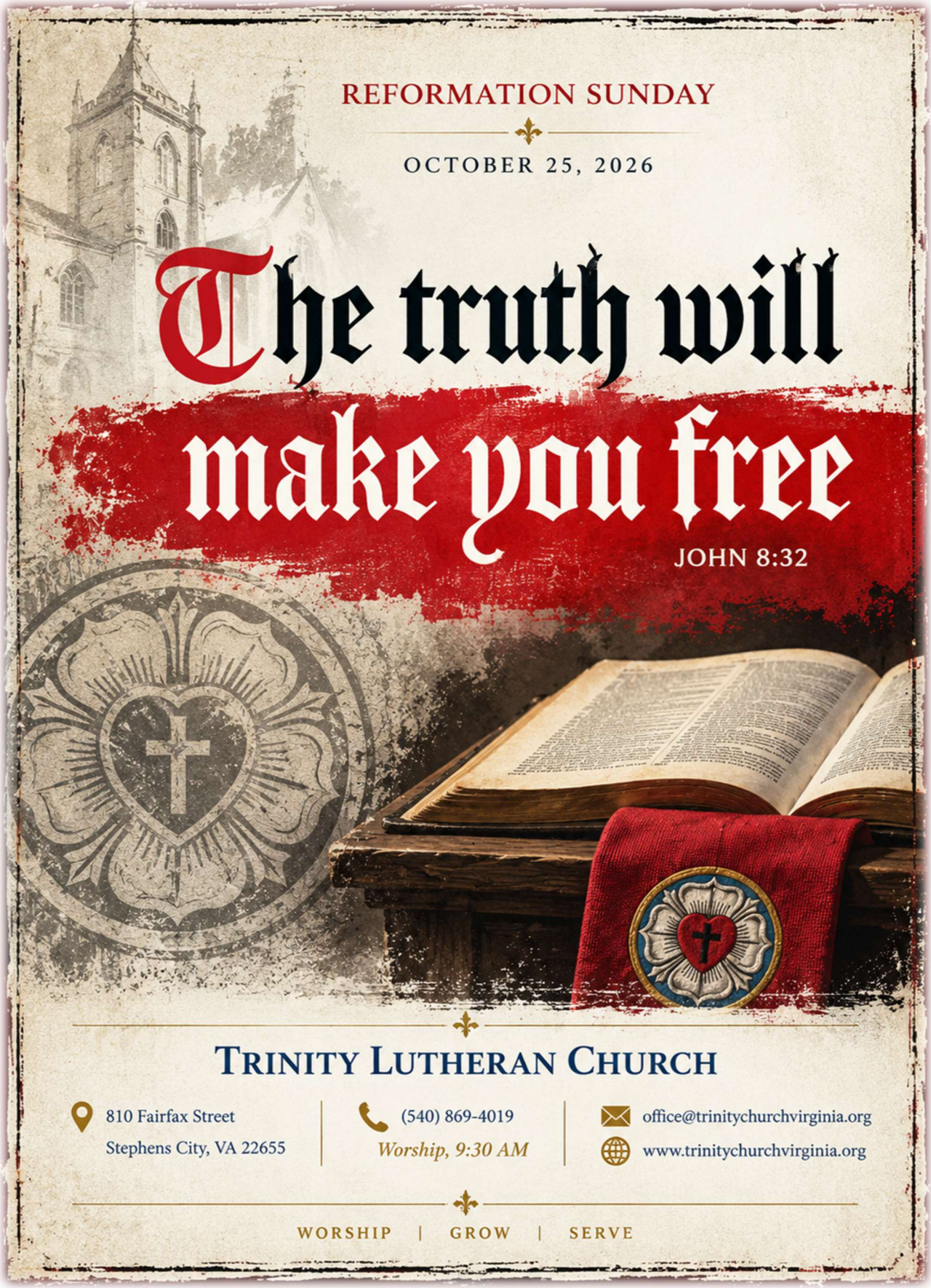


From Sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From sundaysandseasons.com license #SAS024465. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # A-720634. All rights reserved. CCLI, copyright Lic. 11381030, Streaming Lic. 20167089 Psalmody refrain from Psalter for Worship Year A © 2008 Augsburg Fortress, tone from Psalter for Worship Year A ©2006 Augsburg Fortress. Prelude ©Public Domain. Offertory © 1986 EMI Group. Postlude ©2006 Leupold Editions, Inc.

PRELUDE *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* Johann Walther (1684-1748))

CONFESSION OF SINS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose mercy is everlasting and whose love never fails.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Silence for reflection

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions.
We have been selfish when we should have been generous,
silent when we should have spoken up,
quick to judge when we should have shown mercy.
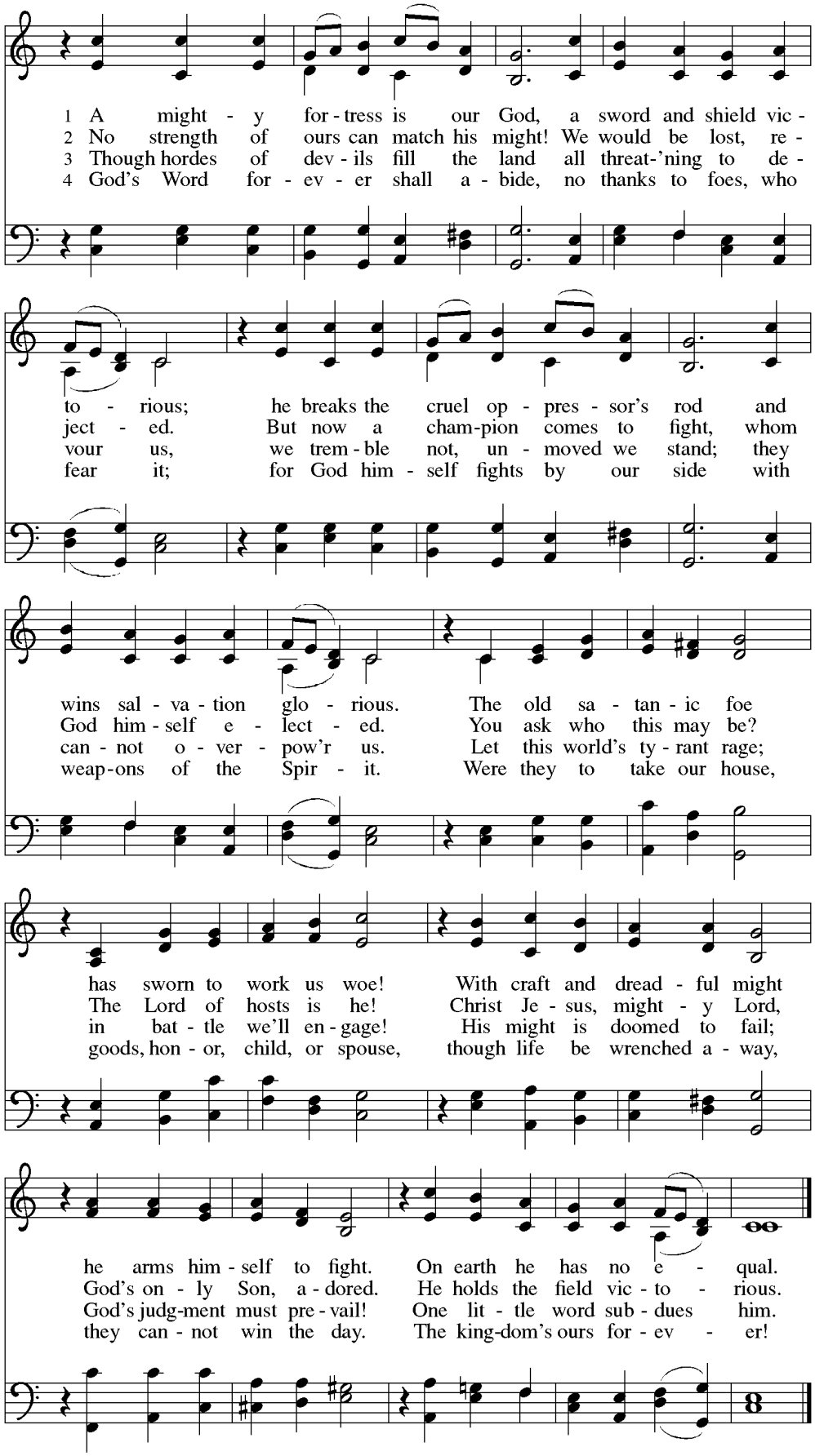
We have overlooked those who are hurting
and taken for granted the blessings you have given us.
We have caused harm to your creation
and denied dignity to others by being careless and self-centered.

Strengthen us to live as people who have been forgiven—
freely offering to others the grace we have received from you.

Hear the good news: God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor does he repay us according to our iniquities. In Jesus Christ, God has taken our sin upon himself, died for us, and risen again to give us new life. Therefore, by the authority of Christ and in obedience to his command, I proclaim to you that all your sins have been forgiven. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)
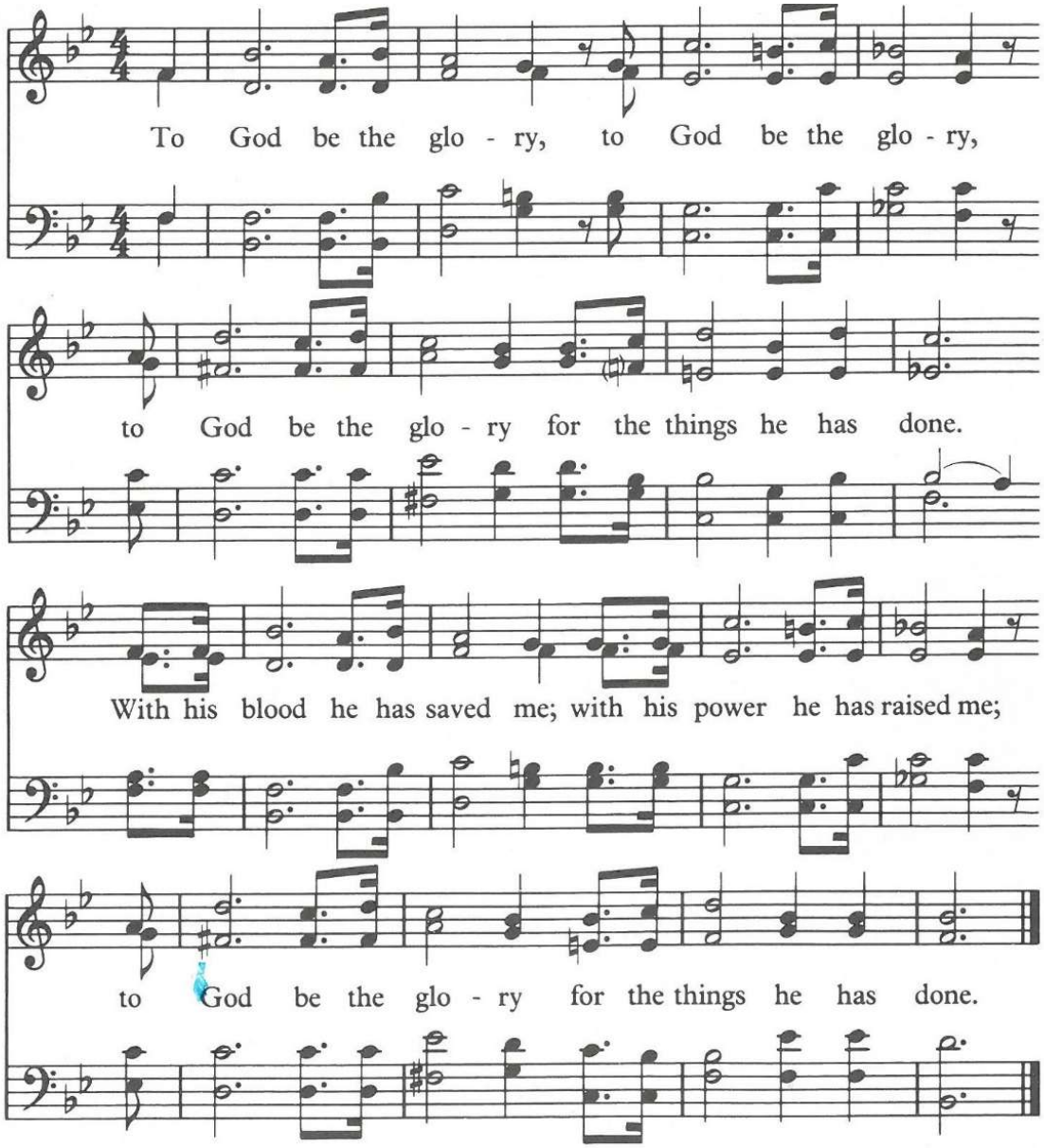


Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (UMH 99)



WORDS: Andraé Crouch, 1971
MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1971

MY TRIBUTE
Irr.

© 1971 Communiqué Music, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made
with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of
Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But
this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the
LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their
God, and they shall be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to
each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the
greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46 *Spoken Responsively*

1 God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
3 though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
6 **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.
7 The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
8 **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**

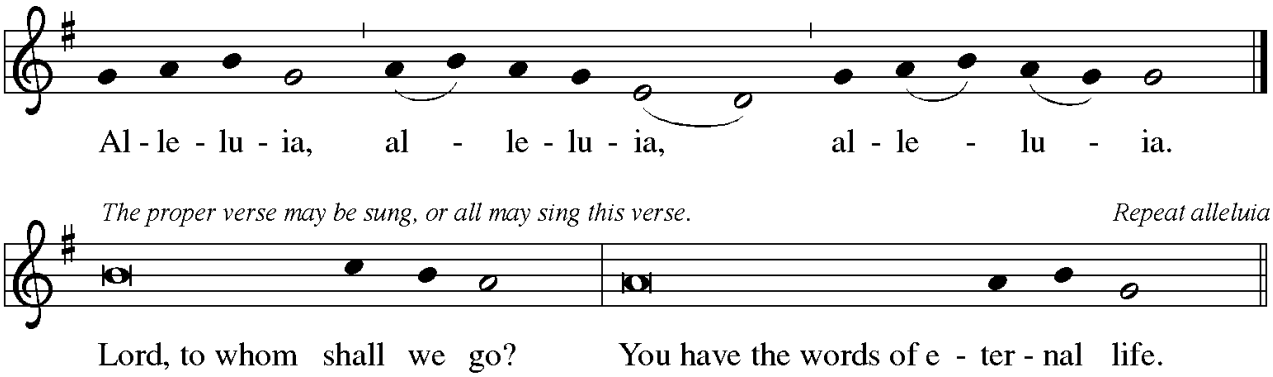
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
10 "Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
11 The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28
A reading from Romans.
19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Music: Plainsong mode VI

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are
truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
33 They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves
to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"
34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave
to sin. 35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a
place there forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.

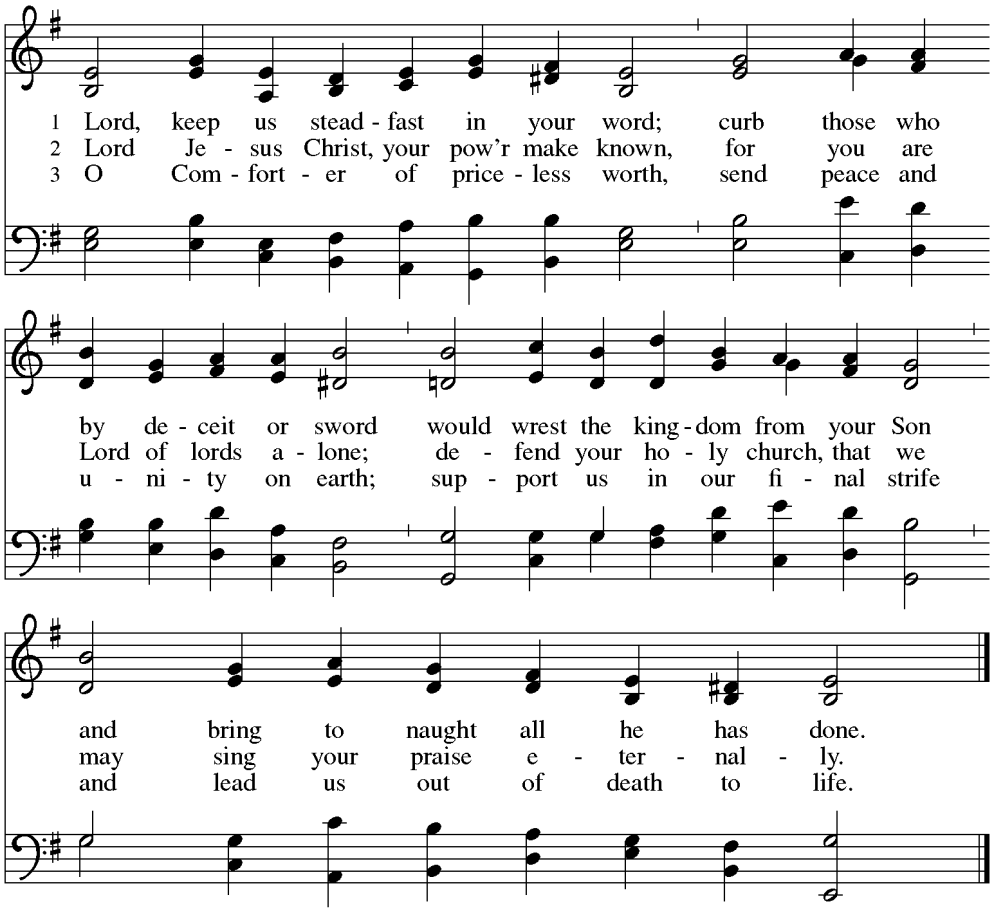
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON REV. LARRY CLOSTER

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* (ELW 517)



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed. Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering, especially for Shirley, Louise, Bernie, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Jeff, Adam, Anthony, Dan, and Ashante. *(worshippers may add names silently or aloud)*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, thank you for the gift of our beloved pets, who bring us joy, comfort, companionship, and are a reflection of your unconditional love. Help us to honor the memory of those who have past, and care with kindness those animals who currently share their lives with us. Bless all creatures great and small, and fill our hearts with gratitude for the love they bring into our lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

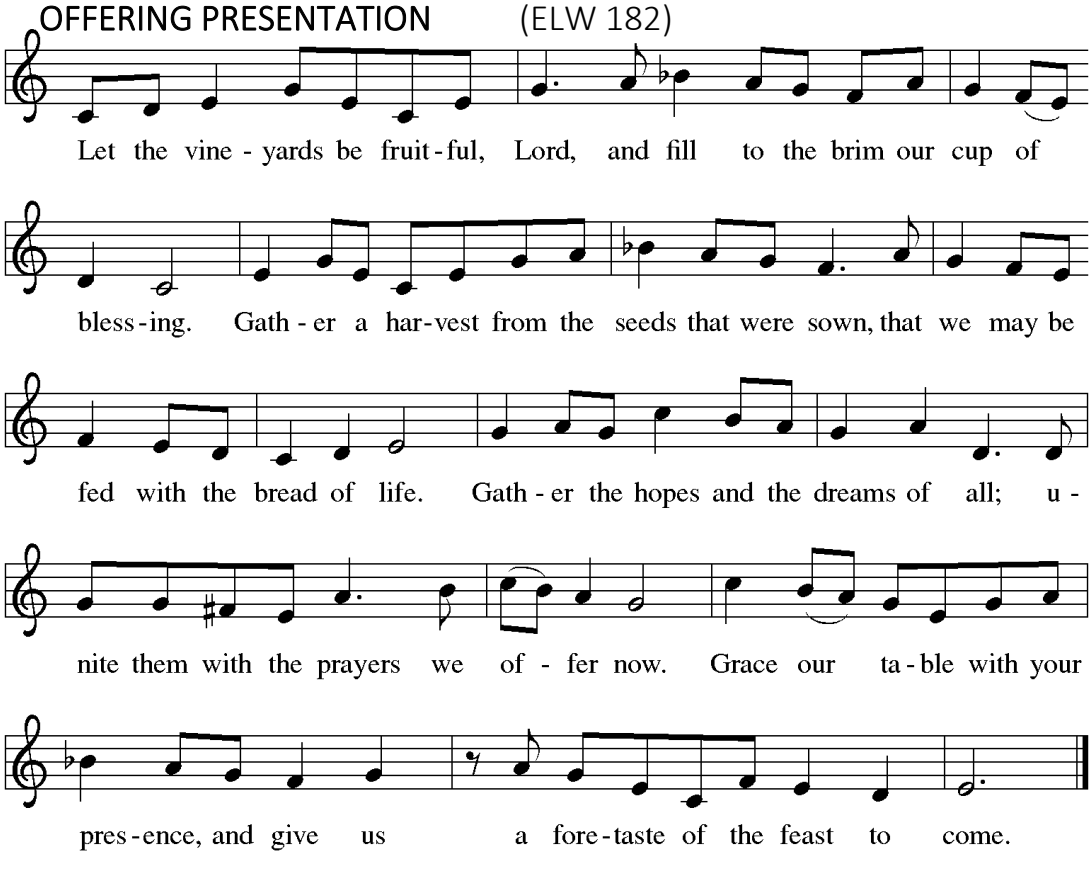
Please be seated

OFFERING *O Lord, Your Tenderness* Graham Kendrick 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 182)



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
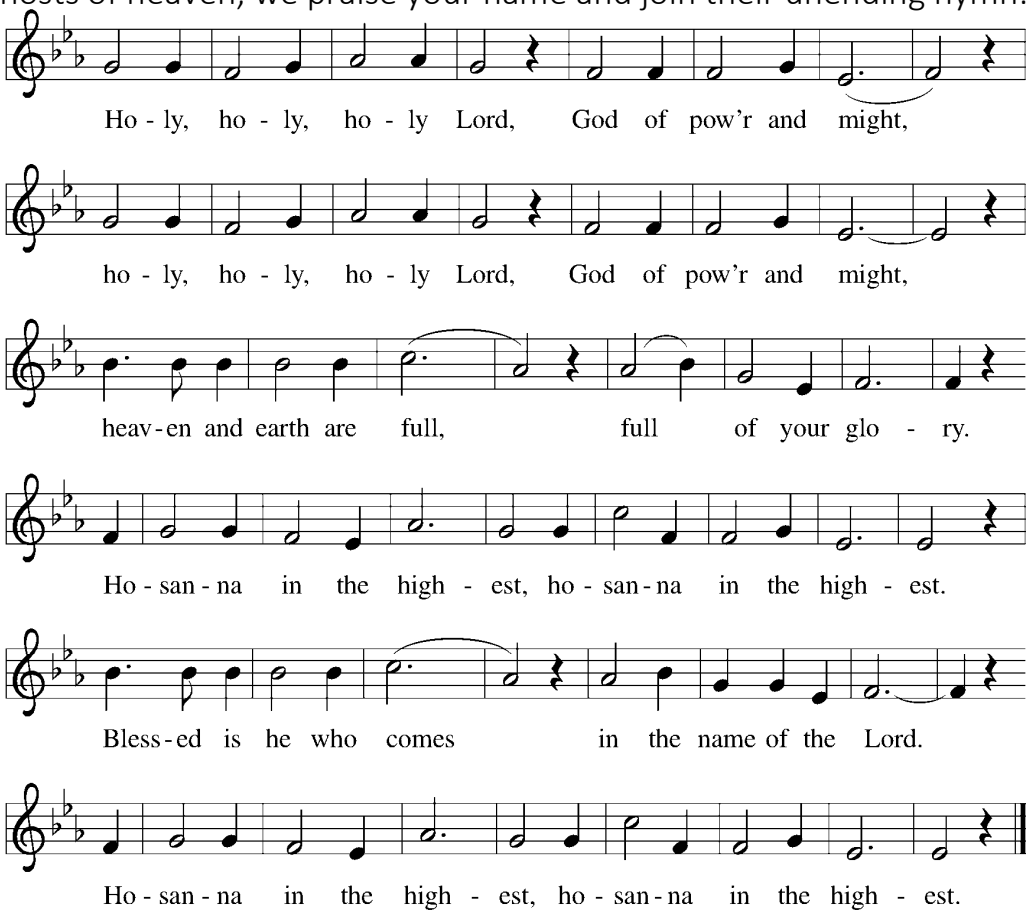
We lift them to the Lord.

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: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. 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

Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Lord God, we praise you, bless you, and adore you.
In thanksgiving we bow before you.
O loving Father! You have created all,
and you care for your children day and night.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

You sent your Son to bring us your salvation.
Christ is the source of every grace and blessing,
the true paschal lamb and bread of heaven,
the very joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

On the night in which he was betrayed, he 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.

We remember Jesus, your Word made flesh, our elder brother,
dying on the accursed tree,
crushing the power of hell,
and rising again victorious from the grave.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Send your Spirit on this holy feast.
Nourish and heal us with the body and blood of our Savior.
Bestow on your church your sweetest love,
your transcendent comfort, your unity and peace.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

To you, the one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
we give our thanks and praise,
joining now and forever in loud songs of
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Amen.
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, 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

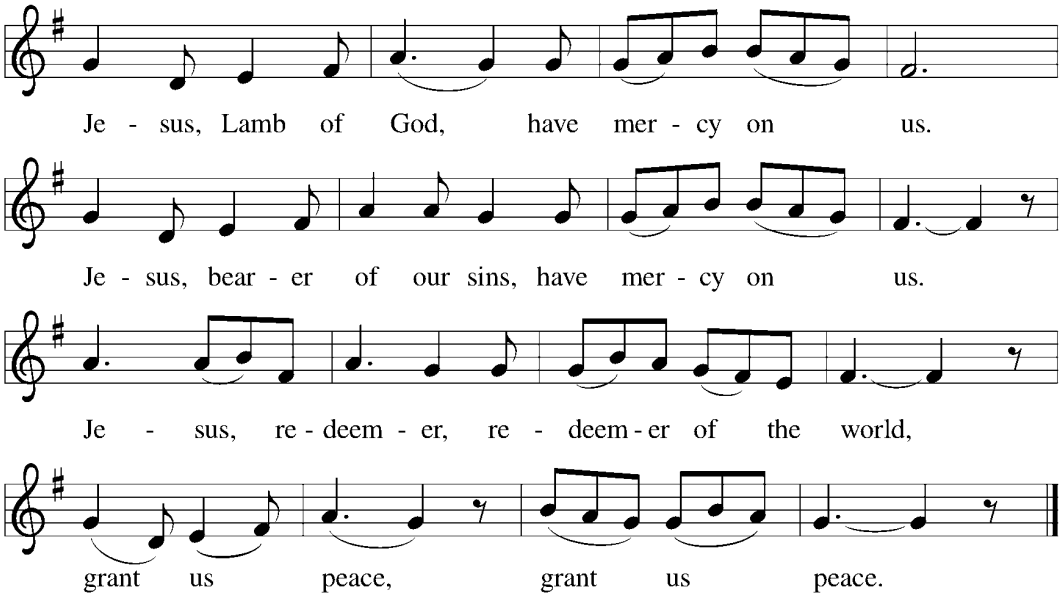
COMMUNION

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.
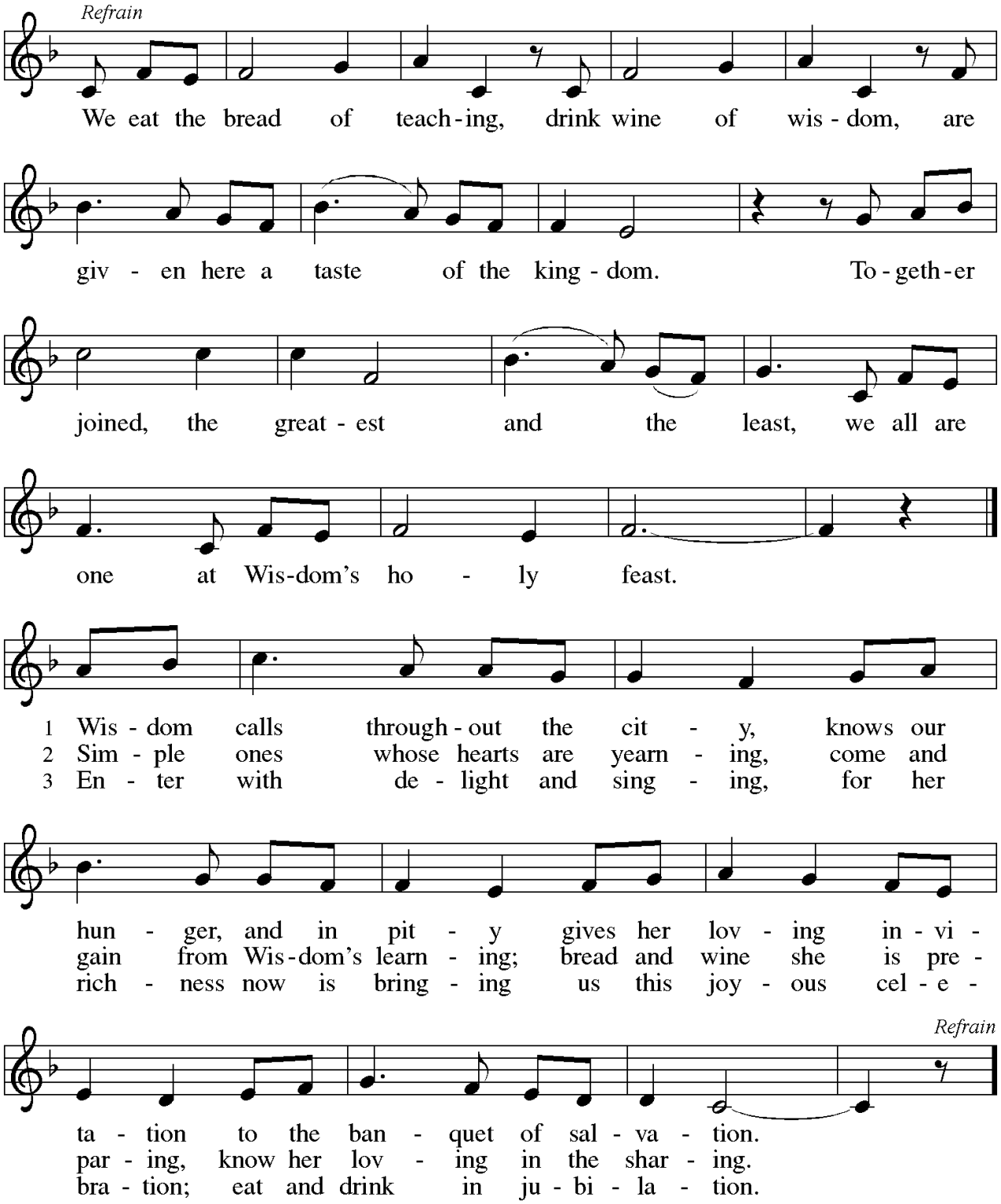
COMMUNION SONG



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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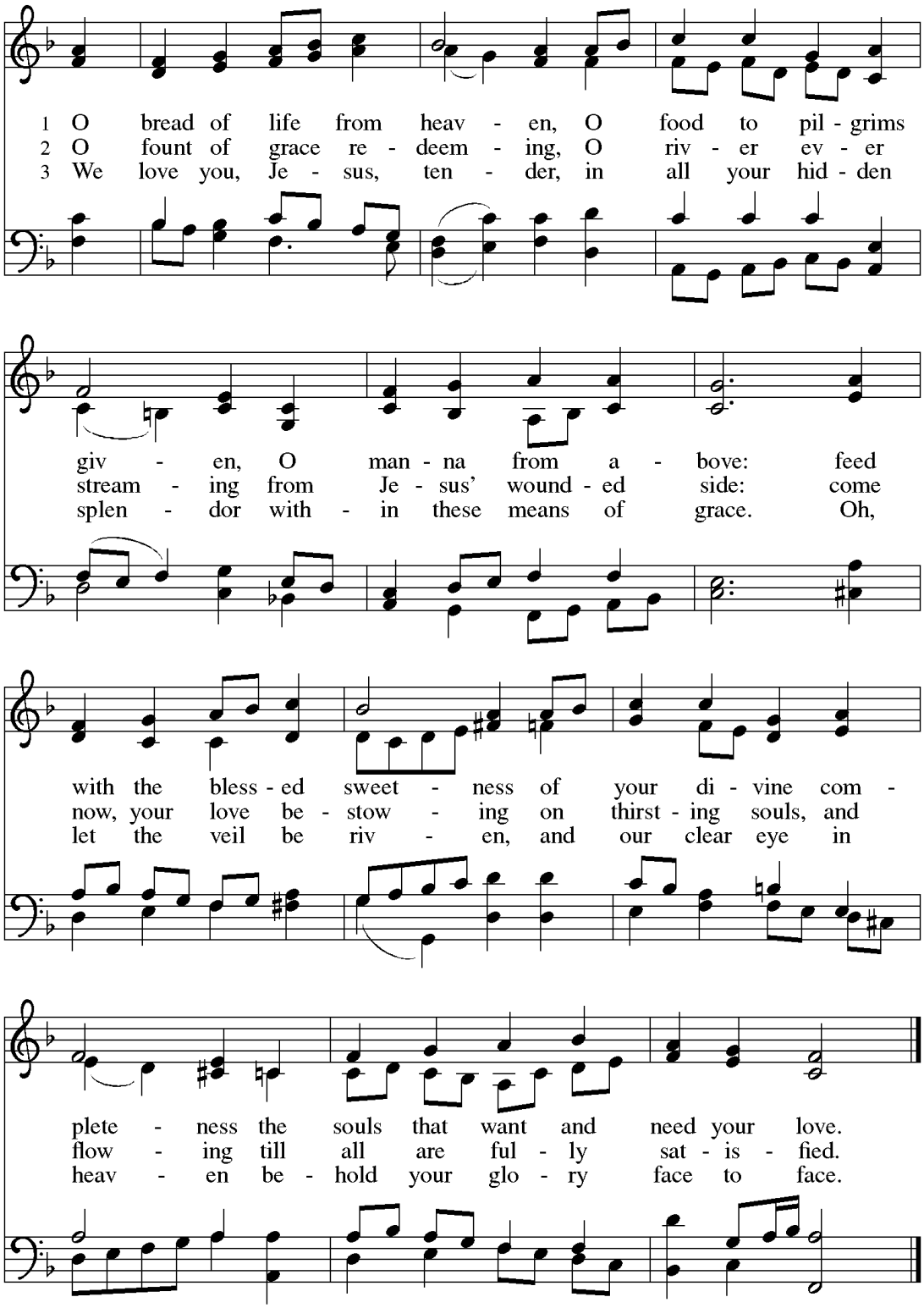
Continued →

SONGS DURING COMMUNION *We Eat the Bread of Teaching* (ELW 518)



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946
Text and music © 1998 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

O Bread of Life from Heaven (ELW 480)



Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862–1946, sts. 1, 3; tr. Philip Schaff, 1819–1893, st. 2
Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through this holy meal, you have renewed us in your love, strengthened our faith, and united us with Christ and with one another. Shape our lives by the love we have received at this table, and make us instruments of your peace, justice, and compassion.

Amen.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

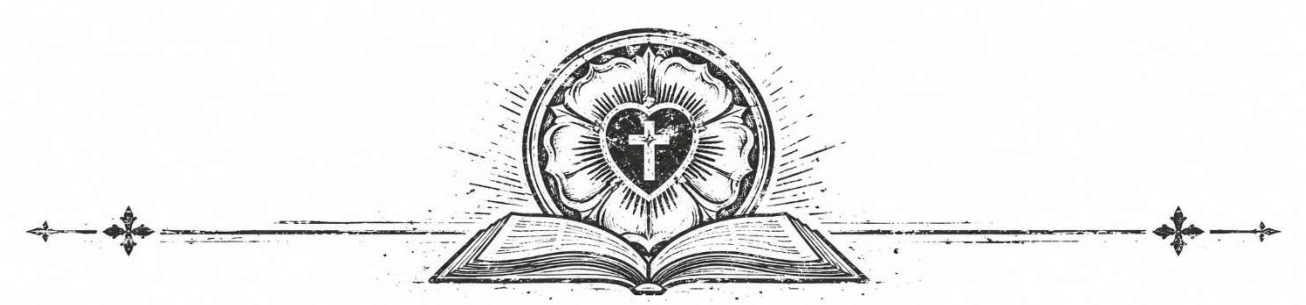
BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

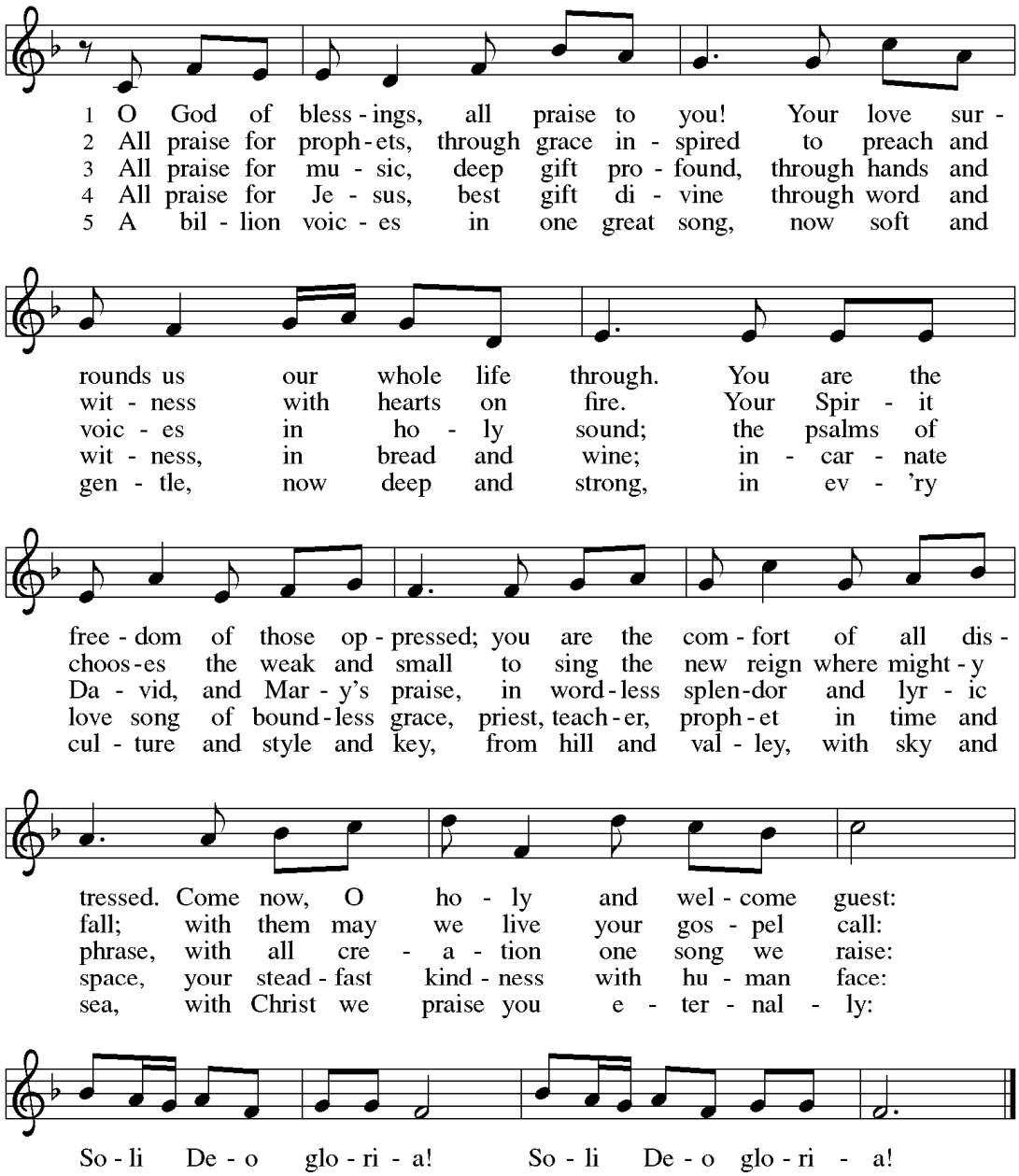
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor 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.

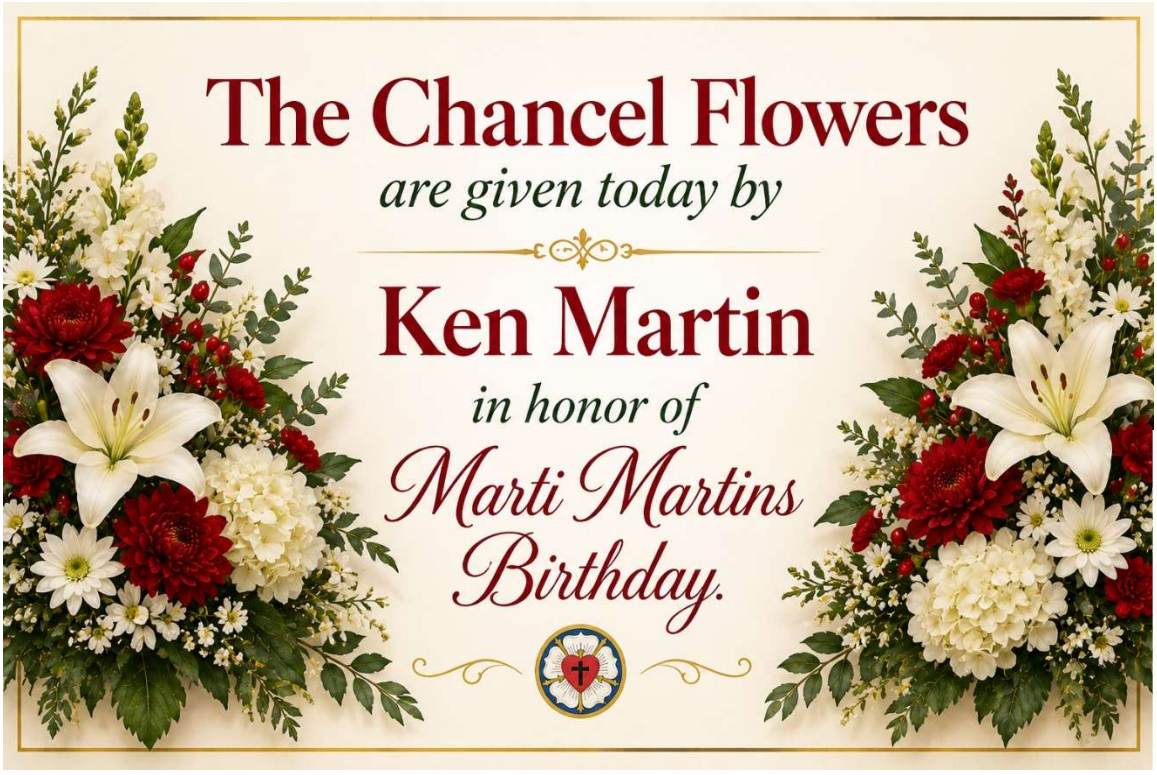
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Ein Feste Burg* Martha Sobaje

The Ministers of Service:

- Officiant: The Reverend Larry Closter
- Organist & Music Director: Ricky Gearhart
- This Service: Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Kathleen Carroll. Communion Assistant: Susan Scheulen. Acolyte: Joey Patterson
- Next Service: Greeters: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Christine Cornwell. Communion Assistant: Mary Anderson. Acolyte: Wayne Wright.

Worship live streaming Sundays @ 9:30AM, scan code or visit:
https://trinityevangelicall-8vs9.subspla.sh/hphnbh5
Services will also stream on the churches Facebook Live:
https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/
and on the churches YouTube page:
https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchsteph7103/videos





Please Consider Donating Chancel Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? Consider donating **chancel flowers** for a Sunday service. Flower donations are a beautiful way to:

- Honor or remember someone special
- Celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or milestone
- Add beauty to our worship space

If you'd like to donate flowers for an upcoming Sunday, please sign up on the **flower calendar** in the church Narthex or contact Martha Cooley.
You're welcome to take the flowers home after the service, or they can be delivered to someone in need of encouragement.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

~ Here's what's happening...



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

In The Know

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY *Here's what's happening...*

Monday, October 26

Tuesday, October 27

- Sewing for the Savior @9:30 AM

Wednesday, October 28

- Community Meal @5:30 PM ; Menu; Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Desserts.

Thursday, October 29

- Choir Rehearsal 5:45 PM

Friday, October 30

- Bible Study @ 10:00 AM | Room 205
- CMSP Music private lesson 5PM

Saturday, October 31

- CMSP – Fall Music Together 9:00–10:00 AM | Room 202

Sunday, November 1st

- All Saints Sunday, Worship @9:30 AM, following service;

  – All Saints Day Luncheon following service | Parish Hall – All are welcome!
  – No Chime Choir Practice
  – No Bible study
  – Sewing for the Savior Quilt Sale!

Attendance and General Offering

DATE	IN PERSON	ONLINE	OFFERING
9/27/2026	36	10	$1999
10/04/2026	35	9	$2,294
10/11/2026	40	16	$1383
10/18/2026	37	13	$ 2,605

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL COSTS $ 4,649.00

LAST CHANCE ---- LCW Bedding Drive

October is your last chance to donate NEW twin-size bedding for **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, helping provide beds for children in our community.

Needed: Twin sheet sets, blankets, comforters, mattress covers, and pillows.

Twin XL items are not accepted.

Please bring donations to the church Nursery by October 31. Monetary donations are also welcome. Thank you for helping a child sleep comfortably!

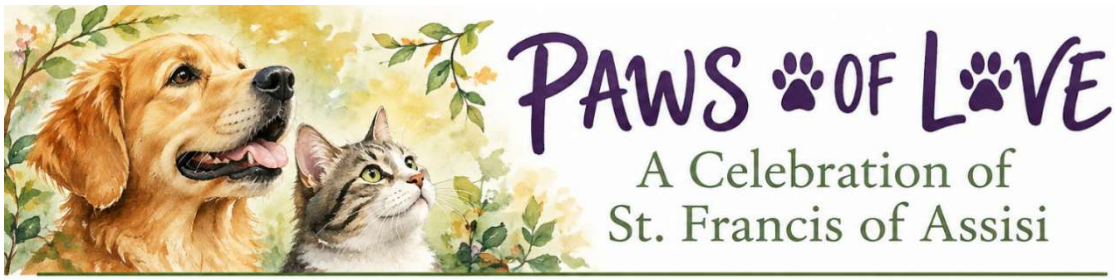


ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS

🙌 **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**.



In October the church recognized the life and witness of St. Francis of Assisi. His witness reminds us of God's love for the animals he has created.
Our pets are close to our hearts as well.
We give thanks to God and honor the joy they have given us by placing their names on the "paws of love" tree in the narthex this month.

Reggie.
Zoe, Cinamon, Tyger.
Guinness.
Gin-gin, Ki-ki.
Oliver, Sadie, Ellie, Kloie, Leo, Murphy, Abby, Ruffles, Zero, Jasper, Magie, Lincoln, Mosby, Vincent, Razzel, Calie, Tori, Simon, Ashby.
Harry.
Miss Kitty, Will, Evie, Milliet, JB.
Odin.
Snoopy, Ginger, Simba, Quincy, Marty.
Kim.
Molly, Grace.
Lucy, Fluffy.
Gus.
Koda, Juno, S.C., Shelby, Mac, Buddy, Moose, , Binx.
Rudy Rue Wright III.
Bella, Sophie, Mollie.
Saint- from our friends at Trumpet Vine Farm.

A prayer for our pets will be included in our spoken prayers in today's service.

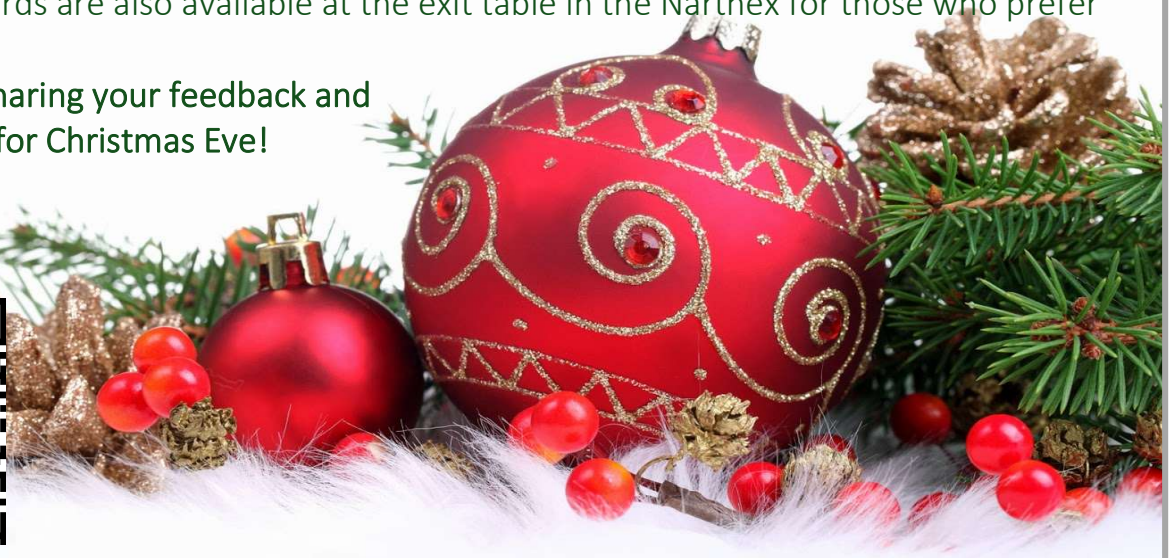
Thank you to all who helped with this effort!

Christmas Eve Service Survey

Christmas is coming! We would appreciate your input as we plan this year's Christmas Eve worship services. Please take a moment to complete the survey using the QR code below and let us know your preference for service times.

Paper Survey Cards are also available at the exit table in the Narthex for those who prefer them.

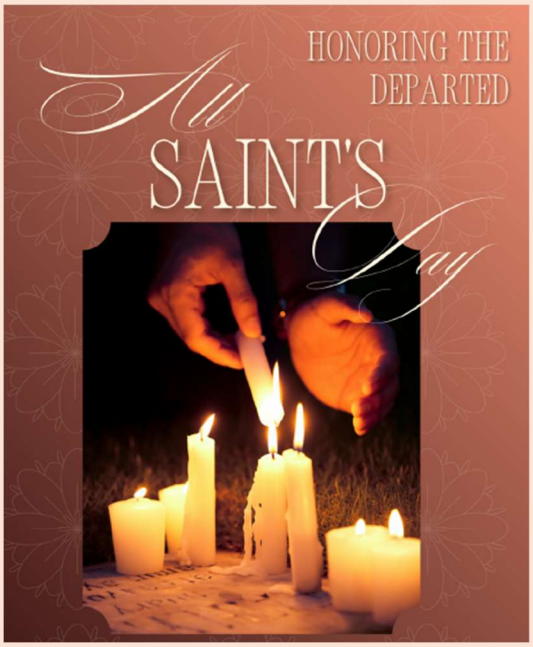
Thank you for sharing your feedback and helping us plan for Christmas Eve!



All Saints Day Remembrance Cards

As we prepare to observe All Saints Day, we invite you to remember and honor loved ones who have passed away. Please complete a remembrance card with your name and the name of the loved one you wish to honor, including your relationship if you wish. Additional cards are available at the exit table in the Narthex for anyone who would like to participate.

Thank you for helping us remember those whose lives continue to touch our hearts.



Thank You, Fall Cleanup Crew!
A big thank-you to everyone who came out on Tuesday to help clean up Trinity's landscaping for fall! We appreciate your time and hard work in keeping our church grounds looking beautiful.





Message from Social Outreach

Update on the Sustainability Sewing Class Last Weekend

Thank you to Jacquetta Owen of Stephens City United Methodist Church and the 10 participants who made Trinity's first sewing class on October 17 a wonderful success! Through sewing, fellowship, and laughter, participants learned new skills and created pillows and coasters to take home. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this day of learning, creativity, and connection so special!





Next COMMUNITY MEAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026 | **5:30 PM**



MENU

- Meatloaf
- Mashed Potatoes
- Peas
- Dessert

Come enjoy a delicious meal and warm fellowship with your church family and neighbors!

Free-will donations welcome — all proceeds support the ELCA World Hunger Program.

ELCA World Hunger Program

TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

STEPHENS CITY, VIRGINIA

Growing in God's Grace

TRINITY LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Growing in God's Grace

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

TRUSTEES

- Diann Daily
- Barry Hockenberry
- Tom Righter

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CHURCHWIDE LEADERSHIP

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

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

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CONTACT US

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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