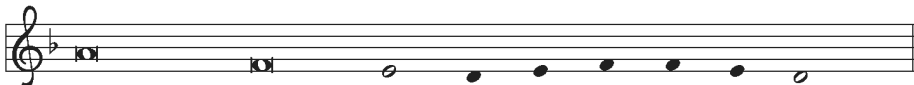
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward

the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

*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.*



“The word is near you,  
 on your lips and in your heart”  
 (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);  
 because if you confess with your lips that  
 Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that  
 God raised him from the dead, you will be  
 saved. For one believes with the heart and  
 so is justified, and one confesses with the

mouth and so is saved. The scripture says,  
 “No one who believes in him will be put to  
 shame.” For there is no distinction between  
 Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all  
 and is generous to all who call on him. For,  
 “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord  
 shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical notation is a single line of music on a five-line staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of a series of eighth notes, mostly on a half-note level, with some quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes: "Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ." The music ends with a double bar line.

*One does not live by bread alone, but by every word  
 that comes from the mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)*

*Please stand  
 in body or spirit.*

*Proper verse  
 sung by the choir.*

*Congregation repeats  
 refrain.*



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

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is

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

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
 and serve only him.'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels  
 concerning you, to protect you,' and  
 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
 so that you will not dash your foot  
 against a stone.'

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand  
in body or spirit.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

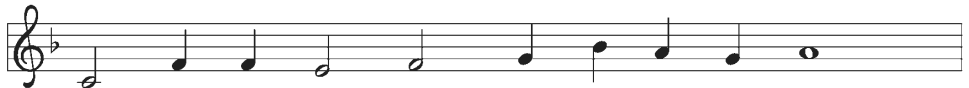
ELW 321



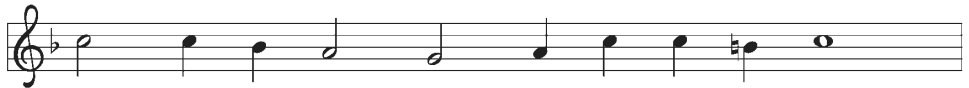
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain,  
1931-2003.

Music: OLD 124TH,  
Trente qua/re  
pseumes de David,  
Geneva, 1551.

Text © Thomas H. Cain.  
Used by permission  
of estate.

## 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
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Linda Messner
- ♦ Martha Good

### TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Lauren, Andrew,  
Gabby, Pam & Jeff  
Wasmuth
- ♦ Christopher  
Kissinger &  
Rebecca Watkins
- ♦ Raye & Bruce  
Watson
- ♦ Stephen & Beth  
Welz
- ♦ Kathy Wright

### 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)

*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

Just As I Am

Gordon Young

*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 a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a simple, melodic style with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "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 score ends with a double bar line.

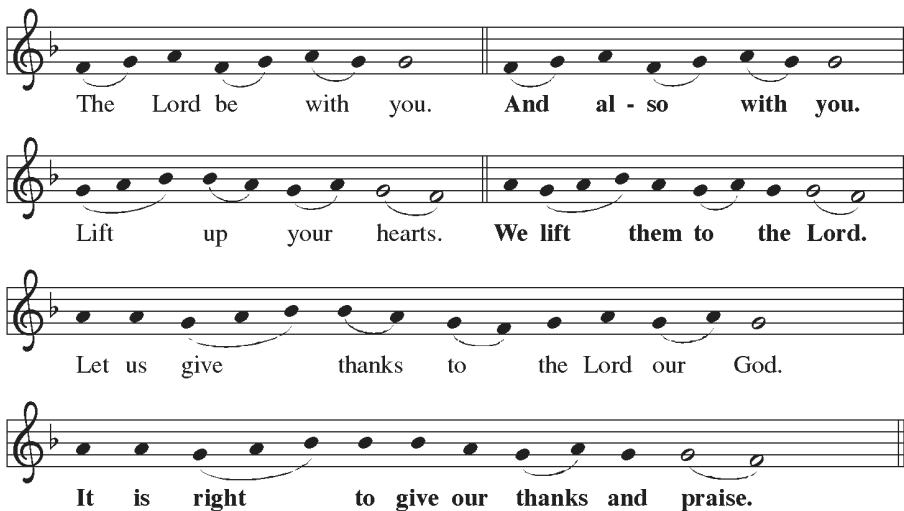
## OFFERING PRAYER

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.*



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

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

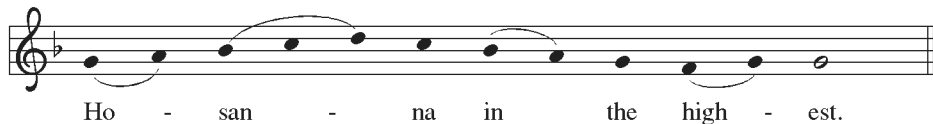
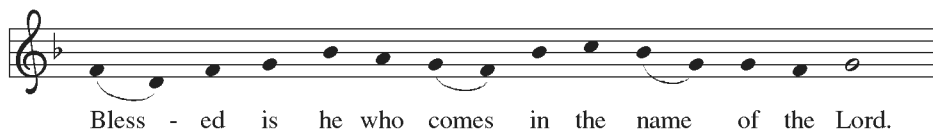
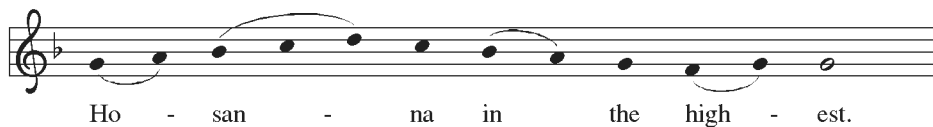
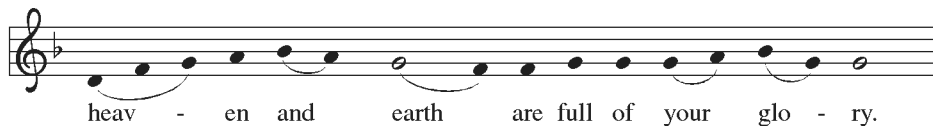
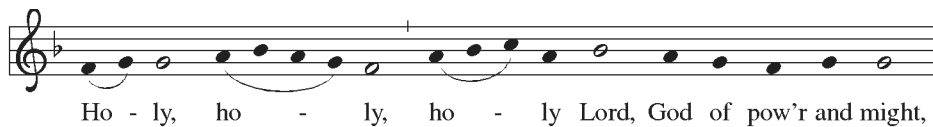
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, 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:

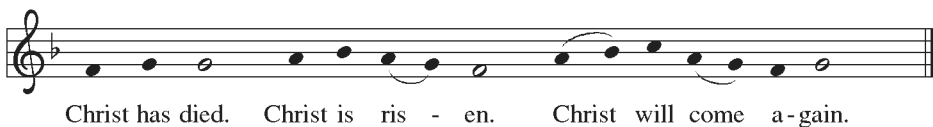
## SANCTUS



*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.**

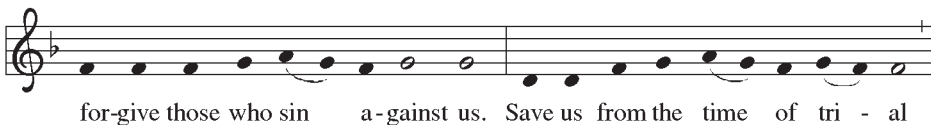
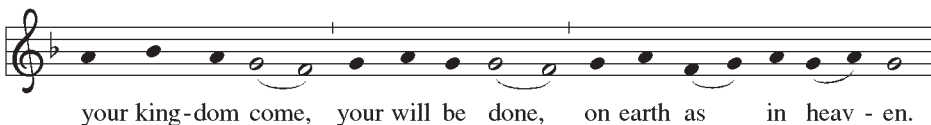
Reveal yourself to us in the breaking...  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.

## MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

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

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

ELW 808



*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

As the Winter Days Grow Longer

ACS 924

## 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

## As the Winter Days Grow Longer

ACS 924

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



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.  
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.

Text: Mary Louise  
Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GAN,  
Welsh melody

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God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

# 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

ASSISTING MINISTER

Albert Pohl

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

LECTOR

Donna Osborne

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Amy Norton-Ritz

ACOLYTE

Declan Rosenbaum

GREETERS

Brooke & Eric Rosenbaum

USHERS

Anita Dolak, Raye Watson

MEDIA TEAM

Amy Bornhofen, Anna Litvinov,

Jennifer Smith

ALTAR GUILD

Michael Faust, Linda Grim,

Erica Hofmann, Amy Litvinov, Doris Stobel

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Program Staff

Today's flowers are sponsored by  
Amy Young  
in memory of her beloved mother,  
Thelma Johnson.

Attendance Sunday, March 2: 95  
Attendance, Wednesday, February 26: 11

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 9

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  
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Welcome Center

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

## MONDAY, MARCH 10

**OFFICE CLOSED & PARKING LOT UNACCESSIBLE**

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING - Remote

## TUESDAY, MARCH 11

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:00 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

7:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK CLUB AND COMPLINE  
Hintz Room

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

12:05 PM

MID-WEEK CHAPEL WORSHIP

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Hintz Room

## SUNDAY, MARCH 16

9:00 AM

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

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

## 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