275
1751 - 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church
Reading, Pennsylvania

# The Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

## Lectionary 32

## November 8, 2026



*Rossano Gospels (Codex Purpureus Rossanensis), The Wise and Foolish Virgins, 6th century. Tempera on purple-dyed parchment. Museo Diocesano, Rossano, Italy. Public domain.*

*On this purple page, one of the oldest surviving illustrated Gospel books, Christ stands at a door that divides the radiant wise from the frantic foolish, while four prophets below point upward, as if the whole Old Testament were waiting on the same threshold. The image keeps its eyes on the door rather than on the lamps, which sharpens the parable's closing word: "Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

# 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

Prelude in C minor — J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*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

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow ELW 327




Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.

Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944


fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing
guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all
pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

## 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 justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Psalm 70

*The choir introduces the refrain, which is repeated by the congregation.*




*The congregation chants the bolded verses.*

Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
**Let those who seek my life be put to shame | and confounded;**
**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune**
**draw back and | be disgraced.** ℟

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**
**let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"**
But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. ℟

## Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died.

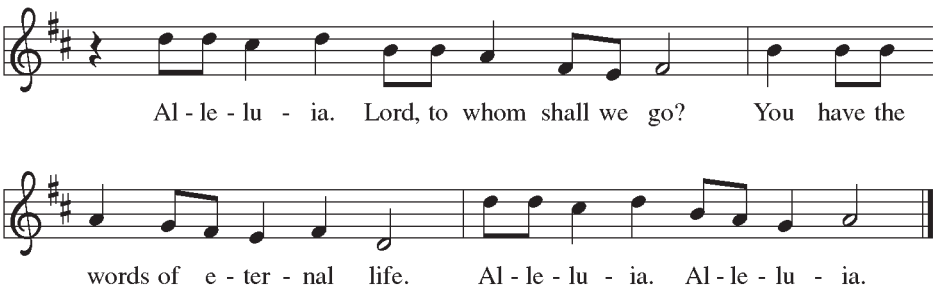
For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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 25:1-13

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

### Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers — ELW 244




Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907

Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy — Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
If our love were but more simple, we should take him at this word;
And our lives would be all gladness in the joy of Christ our Lord.

*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

- Tom Souders
- Peter Graf
- Nancy Souders-Negri

### Trinity Households

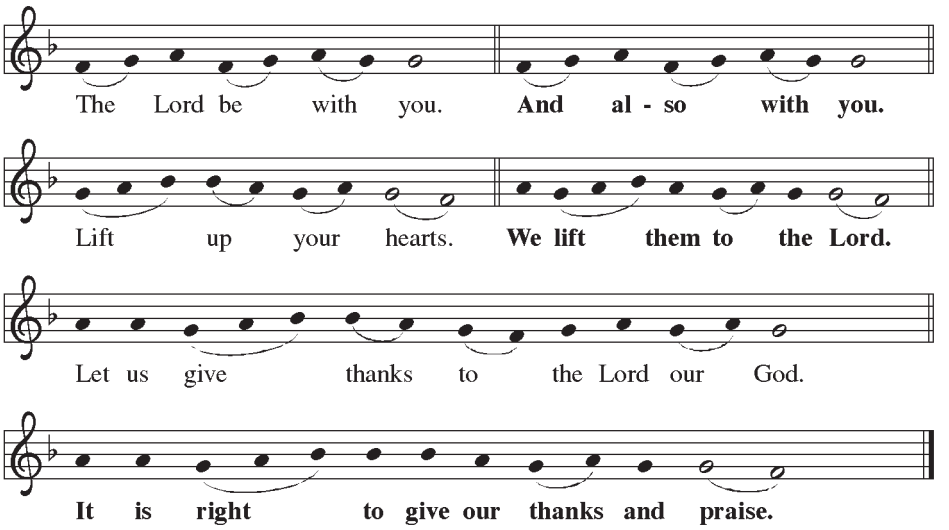
- Russ & Linda Grim
- Jonathan & Stacie Grim
- Katie Hannon
- Ann Harnish
- Richard & Barbara Hartman

### 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.*

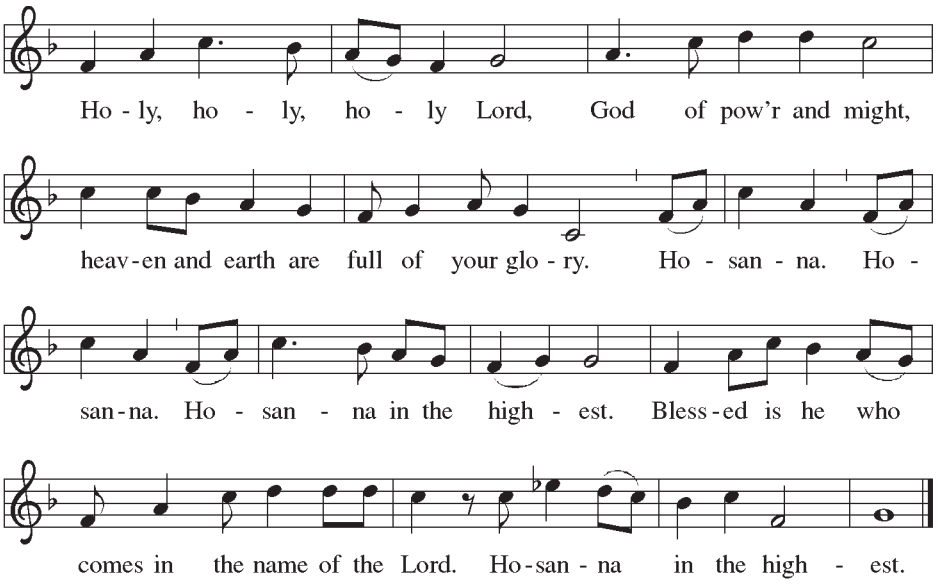



## Proper Preface

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

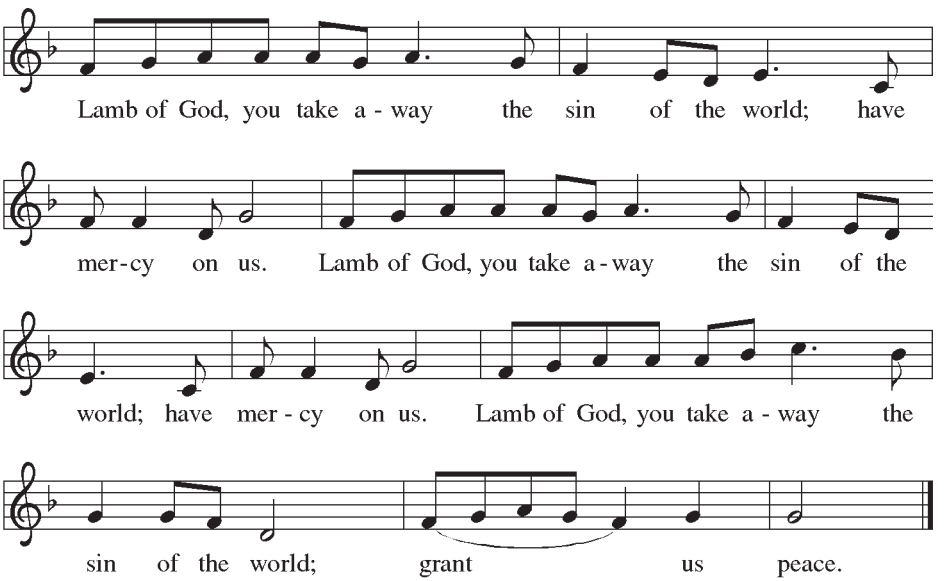
*Silence is kept as the bread is broken.*

*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

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness ELW 488

*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.**

*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

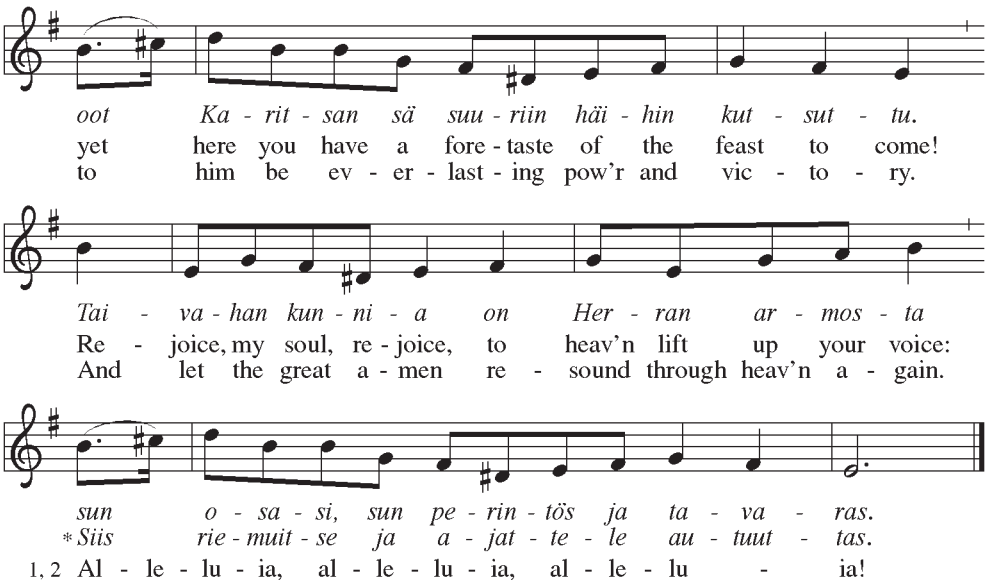
### Arise, My Soul, Arise! ELW 827




Text: Johan Kahl, 1721–1746; Finnish tr. Halullisten Sjelujen Hengelliset Laulut, 1790; English tr. Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.

Music: NYT YLÖS, SIELUNI, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.




## Dismissal

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

## Postlude

Fugue in C minor — J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## A Full Day at Trinity: Sunday, November 22nd
## Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 22nd, is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year, and Trinity will mark it with a full day: worship with Bishop Jennifer Dee preaching, a farewell luncheon for Deaconess Deborah, and a recital by organist Nicole Keller.



We begin with worship at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, where Bishop Jennifer Dee of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod will preach. As the church year closes with a celebration of Christ's eternal reign, we will also offer our farewell and Godspeed to Deaconess Deborah Graf, who retires on December 1st after 27 years of ministry at Trinity. This is her last Sunday with us, and we hope you will join us in giving thanks for her.



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.

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### Worship Attendance

**Sunday, November 1**
In-person: 88
Online: 152

## 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 | Erica Hofmann |
| Communion Assistant | Amy Norton-Ritz |
| Acolyte | William Norton-Ritz |
| Greeter | Allison Kalbach |
| Ushers | Christine & Cecilia Motley |
| Media Team | Amy Bornhofen, Jenn Smith, Anna Litvinov |
| 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.*

**Bob and Sue Brems**
In loving memory of Bob Brems, Jr.
and the birthday of Bob Brems, Sr.

**Steve & Beth Welz**
with thanks for the volunteers who gave their time and labor during the recent renovation.

# This Week at Trinity

## Sunday, November 8

**10:00 AM**
Sunday worship - Nave

**11:15 AM**
Coffee & Conversation - Welcome Center

**11:30 AM**
Trinity Youth Ringers - Bell Room
Fellowship Committee - Welcome Center

**12:00 PM**
The Mixed Ensemble - Bard House Choir Room

**3:00 PM**
FFA Drama - 4,000 Miles
WCR Center for the Arts

## Monday, November 9

**1:00 PM**
Program Staff Meeting
Common Ground Ministry

**7:00 PM**
Executive Committee (virtual)
Kristallnacht Remembrance Service
Christ Episcopal Church

## Tuesday, November 10

**9:30 AM**
Staff Meeting

**2:00 PM**
Women of TLC Bible Study
The Highlands at Wyomissing

## Wednesday, November 11

**1:00 PM**
Congregational Care and Concern Committee - Bard House

**6:30 PM**
Trinity Ringers - Bell Room

**7:30 PM**
Trinity Choir - Bard House

## Thursday, November 12

**7:30 PM**
Trinity Book Club: Book of Longings
All Saints Room

## Sunday, November 15

**10:00 AM**
Sunday worship - Nave

**11:15 AM**
Coffee & Conversation - Welcome Center

**11:30 AM**
Trinity Youth Ringers - Bell Room
Vestry Listening Session - All Saints Room

**12:00 PM**
The Mixed Ensemble - Bard House Choir Room