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PRELUDE Diademata Harold Rutz (*b*.1930)

CONFESSION OF SINS
Please stand. (All may make the sign of the cross)

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a member with you of the priesthood of all believers, and by the authority of Christ alone, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Crown Him with Many Crowns* (ELW 855)



Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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 (ELW 157)



Text: *Lutheran Book ofWorship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen
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CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW 167)



Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out.
12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a



1 Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**

the heights of the hills are | also yours. R

5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.

7a For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

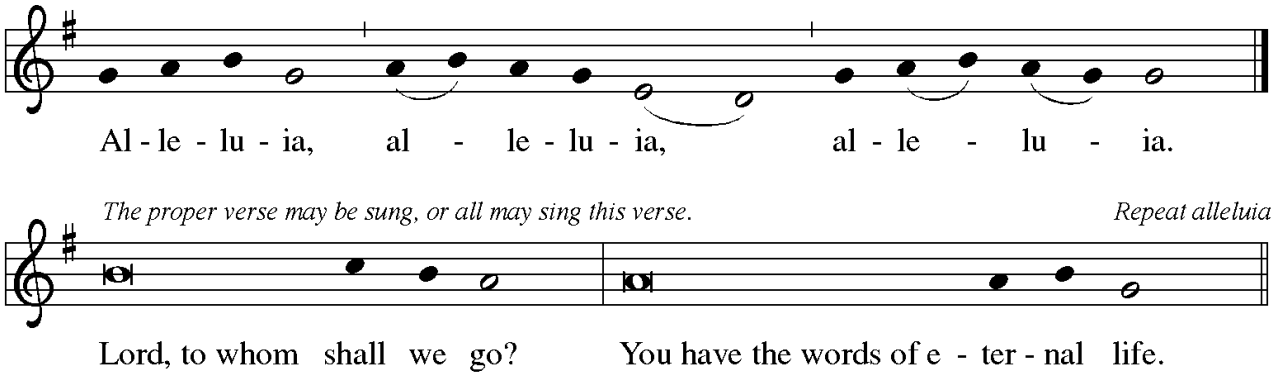
15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 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, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 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, 21 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. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "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. 32 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, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. 34 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, 35 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, 36 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.' 37 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? 38 And
when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you
clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 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.' 41 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, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and
you gave me nothing to drink, 43 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.' 44 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?' 45 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.' 46 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 **REV. LARRY CLOSTER**

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need especially Shirley, Louise, Bernie, Paul, Marti, Janet, Nancy, Jeff, Dan, Doug, and Carl. (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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

PEACE

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

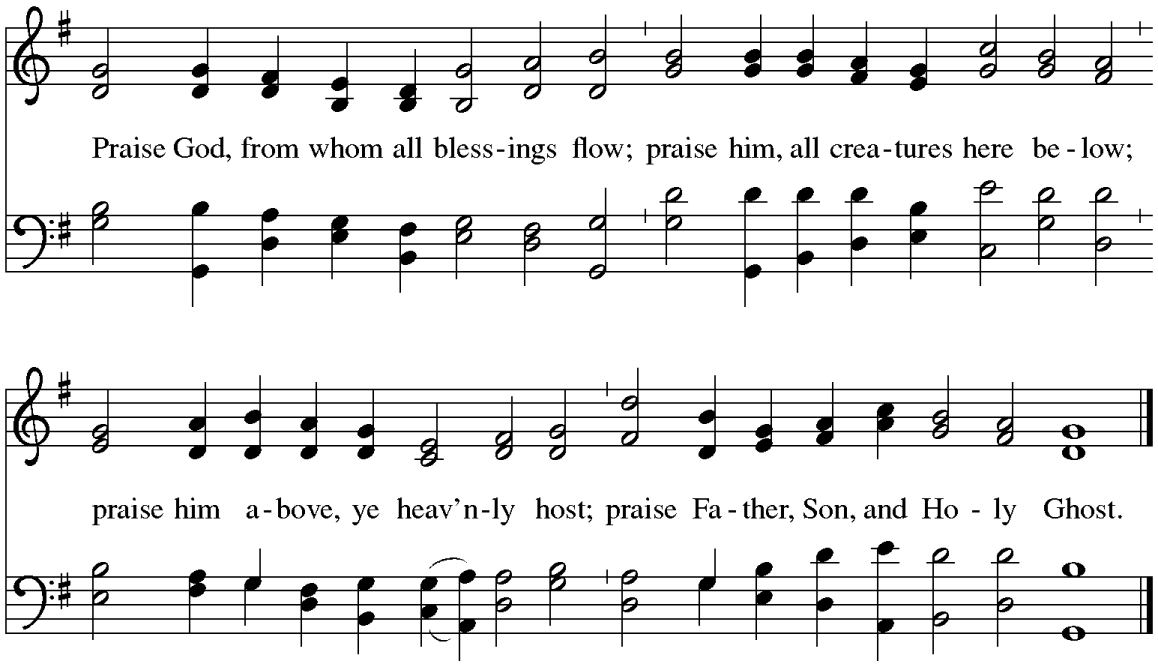
Please be seated

OFFERING *Majesty* Jack Hayford Trinity Choir

Offering is an act of worship. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may place your offering in the offering plate or scan the QR code adjacent.

Please stand

OFFERING PRESENTATION (ELW 884)



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty God, As we bring before you our offerings, we are reminded that you are our provider, our sustainer, and our strength. Without you, we are nothing. May these gifts impress upon us our dependence on you, acknowledging that all we have comes from your hand. May these gifts be used to spread your love to others, bringing hope and healing to a world in need. Thank you for your love that never fails us. **Amen**.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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: who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all
things for our salvation.

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.

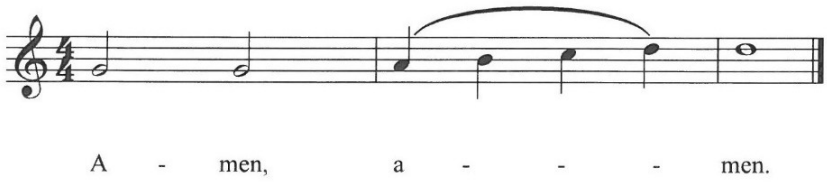
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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



Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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, taste and see that the Lord is good.

For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

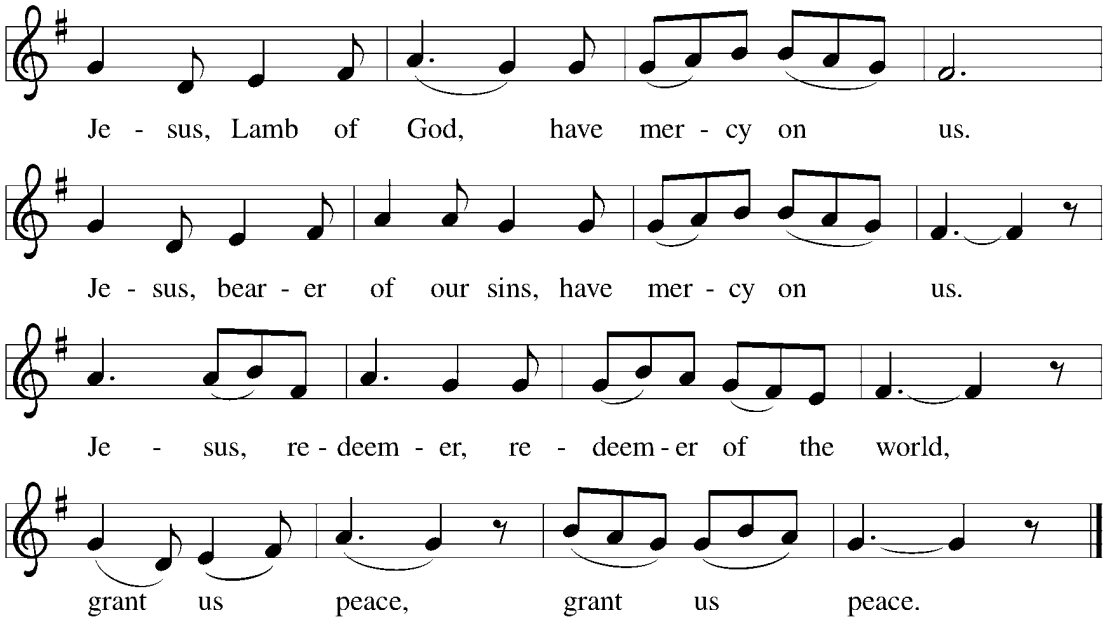
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.

COMMUNION SONG



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (ELW 608)



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Just As I Am, without One Plea (ELW 592)



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

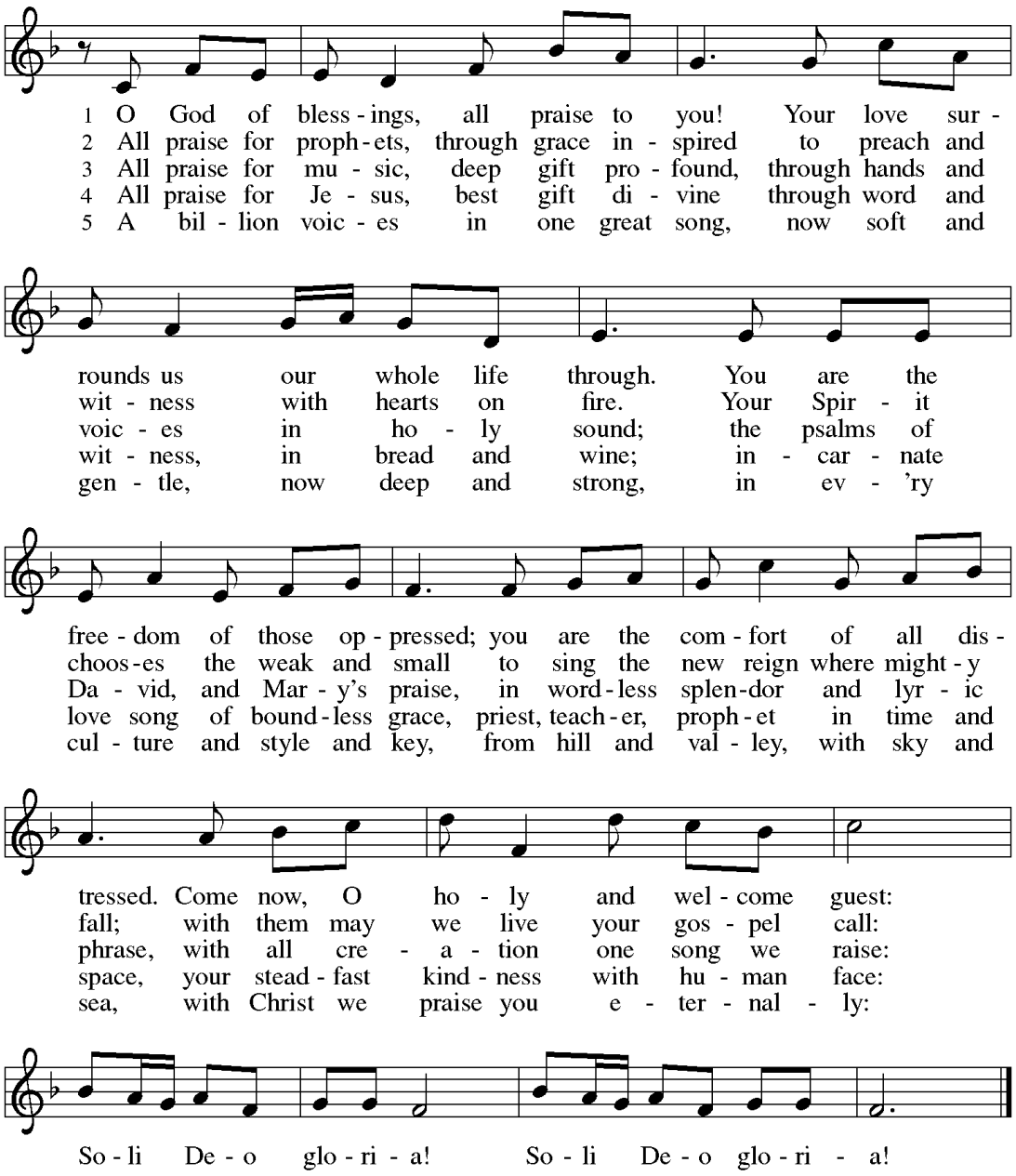
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious towards you

the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Soli Deo Gloria* (ELW 878)



Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: SOLI DEO GLORIA, Marty Haugen
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DISMISSAL

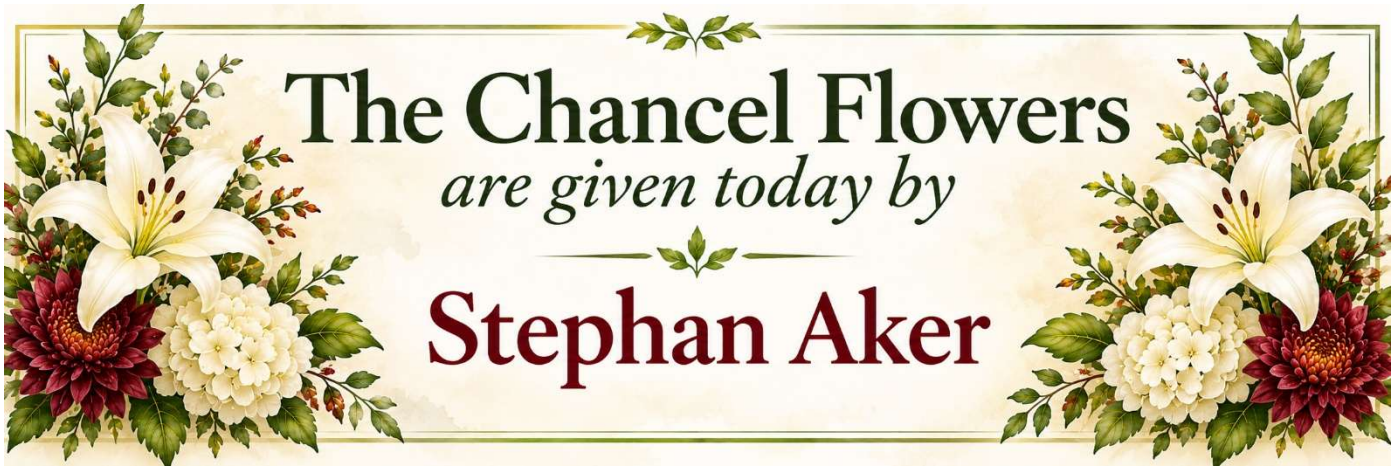
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

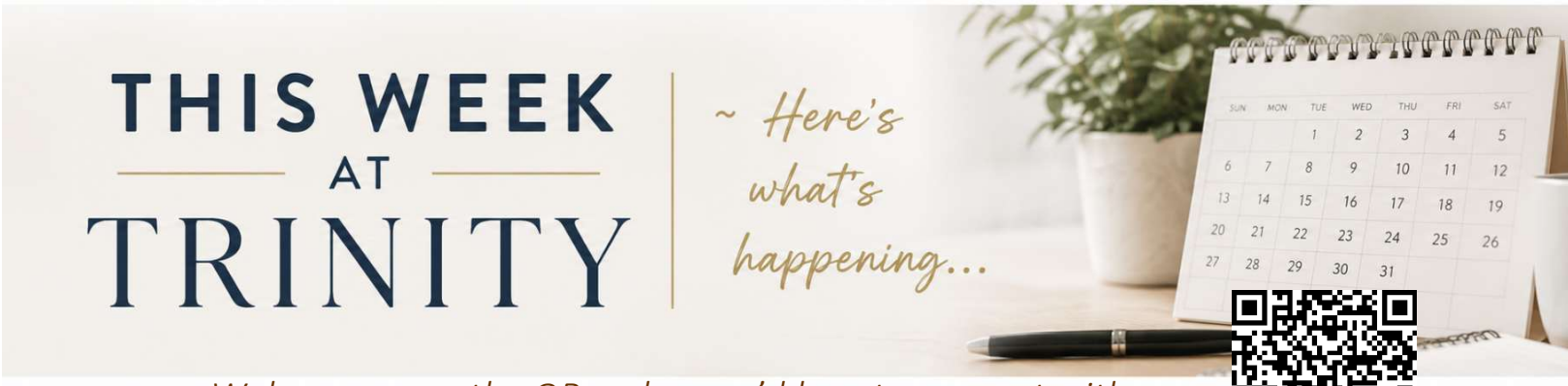
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Jubilant March* W.Reynolds (1861-1922)

The Ministers of Service:

- Officiant: The Reverend Larry Closter
- Organist & Music Director: Ricky Gearhart
- This Service: Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Marcie Stern. Communion Assistant: David Reichert. Acolyte: Wayne Wright.
- Next Service: Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Kathleen Carroll. Communion Assistant: . Lighting & Reading of Advent wreath: . Acolyte: Jacob Carroll.





Welcome, scan the QR code—we'd love to connect with you.

Monday, November 23

- Hanging of the Greens – 2:30 PM
- I Can 2 will be cooking for their Thanksgiving lunch

Tuesday, November 24

- Sewing for the Savior – 9:30 AM
- I Can 2's Thanksgiving Luch @ 12pm All are welcome!

Wednesday, November 25

- No Community Meal. Holiday meal December 2!

Thursday, November 26

- Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed

Friday, November 27

- Office Closed

Saturday, November 28

- CMSP – Fall Music Together 9:00–10:00 AM | Room 202
- Thanksgiving Food Box Distribution 9am- 2pm | Parish Hall
- Pancake breakfast (SC Lions Club) | SC United Methodist Church 7am-11am

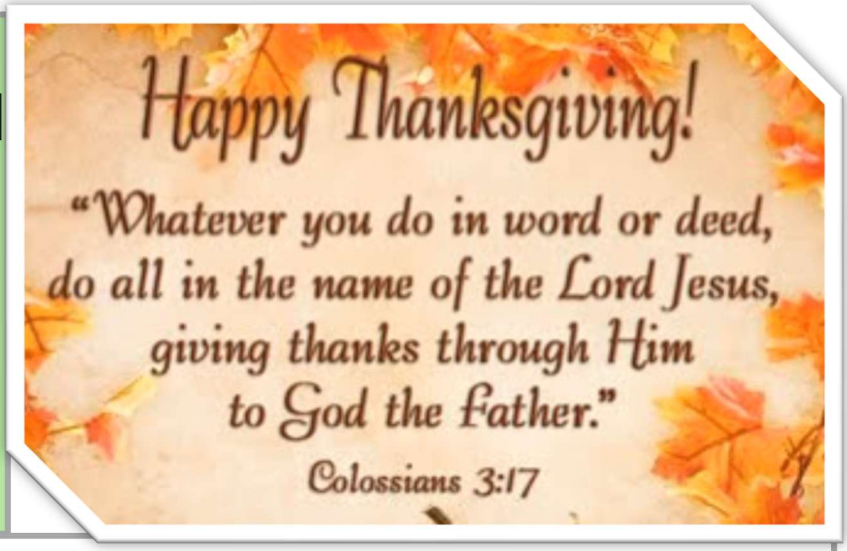
Sunday, November 29

- **First Sunday of Advent** Worship @ 9:30 AM, following service; Fellowship Coffee Hour, Chime Choir, Bible Study.

Attendance and General Offering

DATE	IN PERSON | ONLINE | OFFERING
10/26/2026	52 | 9 | $9756
11/1/2026	54 | 10 | $3,577
11/08/2026	41 | 10 | $4681.81
11/15/2026	41 | 10 |$2692.34

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL COSTS $ 4,649.00



📖 From the Congregational Council:

Three positions are opening on the Church Council! Please prayerfully consider serving. The Council meets once a month to help guide the ministry and mission of our church. This is your chance to make a difference!

See **Pastor**, call the **church office**, or talk to a **current Council member** if you have questions or would like to express your interest.

🗓️ **Voting will take place at the Congregational Meeting on December 13, with new terms beginning in January.**

Donating Stock to the Church

Did you know you can support Trinity's mission by donating appreciated stock? The church has a brokerage account that accepts stock transactions. Giving stock directly to the church can offer **significant tax benefits**, including avoiding capital gains taxes and receiving a charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock.

Interested? Contact Mark Greene by email or reach out through the church office at **540-869-4019** (Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM – 1 PM).

We're happy to guide you through the process.

Thank you for your faithful support!

Introducing the Trinity Cyber Café!

During Coffee Hour

Have questions about Trinity's website or app? Stop by and visit with our volunteers, especially Wayne, for one-on-one help!

Learn how to log in, update your profile, explore helpful features, and share your questions or feedback. Keeping your information current also helps us maintain accurate church records and our directory.

Enjoy a little fellowship while discovering new ways to stay connected!

Stop by, say hello, and explore with us!

trinitychurchvirginia.com

From the LCW (Lutheran Church Women)

The LCW has two special opportunities to celebrate the season!

Calling All Bakers! 🍪

The LCW Bake Sale will be held Saturday, December 12, from 9 AM–2 PM, alongside the Kringle Market. We welcome donations of baked goods! Drop off items Friday, December 11, from 8 AM–3 PM, or Saturday at 8:30 AM. Proceeds support future LCW projects. Thank you for your generosity!

Women of Trinity Christmas Luncheon 🎄

All women of Trinity are invited to join us for a Christmas luncheon and fellowship on **Saturday, December 5, at 12 PM** at **Uncle Chen's, 3035-101 Valley Ave., Winchester**. Please RSVP to Christine Cornwell by November 29. We hope to see you there!

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, packed, and supported our **Holiday Food Box Program**. Because of your generosity, we distributed **94 complete holiday meal boxes** this past Saturday!

This ministry has been serving our community for nearly **15 years**, providing full holiday meals to families in need through local schools, as well as to several elderly veterans in our area. This important work simply wouldn't be possible without you.

Thank you for making a difference & **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Christmas Poinsettias –
Honor or Remember a Loved One



Help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas by sponsoring a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special!

This year, plants will be purchased directly from the farm by Patty for just **$11.00 each**, a savings of **$7.50** from last year.

Complete a paper form or submit your sponsorship online through our newsletter or website under *"In the Know."*

Please submit all sponsorships by December 2nd.

Please note: Colors will be predetermined, with no color selections available.

Thank you for sharing in this Christmas tradition!

ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

🙌 **Sunday Servants**

We'd love your help in making each Sunday special. Whether you'd like to greet, read, assist with Communion, or take part in special services, there's a place for you! Reach out to **Christine Cornwell** or sign up through **SignUpGenius** in the newsletter.

🙏 **Prayer Team Table**

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request or contact **Laurie Closter 540-840-8401**, to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession. Or simply scan and submit

🏥 **Hospital Visitation**

Pastor Closter is registered with Valley Health for hospital visits. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospital cannot notify us when someone is admitted.

To request a visit, contact the church office at **540-869-4019**, or after hours, call Pastor Closter at **540-848-5325**. You may also reach out to **Pastor Closter** or **Martha Cooley**.



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
STEPHENS CITY, VIRGINIA

Growing in God's Grace

TRINITY LEADERSHIP & STAFF

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Larry Closter
Interim Pastor
Cell: (540) 848-5325

Ricky Gearhart
Organist & Music Director

Jodie Broccolo
Administrative Assistant

Mark Greene
Treasurer

Vacant
Bookkeeper

Mike Pyne
Financial Secretary

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL • 2026

Carole Pfisterer
President

Marianne Watson
Vice President

Patty Stringer
Secretary

Council Members

Bruce Everly • Jim Hall
David Reichert • Tom Righter
Dorothée St. Germain

TRUSTEES

- Diann Daily
- Barry Hockenberry
- Tom Righter

CHURCHWIDE LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton
Bishop
Virginia Synod, ELCA

VISIT US

810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA 22655

CONTACT US

(540) 869-4019
office@trinitychurchvirginia.org
trinitychurchvirginia.com

OFFICE HOURS

Church Office:
Monday–Thursday • 8:30 AM–1:00 PM

Pastor's Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 AM–1:00 PM

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM