



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 19

August 10, 2025



Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins (c. 1616)
Hieronymus Francken II (1578–1623)

Jesus' famous parable critiques the distractions of this life. For Francken, he reinterpreted these distractions through a modern lens—with music, card-playing, wine, and food as the principle vices of the unwise. What things distract us from prayer and watchful attention in our day?

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 Wenz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION



Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR



Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER



Dave Troche
SEXTON

+

*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.

DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway next to the baptismal font.

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

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

*After the prelude,
please stand in body
or spirit and face the
processional cross.*

*All may make the
sign of the cross, the
sign that is marked
at baptism, as the
presiding minister
begins.*

*Silence is kept for
reflection.*

PRELUDE

So Fades the Lovely Blooming Flower (DISTRESS)

George Shearing

CONFSSION 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.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

*We praise God
throughout this
service using
Setting Three from
Evangelical Lutheran
Worship.*

*Continue to follow
the processional cross,
turning as it
passes you.*

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

*Continues on the
next page.*

God, and join in the hymn of all crea - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Please be seated.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be

ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the

Genesis 15:1-6

Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*The psalm is read
responsively; the
congregation reads
the bold text.*

PSALM

Psalm 33:12-22

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

**The Lord looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O Lord,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.

Our innermost being waits for you, O Lord,
our helper and our shield.

**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

Let your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old,

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

[Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as

soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

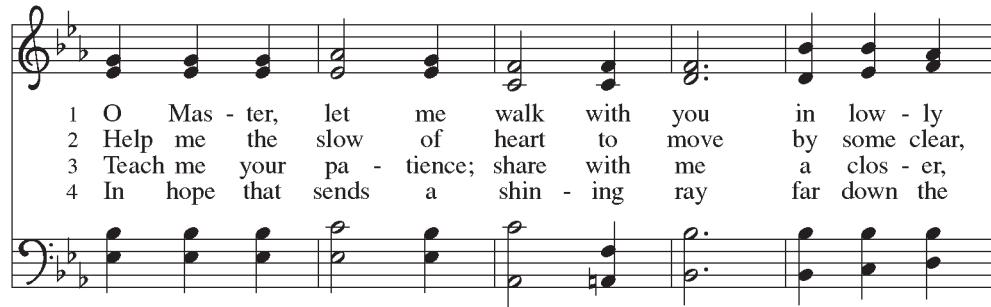
Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

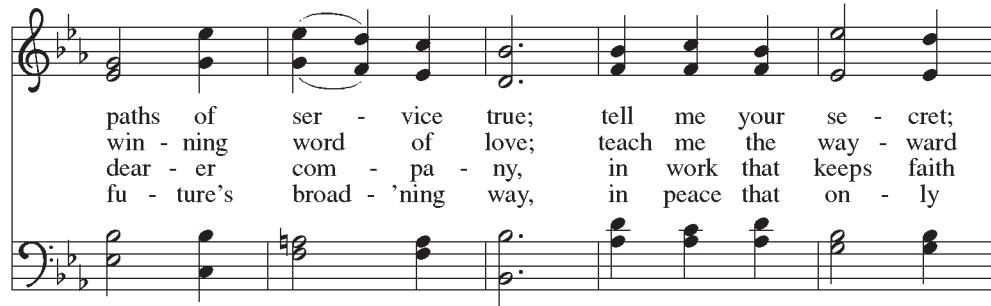
HYMN OF THE DAY

O Master, Let Me Walk With You

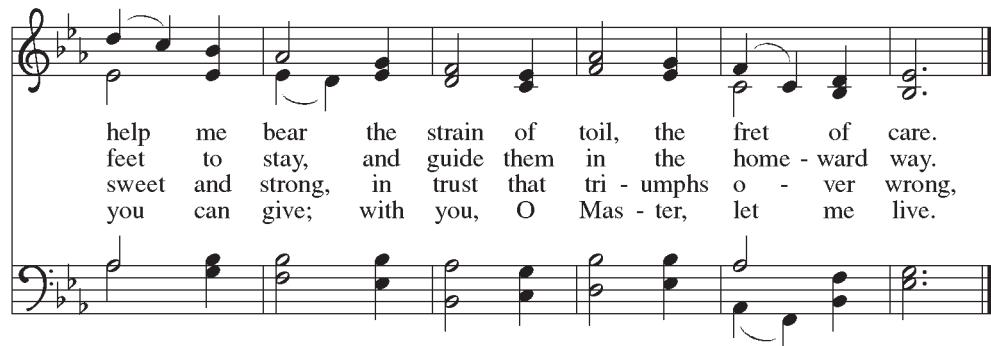
ELW 818



1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the



paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
fu - ture's broad - ning way, in peace that on - ly



help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Text: Washington
Gladden,
1836-1918

Music: MARYTON
H. Percy Smith,
1825-1898

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

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.**

*After the final
petition:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

*The offering, bread,
and wine are
brought forward
and the altar is set.*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

“Pastoral” from Handel’s Messiah

G.F. Handel

David Himes, clarinet, Amy Stewart-Himes, flute

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

♦ Peg Coleman

♦ David Ruth

ONGOING NEEDS

- Harry Feinauer

♦ David Strobel

- Danielle Andress
(Sonon/Mazur family member)

- ♦ Carlton Palmer
(friend of the

Norton's)

- Nancy Nagle

- Christine Motley
- Raymond Donald

• David Unruh
(1-1-6B-1-1)

(brother of Ralph
Unruh)

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Theo, Roen, Amy & Joseph McDevitt
- Patricia McMahon
- Steven & Kaitlyn Grace, Nicholas, Tyler, Matt & Jennifer Mellen

- Carol Miller
- John Mosbo

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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

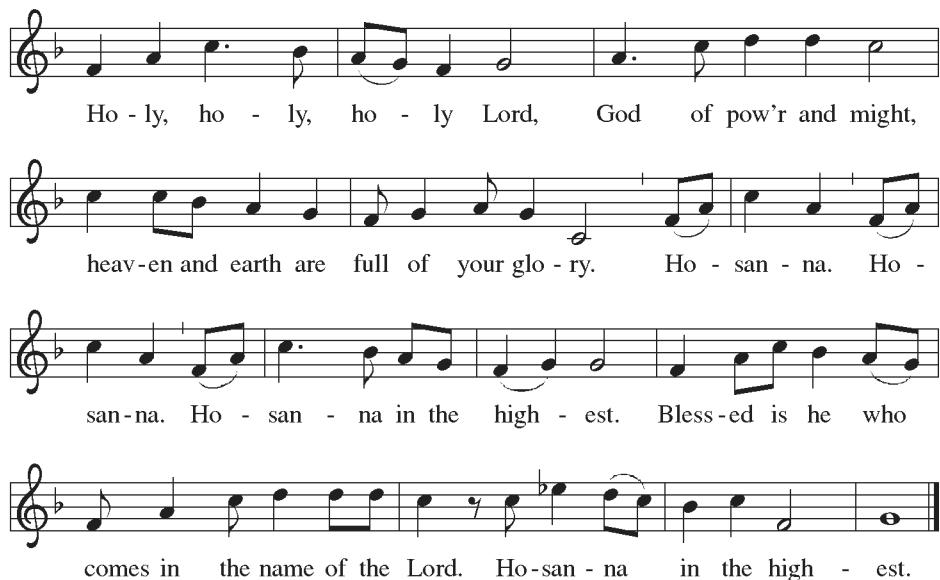
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER 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:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Have No Fear, Little Flock

ELW 764



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to



flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in



give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1;
Marjorie Jillson.
1931-2010, sts. 2-4

Music: LITTLE
FLOCK,
Heinz Werner
Zimmerman,
1930-2022

Text & music © 1973
Concordia Publishing
House

*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.

O God, we give you thanks that
you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.

By your Spirit strengthen us to
serve all in need and to give

ourselves away as bread for the
hungry, through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

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

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn can
be found on page 18.*

SENDING HYMN

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

ACS 949

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fantasia

Johann Pachelbel

Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.

SENDING HYMN

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

ACS 949

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er lamps
morn - ing soon is break - - ing, lo, the lamps
lamps trimmed and burn - - ing, keep your

trimmed and burn - - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain

Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;

chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American
Spiritual

Music: KEEP
YOUR LAMPS
African American
Spiritual

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS



All who trust that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal are invited to receive communion.

Please follow the direction of the usher; if your pew is located on one of the side aisles, walk to the rear of the sanctuary. Two lines will form in the center aisle. The left line will commune at the left side of the altar rail; the right line will commune on the right side.



When you reach the front of the sanctuary, there are serving trays located on the tables. Please choose either an empty glass to receive wine, or, if you prefer, a prefilled glass in the center ring containing grape juice. After taking your cup, proceed to the rail. Fill in around the rail from the center to the ends. You may stand or kneel as is your preference.

The pastor will give you a piece of bread; eat it when you receive it. If you prefer a gluten free alternative, please inform the pastor.



Then, an assistant will come to offer wine from a pouring chalice. Please extend your glass to be filled with wine or indicate that you have grape juice. After drinking the wine or juice, you are welcome to remain in place for a moment of meditation.

After you finish your time of reflection, please return to your pew, depositing your empty glass in the trays located on the tables at the head of the side aisles.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

PRESIDING MINISTER

ASSISTING MINISTER

CANTOR

LECTOR

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

ACOLYTE

GREETER

Pr. Hans E. Becklin

Donna Osborne

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

Andrew Smith

Joseph Speece

William Norton-Ritz

Declan Rosenbaum

USHERS

MEDIA TEAM

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, David Himes,

Cecilia, Josh, & Christine Motley

Amy Bornhofen, Jacinda Motley,

Declan Rosenbaum

Amy Stewart-Himes, Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Jill Hull & Don Bechtel

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

ANDREW & JENNIFER SMITH AND SANDI SITTLER
in honor of Abbie's birthday

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

TRINITY DAY AT KNOEBELS

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 11

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

6:00 PM

VESTRY - Offsite

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by David & Amy Stewart-Himes. Next week's special music will feature Rob & Lisa Speece.

Amy Stewart-Himes is a recently retired kindergarten teacher. She is currently singing in Trinity's choir and Vox Philia. She teaches at the Dyslexia Center of Reading and is on the Board of Directors for Refresh Berks.

David Himes received his B.S. in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his M.M. in Music Composition from West Chester University. He taught music and was a band director at Wilson and Reading School Districts for 30 years and is currently the Education Director for the Reading Symphony Orchestra.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

1:00 PM

CONGREGATIONAL CARE - Hintz Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

STEEPLE NOTES

Steeple Notes is our bi-monthly news publication which includes news about our church community, updates on ministries and outreach programs, and articles that foster spiritual growth and connection. Print editions are usually available in the Narthex. You may also read our digital edition by scanning this QR code.



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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 3: 76