275
1751 - 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church
Reading, Pennsylvania

The Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Lectionary 33

November 15, 2026



The Servant Buries His Talent, from The Parable of the Talents, c. 1565.
Harmen Jansz Muller after Gerard van Groeningen. Engraving. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

Printed in the Netherlands on the eve of the Dutch Revolt, this Mannerist servant digs with heroic, straining muscle among the ruins of a classical city, a reminder that fear can be hard work too. The ruined arches behind him quietly ask what becomes of every treasure kept safe in the ground: "so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground."

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 — Daniel E. Gawthrop (b. 1949)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

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.
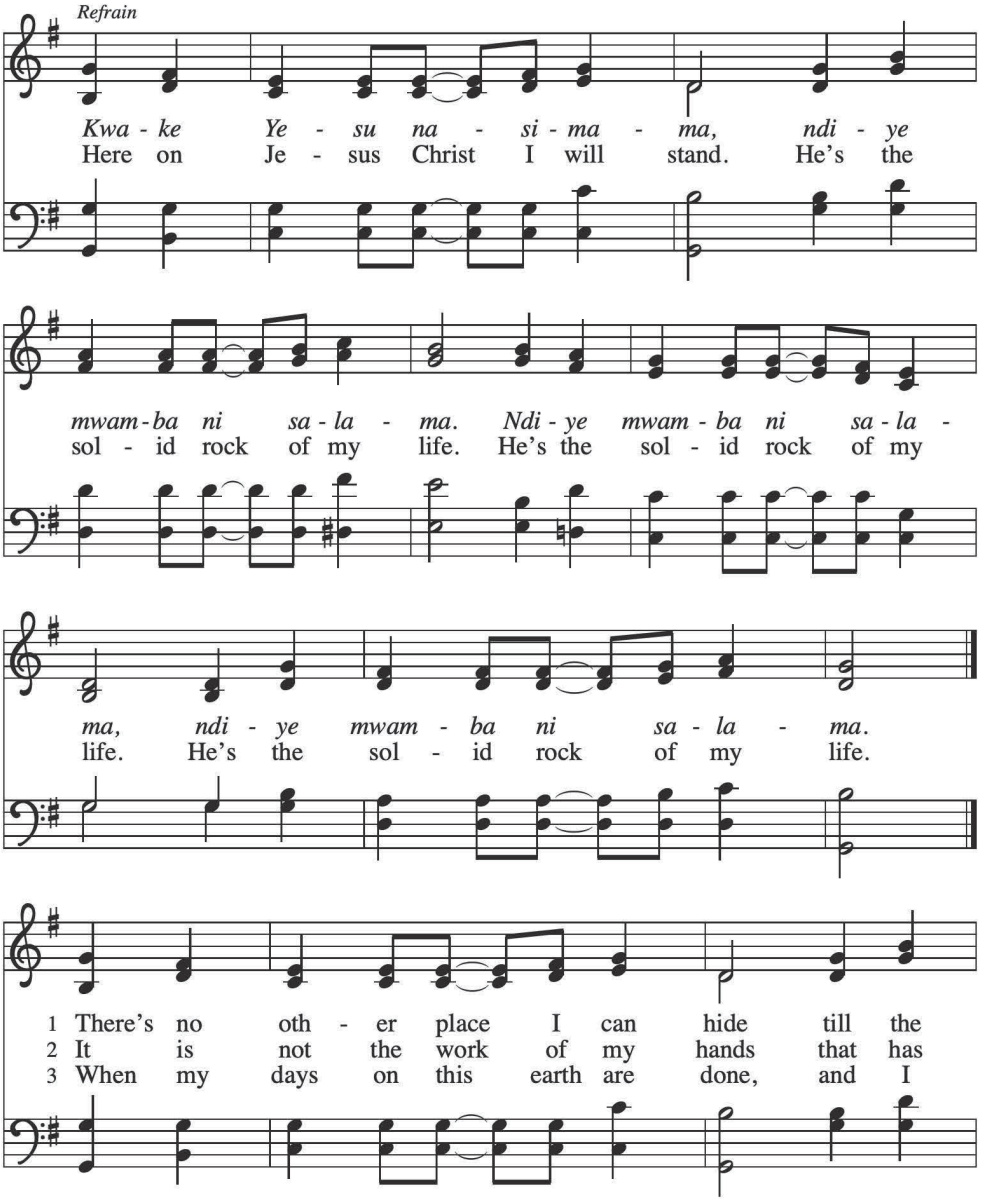
Apostolic Greeting

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

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand — ACS 1024

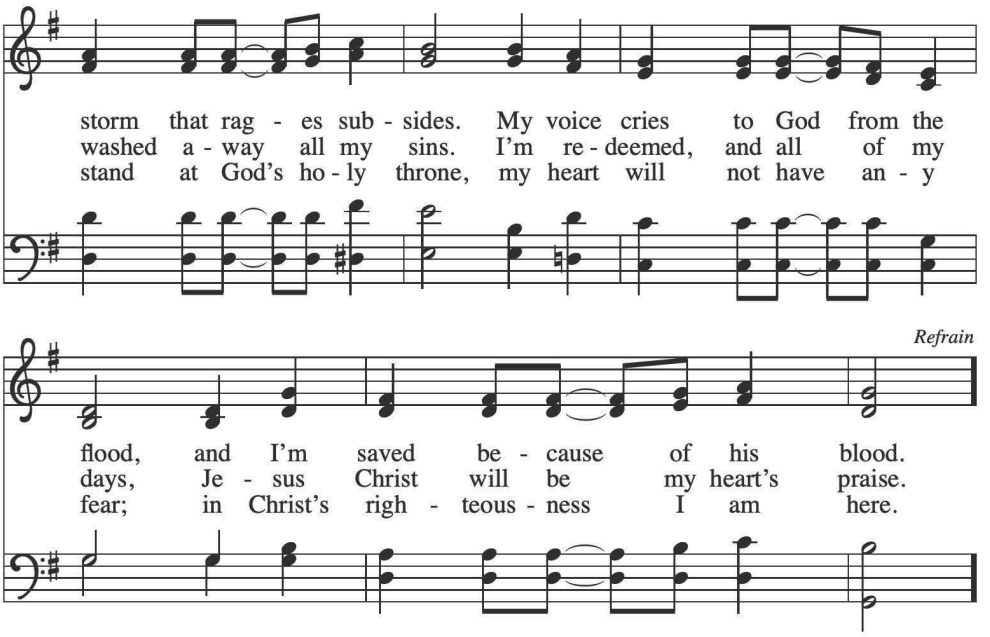


Text: Kenyan hymn; adapt. Greg Scheer, b. 1966

Music: KWAKE YESU NASIMAMA Kenyan melody; adapt. Greg Scheer

Text © 2007 East African Annual Conference, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

English adapt. and arr. © 2007 Greg Scheer, admin. General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik



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.

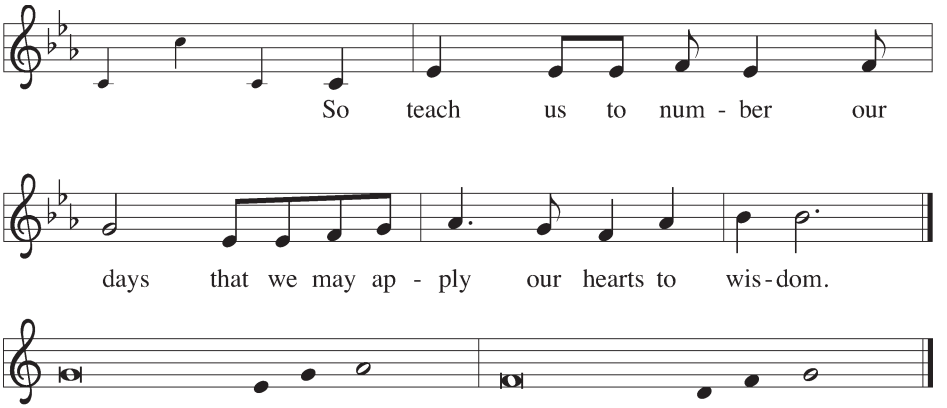
Let us pray.
Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Psalm 90:1-6,12

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

The congregation chants the bolded verses.



Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.
You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night; ℟

You sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
In the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. ℟

Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
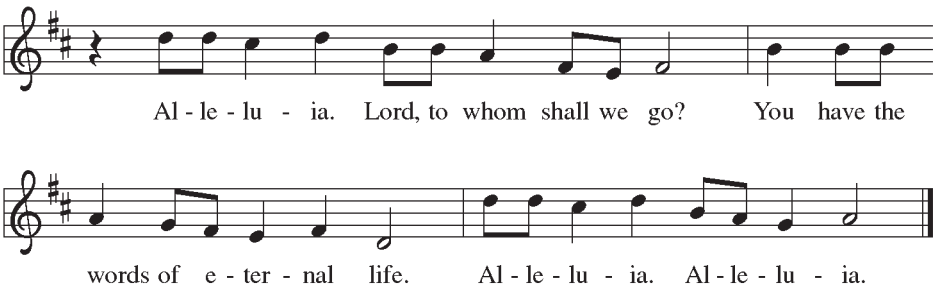
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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 25:14-30

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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

Please be seated.

Sermon
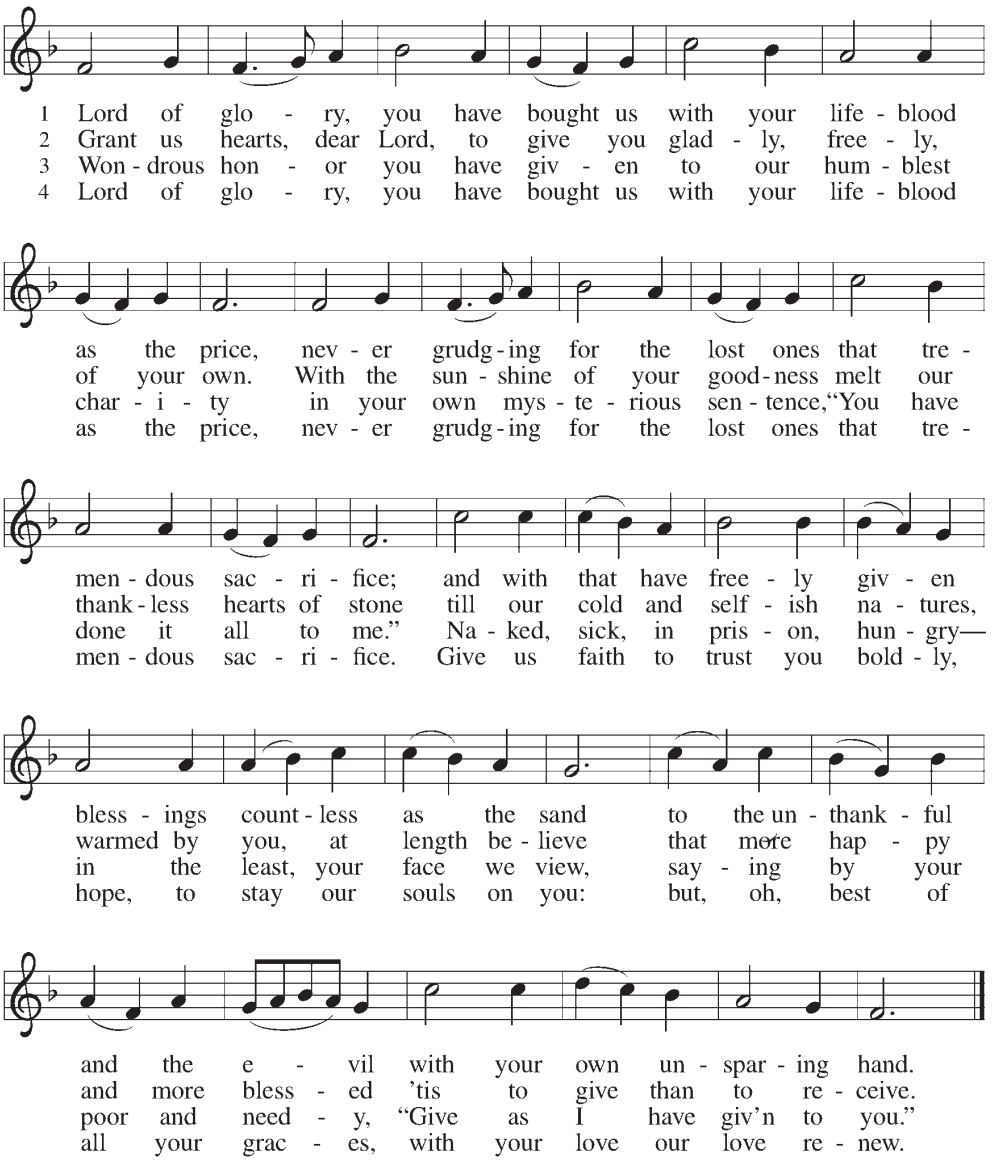
Pastor Hans E. Becklin

Please stand in body or spirit.

Harmony can be found in the ELW (Red Hymnal)

Hymn of the Day

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us — ELW 707



Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-1889, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

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

Temple Talk

Eric Rosenbaum

Offertory

My Lord, What A Mornin' — H.T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

Trinity Choir

My Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways, join that heavenly ban'.

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
- Mal Mitchell and Family on the death of their mother Joan Teel.

Trinity Households

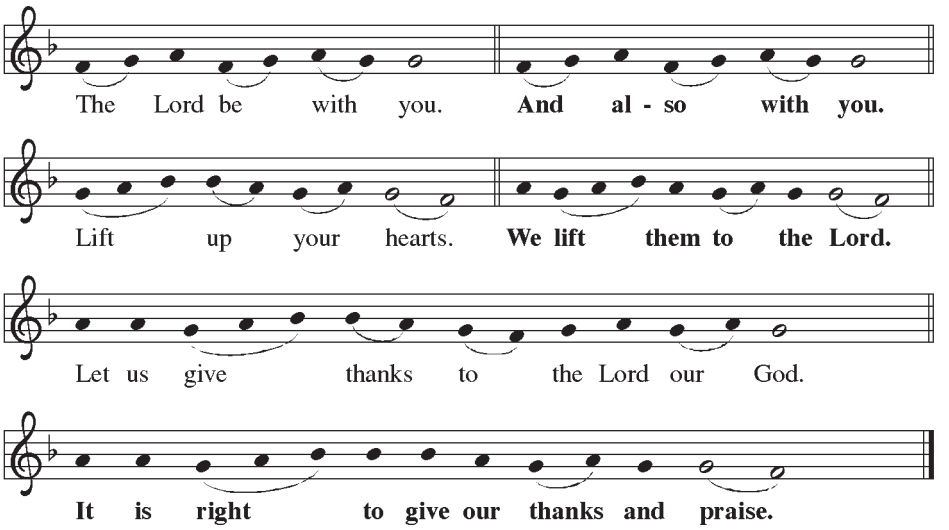
- Matthew Hayes
- Amy & Frank Heins
- Judith Hill
- Dave Himes & Amy Stewart-Himes
- Tom, Mark, Steve & Erica Hofmann

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.

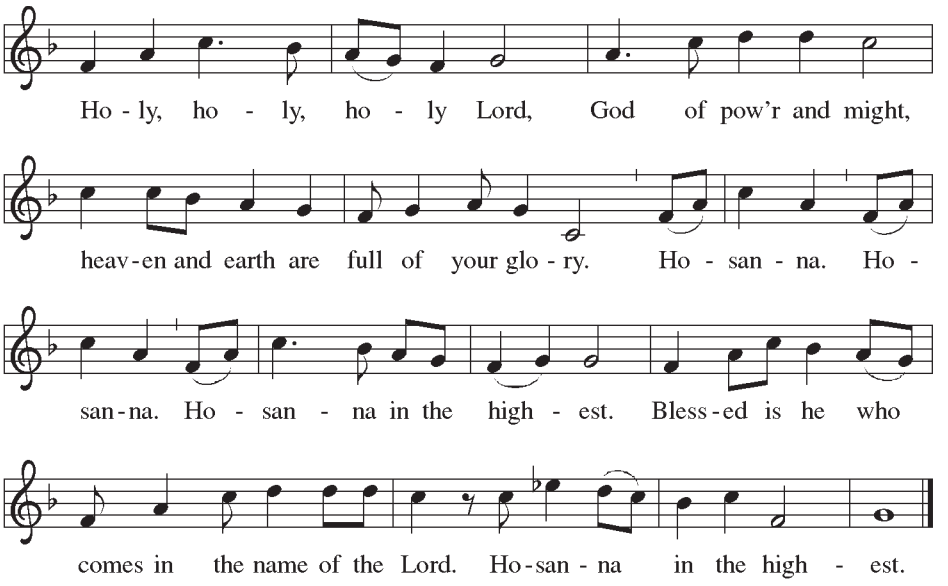


Proper Preface

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

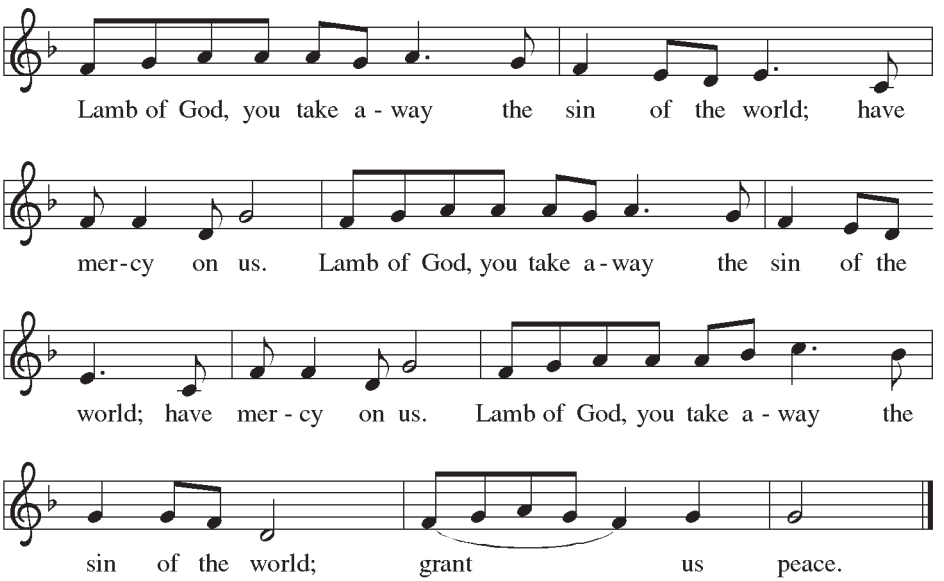
Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674

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.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers come forward to receive the Eucharist that they will share with the homebound.

Sending of Lay Eucharistic Ministers

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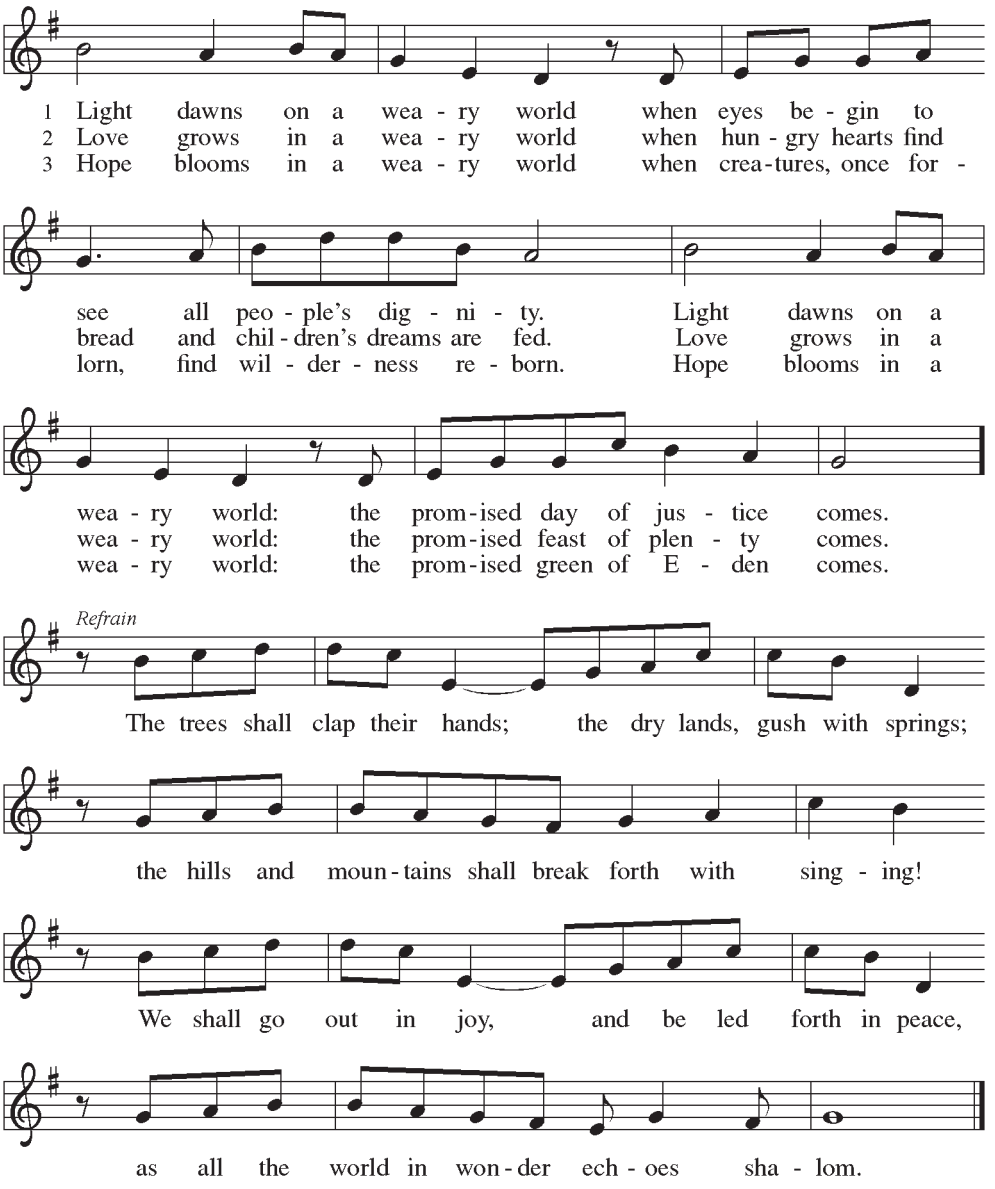
As a sign of God's blessing, you may make the sign of the cross.

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

Light Dawns on a Weary World — ELW 726



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE
William P. Rowan, b. 1951

Text © 2002, GIA Publications, Inc.

Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Voluntary IV — Theophania Cecil (1782-1879)

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 8
In-person: 97
Online: 90

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	Donna Osborne
Cantor	Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Lector	Steve Welz
Communion Assistant	Joseph Speece
Acolyte	Abbie Smith
Greeters	Lawrence Fredericks
Ushers	Jeff & Pam Wasmuth
Media Team	Jorge Tomás, Grace Norton-Ritz
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.

Cameron Wentz and Jorge Tomás
in celebration of their 5th wedding anniversary

Virginia Biniek
To the glory of God

This Week at Trinity

Sunday, November 15

10:00 AM
Sunday worship - Nave

11:15 AM
Coffee & Conversation - Welcome Center

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

12:00 PM
The Mixed Ensemble - Bard House

Monday, November 16

1:00 PM
Program Staff Meeting
Common Ground Ministry

7:00 PM
Vestry - All Saints Room

Tuesday, November 17

9:30 AM
Staff Meeting

6:00 PM
Learning Ministries - offsite

Wednesday, November 18

6:30 PM
Trinity Ringers - Sanctuary

7:30 PM
Trinity Choir - Bard House

Thursday, November 19

4:00 PM
Property Committee - Bard House

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