275
1751 - 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church
Reading, Pennsylvania

The Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Christ the King

November 22, 2026



Come, Lord Jesus, Be Our Guest (Das Tischgebet), 1885.
Fritz von Uhde. Oil on canvas. Alte Nationalgalerie, Berlin.

Von Uhde, a German Lutheran who scandalized critics by placing Christ in the homes of the working poor, painted the old table prayer being answered: a quiet stranger in a plain robe standing at a peasant family's table. The King of Matthew 25 arrives just this way, without a crown, so that the question becomes whether we would know him: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

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. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway at the 6th street entrance.

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 a.m.

Congregational words are in bold print.

Prelude

My Lord, What a Morning — Greg Fisher (b. 20th c.)

Trinity Ringers

Please stand in body or spirit and face the processional cross.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

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.

Continue to face the processional cross, turning as it passes.

Gathering Hymn

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending ELW 435



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: HELMSLEY
Music: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799


join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Prayer of the Day

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through 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.

Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.

The congregation joins the choir in singing the acclamation.



Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Please be seated.

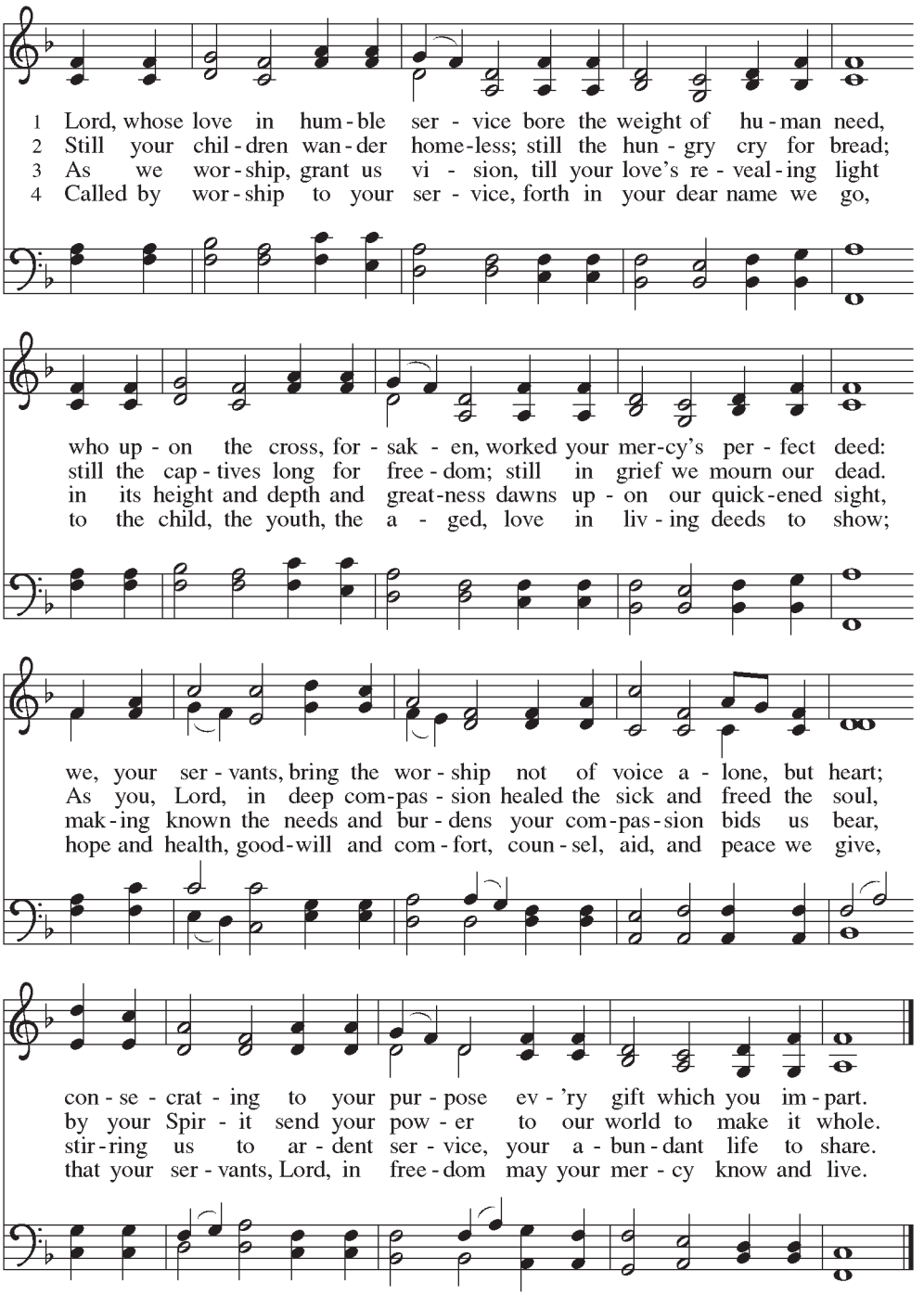
Sermon

Bishop Jennifer Dee

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service — ELW 712



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: BEACH SPRING
The Sacred Heart, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985

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.

Prayers of Intercession

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

After the final petition:

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray,
in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

Peace

Please greet one another and then be seated.

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

Announcements

Offertory

Come, Sing Unto the Lord — Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

The Mixed Ensemble
Sandra Sittler, piano

Come, sing unto the Lord, sing all ye people.
Let us rejoice in the strength of our salvation,
Come before God's presence with thanksgiving and a song.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.
Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

In Our Prayers

In Immediate Need

- Peter Graf
- Nancy Souders-Negri

Trinity Households

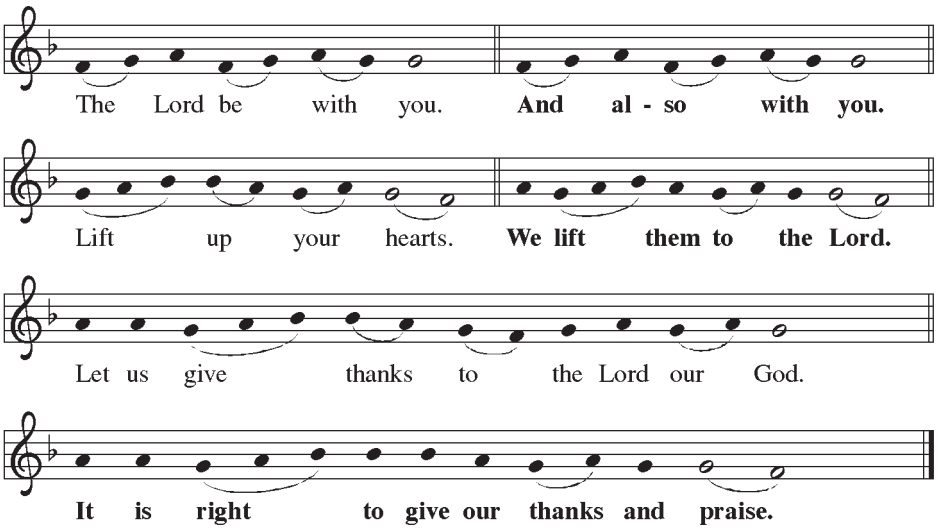
- Jerry & Carolyn Holleran
- Donna Horst
- Allison Huyett
- Daniel & Ellen Huyett
- Bruce & Bernie Ilgen

Ongoing Needs

- Harry Feinauer
- Dar Unger
- Rob Unger
- Yadar
- Marian Jameson
- Carol P. Miller
- Pamela Reeves
- Carolyn Hoffman
- Jason Sbarbaro
- Ruth Sassaman
- Fred Negri
- Ralph Unruh
- Miles Dechant
- Walter Schur
- Darryl Jeffries
- Austin Stine
- Matt Sawyer

Dialog

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

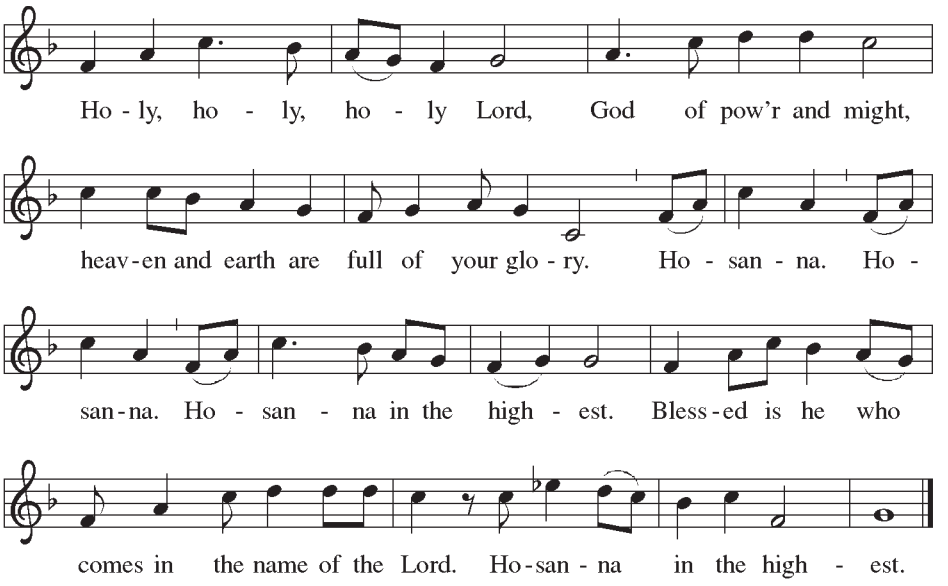


Proper Preface

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

Sanctus

All join in the hymn of the angels.



Eucharistic Prayer

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. . .
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command. . .
be all honor and glory 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.

Invitation to Communion

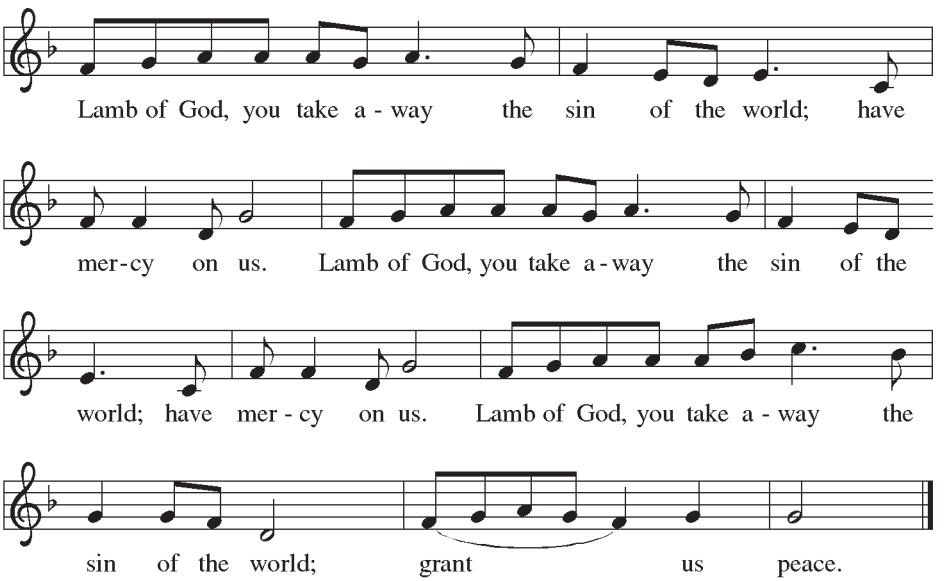
Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

Please be seated.

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Lamb of God

Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19.



You can find this hymn in the red hymnal.

Music During Communion

The Son of God, Our Christ ELW 584

Please stand in body or spirit.

Table Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

Litany of Farewell and Godspeed

A representative of the Vestry addresses Dcs. Deborah.

Deborah, on June 15, 1999 , we of Trinity Lutheran Church called you to serve among us as a deacon. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you, Peter, Kathrine, and Daniel have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in our service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

The bishop addresses the congregation.

People of God, members of Trinity,
do you release Deborah Matern Graf from service as your deacon?
We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Deborah, do you recognize and accept
the completion of your ministry with Trinity?
I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ
you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service.
We give you thanks for the ministry of Deborah Matern Graf among the people of God in this place.

You watch over our going out and our coming in:
bless this time of ending and beginning.
You surround your people in every time and place:
keep us close in your love.
You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial:
prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together;
heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us.
Help Deborah and her family and all of us
to live with courage and gladness in the future you give to us.

As they have been a blessing to us,
so now send them forth to be a blessing to others;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Your sisters and brothers in the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod
and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
give thanks to God for the ministry you have shared.
We promise you our continued support and prayer.
Rejoicing in the blessings of God in this congregation
and in the ministry of Deborah Matern Graf,
with hope in God's abundant grace in years to come,
I announce that Deborah's service as deacon in this congregation
is now concluded.

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

Blessing

The holy Trinity,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

Face the processional cross, turning as it passes you.

Sending Hymn

The Servant Song — Arr. David Himes

Trinity Choir
David Himes, conductor
Sandra Sittler, piano
Peter Graf, guitar

Trinity Choir leads the hymn.
The congregation joins in singing verses 2 and 5.



Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG Richard Gillard; arr. David Himes, b. 1960

Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, admin. Capitol CMG Publishing

arr © 2022 David Himes

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness — Johannes Matthias Michel (b. 1962)

Christ the King Sunday

Right after worship, at 11:30 a.m., please join Deaconess Deborah in the All Saints Room for a buffet lunch celebrating her ministry. All are welcome, and no RSVP is needed.



At 1:00 p.m., the day continues in the sanctuary with the next concert in our 275th Anniversary Concert Series. Nicole Keller is Assistant Professor of Organ and University Organist at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, following 20 years on the faculty of the Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music. Praised by Organists' Review for playing with "aplomb" and "finely controlled energy," she is known for programs that pair familiar sounds with less familiar ones. Her recording, *Those Americans*, gathers American organ works from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.



The schedule for the day: worship with Bishop Dee at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, the farewell luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the All Saints Room, and Nicole Keller's organ recital at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Orchestra

Hello Trinity members! We will be having a "Family Orchestra" play again at the 5:00 Christmas Eve service again this year. **We rehearse at 9:00 a.m. the last three weeks of Advent: Dec. 6, 13, & 20 and then play on Christmas Eve.** David Himes makes a unique arrangement every year for the orchestra that includes challenging parts and easy parts.

So, if you or your friend haven't played that instrument in years, or if you have sons, daughters, nephews, nieces or grandchildren that have just started an instrument, please come and join us! We'll have music for you.

Please let David Himes know when you see him in church or call the office and tell them you are interested. Looking forward to seeing some new faces and instruments this year!

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Worship Attendance

Sunday, November 15
In-person: 92
Online: 110

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 minister 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	Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Cantor	Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Lector	Amy Stewart-Himes
Communion Assistant	Amy Litvinov
Acolyte	Avery Mazur
Greeters	Robert Brems
Ushers	Jen Mazur, Allison Kalbach
Media Team	Jenn Smith, Jorge Tomás, Amy Bornhofen
Altar Guild	Anita Dolak, Sue Randazzo, Amy Reinsel, Jenn Smitth
Worship Planners	Hannah Long, Allison & Joe Rogers

Worship Sponsors

These offerings help to defray the cost of altar flowers and the television broadcast.

John & Kathy Duggan
in loving memory of Jim & Louise Duggan
and Carl Gibson, Kathy's father

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, November 22

10:00 AM
Christ the King Sunday worship - Nave

11:30 AM
Luncheon Celebrating Dcs. Deborah
All Saints Room

1:00 PM
275 Anniversary Concert: Nicole Keller, Organ - Nave

5:30 PM
REVIVE Youth Group- Atonement Lutheran Church

Monday, November 23

1:00 PM
Program Staff Meeting
Common Ground Ministry

Tuesday, November 24

9:30 AM
Staff Meeting

2:00 PM
Women of TLC Bible Study - The Highlands

Wednesday, November 25

6:30 PM
Trinity Ringers - Sanctuary

7:30 PM
Trinity Choir - Bard House

Thursday, November 26

OFFICE CLOSED: Thanksgiving

Saturday, November 28

11:00 AM
Barbara Ketchum Memorial Service

12:00 PM
Luncheon Reception

Sunday, November 29

10:00 AM
Advent Sunday worship - Nave

11:15 AM
Coffee & Conversation - Welcome Center

11:30 AM
Trinity Youth Ringers - Bell Room

12:30 PM
The Mixed Ensemble- Bard House