



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Confession of Peter

January 18, 2026



Icon of Peter (VI Century)

This ancient icon, found in St. Catharine's Monastery in Egypt, shows Peter with a martyr's cross and holding the keys of heaven, given to him in today's Gospel reading.

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.

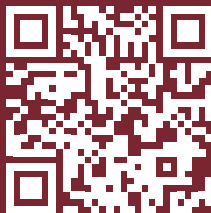


WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

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 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

PRELUDE

Solemn Procesional

Robert A. Harris

*Please 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.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.
Amen.

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

Have mercy, O God,
against you, you alone,
we have sinned.
In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.
Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.
Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion
for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin
from you,
renewing your life through
Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us
with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

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.

*The Kyrie is chanted
in procession. Follow
the processional cross,
turning as it passes
you.*

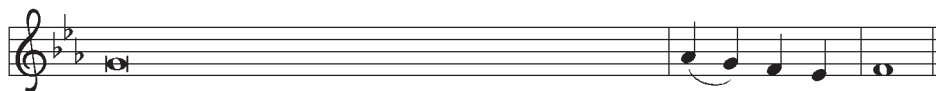
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



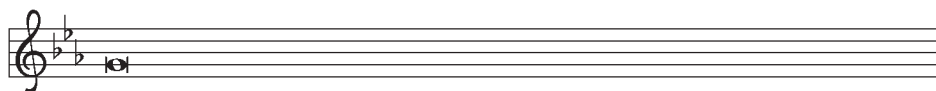
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE (Continued)

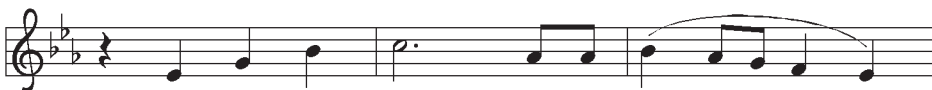


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

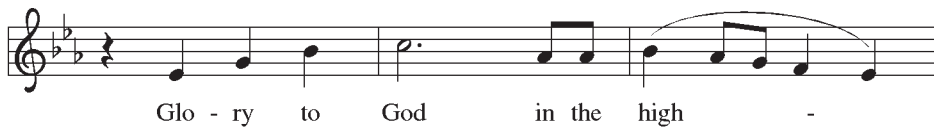
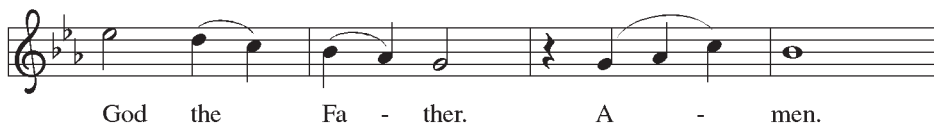
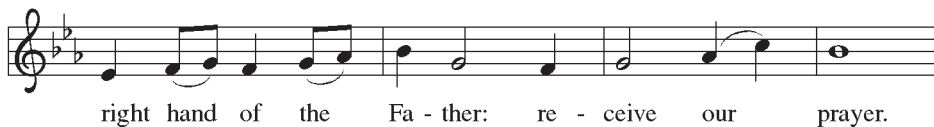


Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

HYMN OF PRAISE (continued)



*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.

Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter to confess Jesus as the Messiah and Son of the living God. Keep your church firm on the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow

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

Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 4:8-13

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to [the authorities,] “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

This Jesus is

‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.’

“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

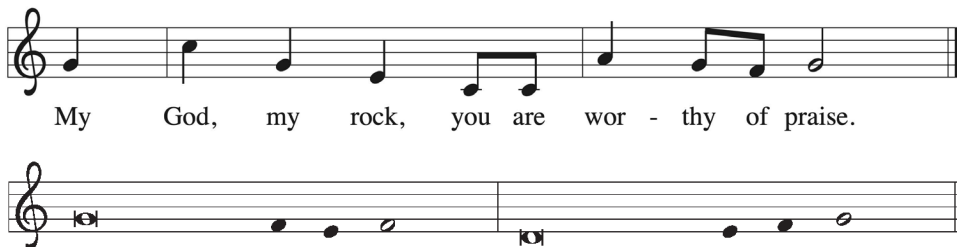
*The choir introduces
the refrain.*

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

*The choir and
congregation chant
alternating verses.*

PSALM

Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19



I love you, O | Lord my strength,
O Lord my stronghold, my crag, | and my haven;
my God, my rock in whom I | put my trust,
my shield, the horn of my salvation, | and my refuge. R

I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy | to be praised,
and so shall I be saved | from my enemies.

The breakers of death rolled | over me,
and the torrents of oblivion made | me afraid.

The cords of Sheol en- | tangled me,
and the snares of death were | set for me.

I called upon the Lord in my distress and cried out to my | God for help.
From the heavens the Lord heard my voice;
my cry | reached God's ears. R

You reached down from on | high and grasped me;
you drew me out | of great waters.

You delivered me from my strong enemies and from those who | hated me,
for they were too might- | y for me.

They confronted me in the day of | my disaster;
but you, Lord, were | my support.

You brought me out into an | open place;
you rescued me because you delight- | ed in me. R

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink.

For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Young people come forward as the congregation sings a refrain. During this time, we learn about the liturgy together.

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Sermon

I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?

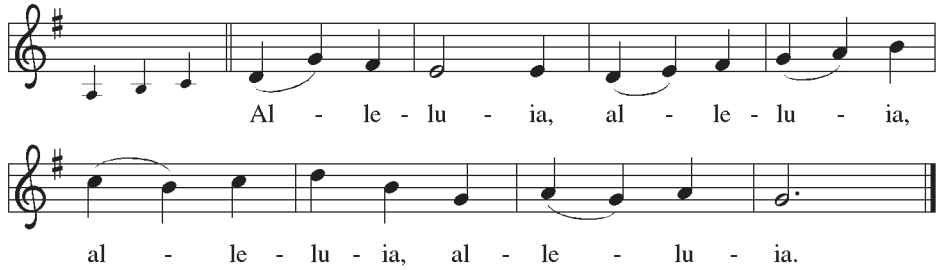
I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?

Come and see! Come now and see!

*Please stand
in body or spirit to
welcome the Gospel.*

*The congregation
joins the choir in
singing the Alleluia.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-19

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

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah!

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

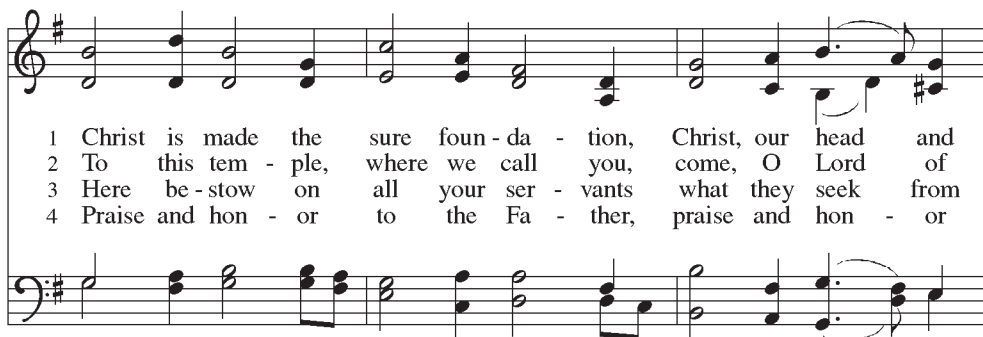
Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

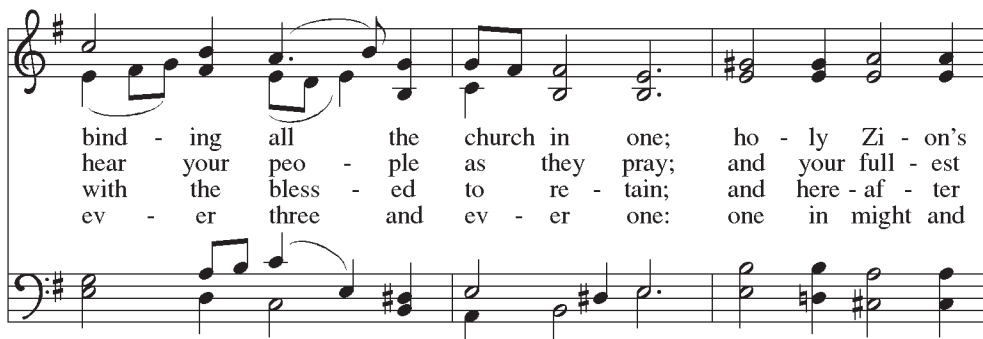
ELW 645



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

Text: Latin hymn, c.
7th cent.;
tr. John Mason Neale,
1818-1866, alt.

Music:
WESTMINSTER
ABBEY
Henry Purcell,
1659-1695;
arr. Ernest Hawkins,
1802-1868



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

*Together, we confess
the faith of the
Church.*

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

*After the final
petition:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Only Son from Heaven

J.S. Bach

Trinity Choir

The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, by God the Father given, in human form
appears. No sphere his light confining, star so brightly shining as he, our Morning Star.

Awaken, Lord, our spirit to know and love you more, in faith to stand unshaken, in spirit to adore,
that we, through this world moving, each glimpse of heaven proving, may reap its fullness there.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have
made is good, and your love endures
forever. You bring forth bread from
the earth and fruit from the vine.
Nourish us with these gifts,

that we might be for the world
signs of your gracious presence in
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Peggy Wentz
- ♦ Jerry Holleran
- ♦ Dee Horst
- ♦ Suzy Evans
- ♦ Calvin Yoh

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Anita Dolak
- ♦ Christopher & Michelle Drayer
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ John & Kathy Duggan
- ♦ Marcy Dunkelberger

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Danielle Address
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Marian Jameson

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. . .
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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 One, the beginning and the end . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

With this bread and cup we remember . . .

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit . . .

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours . . .

one God, 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

*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, grant us peace.

*This hymn can be
found in the red
hymnal (ELW).*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

*This song can be
found on page 17.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

ELW 312

TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that
you have set before us this feast, the
body and blood of your Son. By
your Spirit strengthen us to serve all

in need and to give ourselves away
as bread for the hungry, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*We join in the
Song of Simeon in
gratitude for meeting
the Lord in the Holy
Eucharist.*

NUNC DIMITTIS



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

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

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in B-flat major *from the 8 Littles*

attr. J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

*This hymn can be
found on page 18.*

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

SENDING HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of
 Clairvaux,
 1091-1153;
 tr. Ray Palmer,
 1808-1887, alt.

Music: WALTON,
 W. Gardiner,
Sacred Melodies, 1815

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
ASSISTING MINISTER
CANTOR
LECTOR
COMMUNION ASSISTANT
ACOLYTE
GREETER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin
Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Amy Litvinov
Doris Strobel
Danielle Smith
Lawrence Fredericks

USHERS
MEDIA TEAM

Cecilia, Christine & Josh Motley
Declan Rosenbaum Veronika Shick,
Grace Norton-Ritz

ALTAR GUILD

Jacinda, Josh, & Linda Motley,
Berni Ilgin, Charlie Norton,
Robin Oberholtzer, Beth Welz

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Program Staff

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

FRANKI AITKEN
in memory of Bonnie Aitken-Lavin

DAVID & DORIS STROBEL
in memory of their parents

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

5:30 PM

STRONGER TOGETHER GAME AFTERNOON -
Atonement Lutheran Church

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED -
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM

VESTRY - All Saints Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

9:00 AM

WORSHIP LEADERS TRAINING - Hintz Room

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 PM

OUTREACH & SERVICE COMMITTEE -
Bard House

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

12:00PM

YOUTH OF TRINITY LUNCH - 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.



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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

In-person: 98

Online: 63