



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 1, 2026



Our Lady of Cocharcas (c. 1759)
Anonymous Cuzco School artist

The Beatitudes are first spoken on a hillside, blessing the poor, the persecuted, and those who hunger for righteousness from the vantage point of a marginal mountain community. The Andean painting 'Our Lady of Cocharcas,' with its towering Marian image, flattened gold-drenched surfaces, and streams of tiny pilgrims winding through a rugged landscape, echoes that scene by revealing how the meek and devout of colonial Peru claimed a mountain of their own as a place where God's upside-down blessings take flesh.

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. 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.

PRELUDE

Lord, Send Thy Light

Mily Balakirev
(1836-1910)

Trinity Choir

Lord, send thy light, send forth thy truth, let them be guides to me;
and bring me to thy holy hill, even unto thy dwelling place.
My soul shall put its trust in God, for I shall thank and praise God,
who is my help, my salvation, and my God.

*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.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**
**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**
**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**
**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion
for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.
As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin
from you,
renewing your life through
† Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us
with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

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.

*The Kyrie is chanted
in procession. Follow
the processional cross,
turning as it passes
you.*

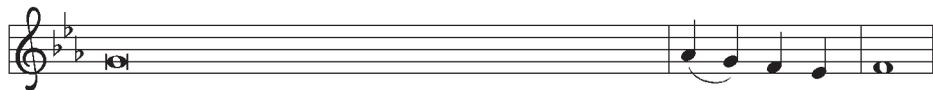
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE (Continued)

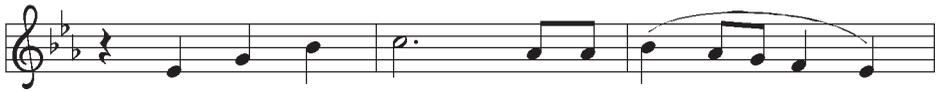


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

HYMN OF PRAISE (continued)



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our

words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the
earth,

for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of
Egypt and redeemed you from the house
of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and
Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King
Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to
Gilgal, that you may know the saving
acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt
offerings, with calves a year old?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands
of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of
oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my
transgression, the fruit of my body for
the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.

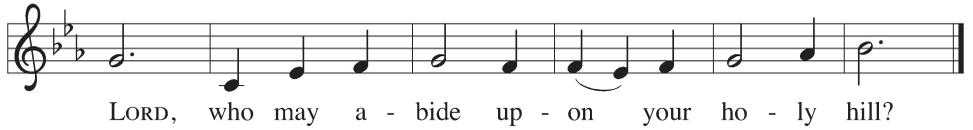
Thanks be to God.

*The choir introduces
the refrain.*

PSALM

Psalm 15

*The congregation
repeats the refrain
and sings the refrain
where indicated with
the symbol **R**.*



*The choir and
congregation chant
alternating verses.*

Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; **R****

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who | fear the Lord.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.
They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown **R**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I
will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and

the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

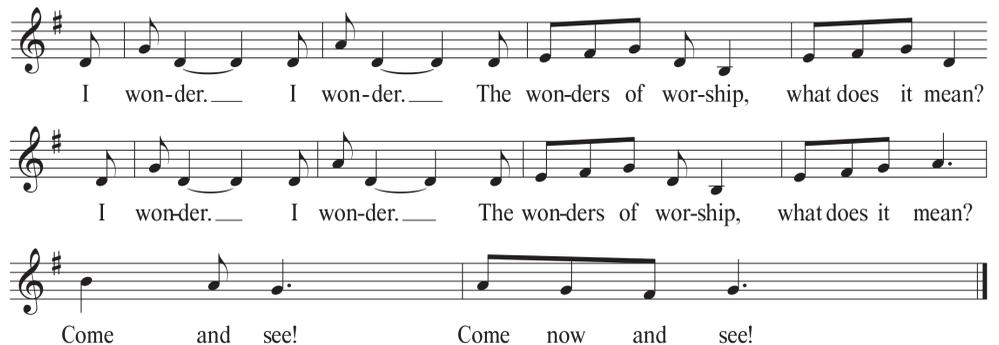
Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Young people come forward as the congregation sings a refrain. During this time, we learn about the liturgy together.

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

The Creed



I wonder... I wonder... The wonders of worship, what does it mean?
I wonder... I wonder... The wonders of worship, what does it mean?
Come and see! Come now and see!

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

*The congregation
joins the choir in
singing the Alleluia.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

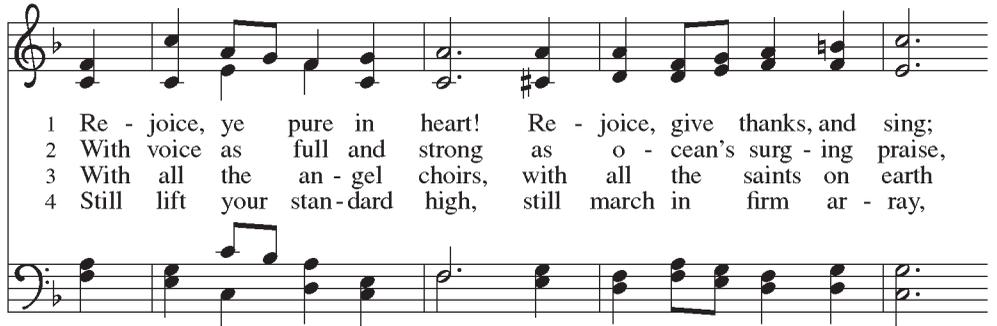
Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

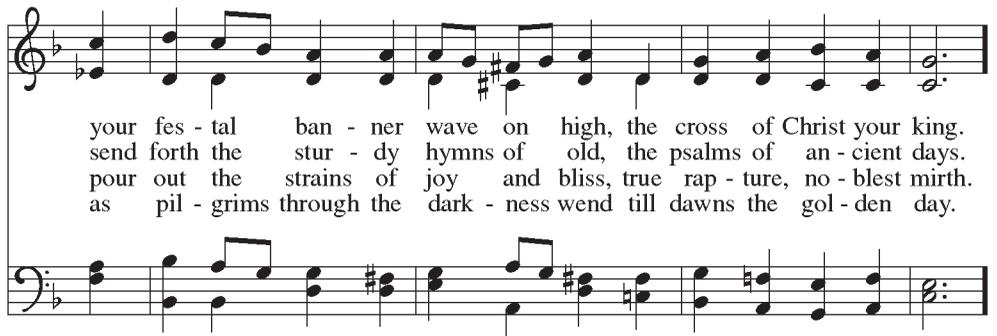
HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

ELW 873

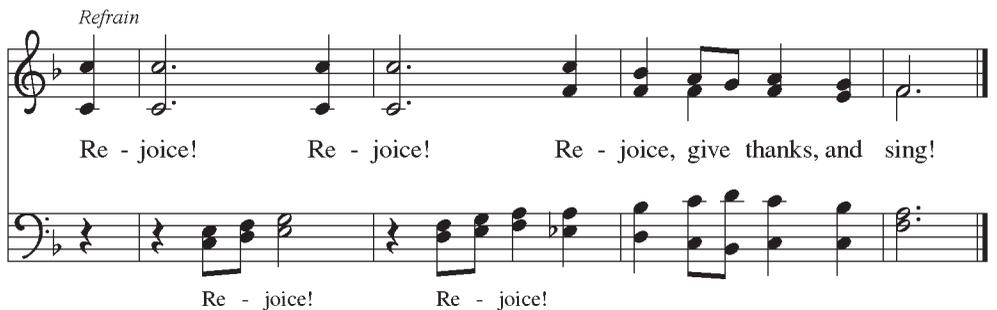


1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;
2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth
4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.
send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.
pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!
Re - joice! Re - joice!

Text: Edward H.
Plumptre,
1821-1891, alt.

Music: MARION
Arthur H. Messiter,
1834-1916

5 At last the march shall end;
the wearied ones shall rest;
the pilgrims find their home at last,
Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,
the Lord whom we adore:
the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,
one God forevermore. *Refrain*

*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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

*After the final
petition:*

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

What Does the Lord Require?

Eric Nelson
(b. 1959)

Trinity Choir

What does the Lord require for praise and offering? What sacrifice, desire, or tribute bid you bring? To do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

Rulers of earth, give ear! Should you not justice know? Will God your pleading hear, while crime and cruelty grow? Then do justice; love mercy; and walk humbly with your God.

How shall our life fulfill God's law so high? Let Christ endue our will with grace.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand in body or spirit.

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

- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Jerry Holleran
- ♦ Peggy Wentz
- ♦ Carol Matern
- ♦ Mary Ellen Coldsmith

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

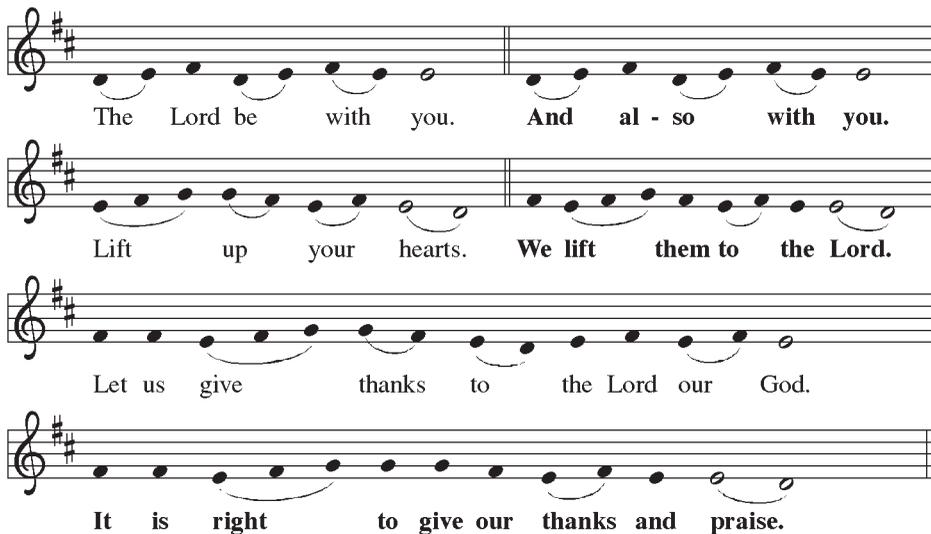
- ♦ Elizabeth Dyanzio
- ♦ Geoff & Amber Eddinger
- ♦ Jesse, Zach, Ron & Karen Eddinger
- ♦ Ann, Helen, Meghan & Ned Ehrlich
- ♦ Katherine Endres

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Danielle Address
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Suzy Evans
- ♦ Dee Horst
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Calvin Yoh

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

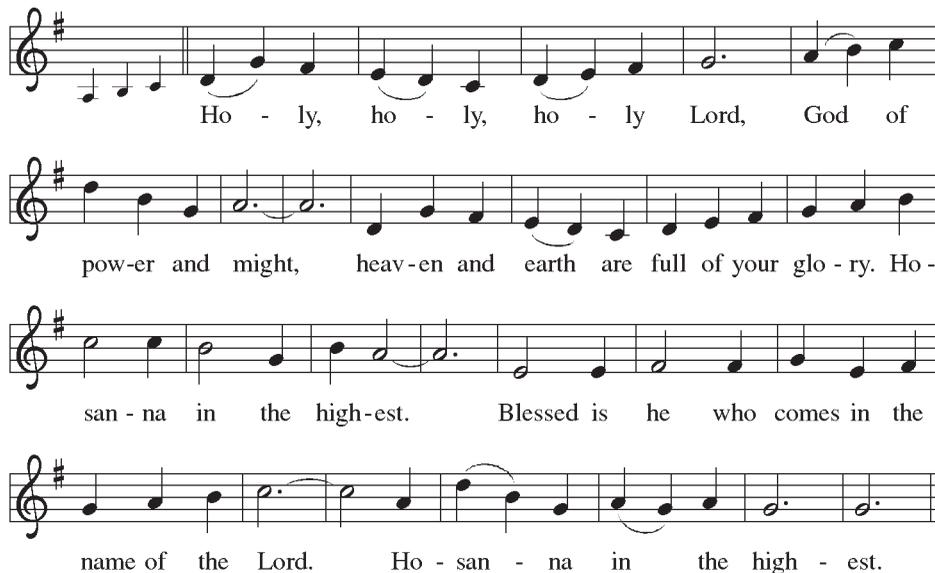


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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

*During the Words of
Institution, the bread
and wine are elevated
for the congregation
to revere and adore
Christ's presence in
our midst.*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end . . .

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember . . .

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit . . .

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours . . .

one God, 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

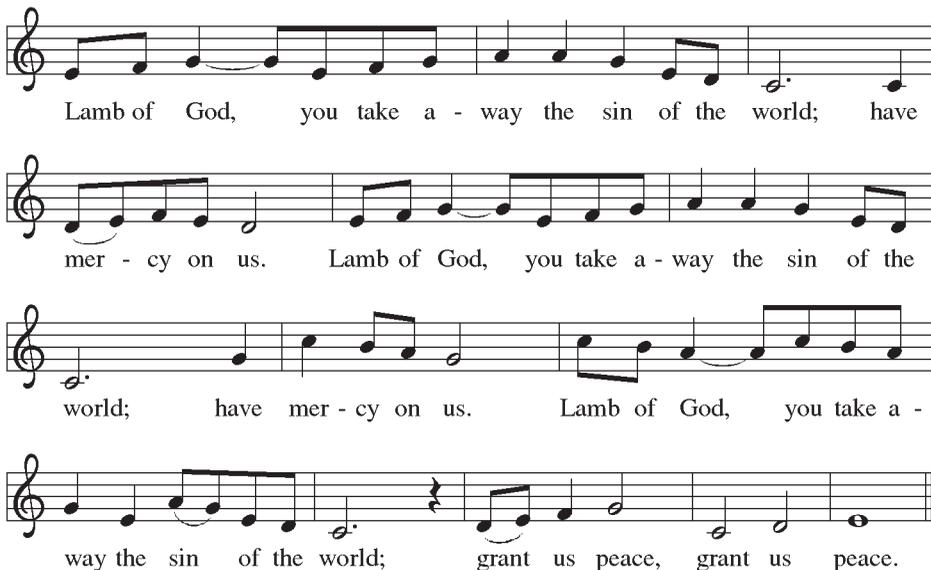
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.

LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

*This hymn can be
found in the red
hymnal (ELW).*

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

*This song can be
found on page 17.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW 714

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS

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.

*We join in the
Song of Simeon in
gratitude for meeting
the Lord in the Holy
Eucharist.*

NUNC DIMITTIS



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

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

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve

ACS 988

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in C

Johann Krebs
(1713-1780)

*This hymn can be
found on page 18.*

*Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.*

SENDING HYMN

The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve

ACS 988

Text: Delores Dufner,
OSB,
b. 1939

Music: SANTA
MONICA

Robert A. Hobby,
b. 1962

Text © 1993 GIA
Publications, Inc.

Music © 2014
Birnamwood
Publications (ASCAP),
a div. of MorningStar
Music Publishers, Inc.



- 1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name
- 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the bur - dened free;
- 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter joy like seed
- 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro - claim.



to bring glad tid - ings to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.
and, all our days, to cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.
God's Spir - it has em - pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

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
Albert Pohl
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Fred Opalinski
Pam Wasmuth
William Norton-Ritz
Anita Dolak

USHERS
MEDIA TEAM

Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel
Abbie Smith, Jenn Smith,
Grace Norton-Ritz

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, Donna Osborne,
Amy Reinsel, Jenn Smith, Amy Stewart-Himes

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Program Staff

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

HANS & MARISSA BECKLIN
in loving memory of Dr. Jay R. Becklin

VIRGINIA BINIEK
to the glory of God

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 PM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Nave

12:00 PM

YOUTH OF TRINITY & PARENTS - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

1:00PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

6:30 PM

TRINITY SERVES AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 PM

WORSHIP & MUSIC - Bard House
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Welcome Center
OUTREACH & SERVICE COMMITTEE -
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, JANUARY 25

In-person: *Service cancelled*

Online: 231