



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026



The Raising of Lazarus: The Larger Plate (c. 1632)
Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn) (1606–1669)

Rembrandt's dense darkness pierced by a sudden beam stages the moment a voice calls life out of a sealed place. The etched light reads like hope arriving late—yet arriving with enough force to remake the room.

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.

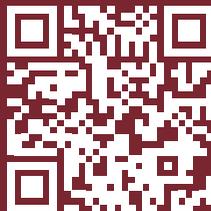


WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

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

Prelude

Samuel Barber
(1910-1981)

*Please kneel or
remain seated.*

*The ministers gather
at the baptismal font.*

*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 forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that
deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of
hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your
coming reign, and for hindering the
work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-
serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water
Christ offers: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the
margin, and for distrusting signs of
your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-
pity and discontent, and for
disregarding Christ's call to come
forth to life: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (continued)

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE (continued)



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



God, and for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer-cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer-cy.



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



A - men.

*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.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath,

prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

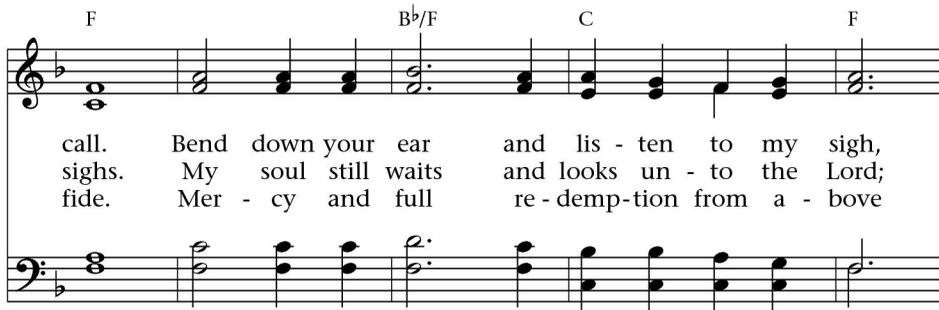
*During Lent, we
sing the psalm using
metrical settings from
a variety of sources.*

PSALM & GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

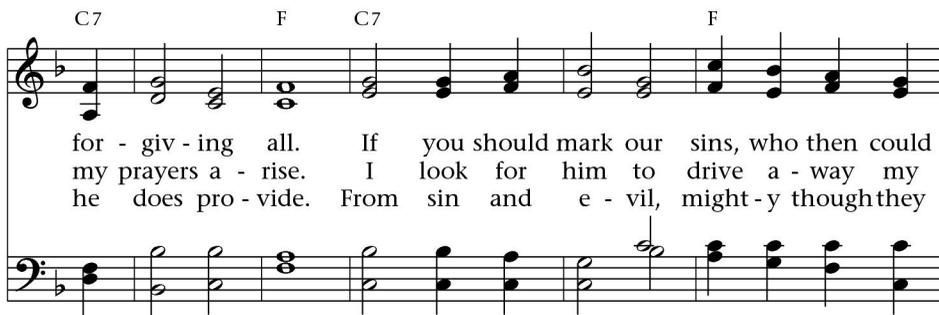
Psalm 130



1 Out of the depths I cry to you on high; Lord, hear my
2 I wait for God, I trust his ho - ly word; he hears my
3 Hope in the Lord: un - fail - ing is his love; in him con -



F B^b/F C F
call. Bend down your ear and lis - ten to my sigh,
sighs. My soul still waits and looks un - to the Lord;
fide. Mer - cy and full re - demp - tion from a - bove



C7 F C7 F
for - giv - ing all. If you should mark our sins, who then could
my prayers a - rise. I look for him to drive a - way my
he does pro - vide. From sin and e - vil, might - y though they



B^b C F
stand? But grace and mer - cy dwell at your right hand.
night— yes, more than those who watch for morn - ing light.
seem, his arm al - might - y will his saints re - deem.

Text: *Psalter*,
1912, alt.

Music: SANDON
Charles H. Purday,
1799-1885

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

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

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

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Please be seated.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

ELW 333

Refrain - All



Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a



wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a



wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All



1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .



mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

Text: African
American spiritual

Music: WEARY
LAND
African American
spiritual

Refrain



- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Arr. © Wyatt Tee Walker

*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

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

*After the final
petition:*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

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

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Peace

PEACE

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Barbara Ketchum
- ♦ David Himes
- ♦ Larry Kummerer

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Dee Horst
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Jerry Holleran
- ♦ Matt Sawyer and family
- ♦ Linda Liptak
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Lisa Speece

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Daniel & Ellen Huyett
- ♦ Bruce & Bernie Ilgen
- ♦ Kirsten & Guy Irwin
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries

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

OFFERTORY

Psalm 23

Howard Goodall
(b. 1958)

Trinity Choir

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all
creation.

You send rain and sunshine to
nourish the earth and bring forth
its bounty.

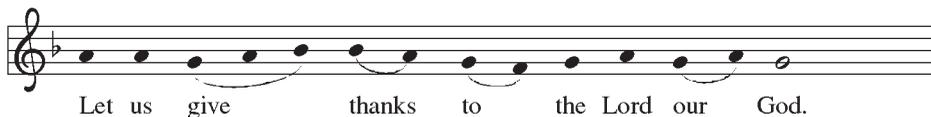
Through these gifts of bread and
wine, draw us into the death and
life of your Son, who calls us to bear
witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

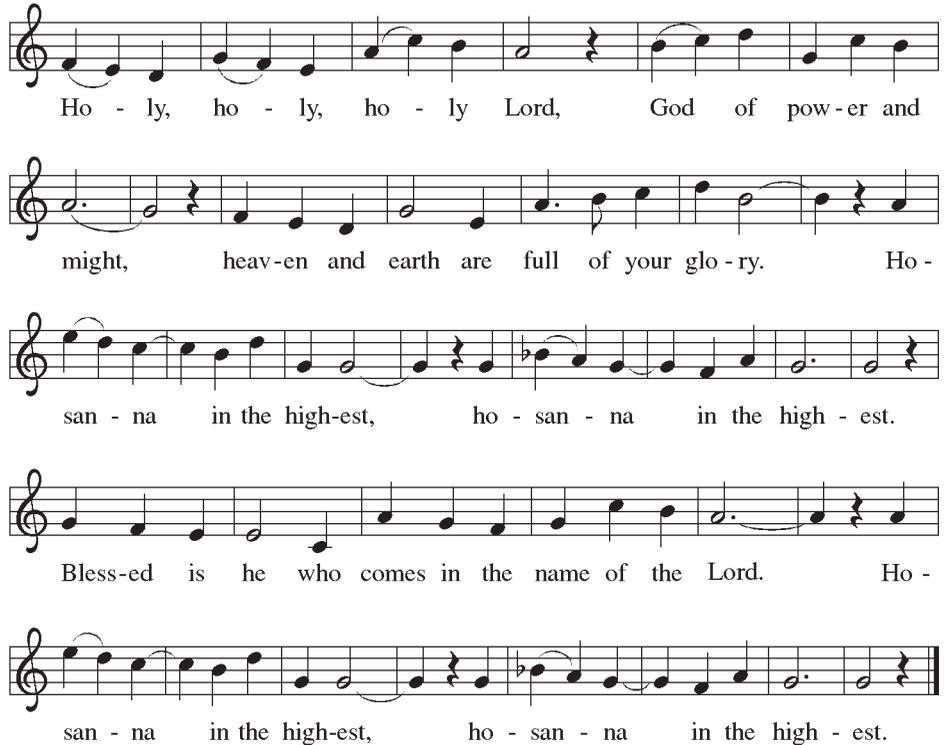
*The presider greets
the assembly and
invites all to give
thanks.*



PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



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, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son . . .
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

HE IS THE ONE WHO, HANDED OVER TO A DEATH HE FREELY ACCEPTED,
IN ORDER TO DESTROY DEATH, TO BREAK THE BONDS OF THE EVIL ONE,
TO CRUSH HELL UNDERFOOT, TO GIVE LIGHT TO THE RIGHTEOUS,
TO ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT, AND TO SHOW FORTH THE
RESURRECTION,
TAKING BREAD AND GIVING THANKS TO YOU, SAID:
TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (continued)

IN THE SAME WAY 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, then, his death and resurrection. . .
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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).*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

*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.

God of our salvation, we give you
thanks for this meal that restores
our souls, reconciles us to you, and
strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of
your Son, may we become Christ's

body in the world, bearing witness
to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
† bless you now and always.

Amen.

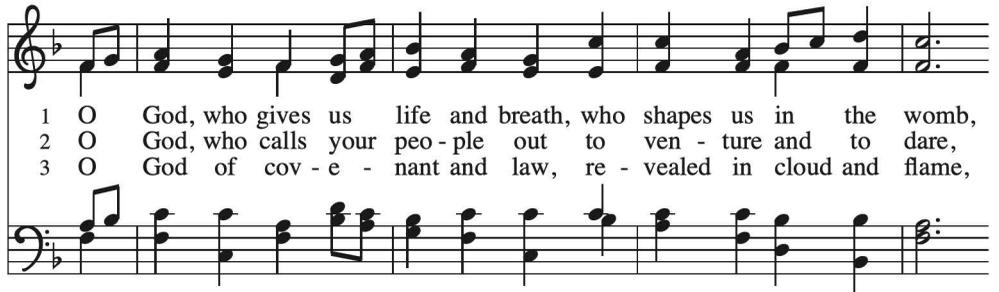
*As a sign of God's
blessing, you may
make the sign
of the cross.*

Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.

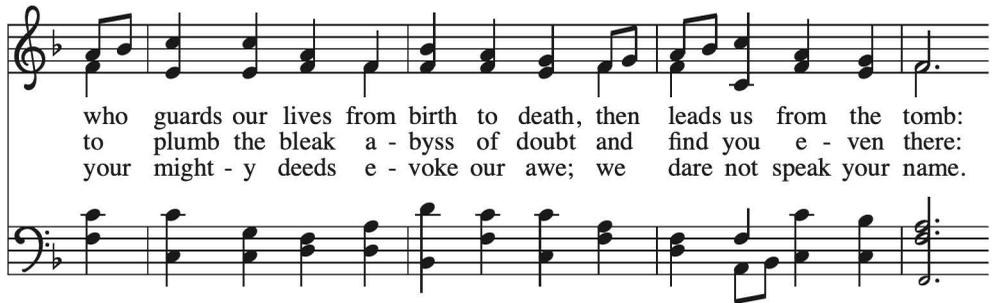
SENDING HYMN

O God, Who Gives Us Life

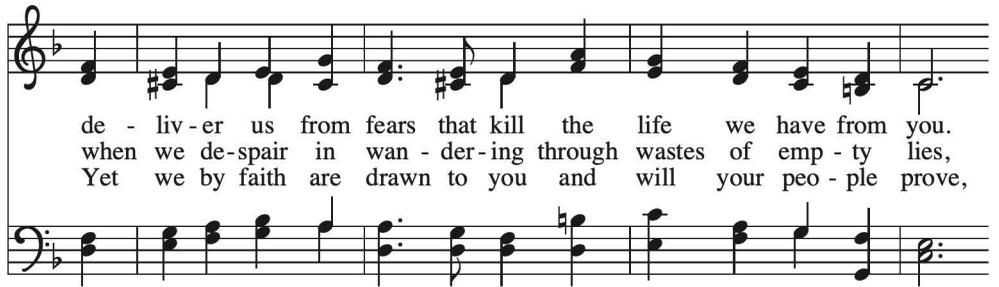
ACS 1086



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



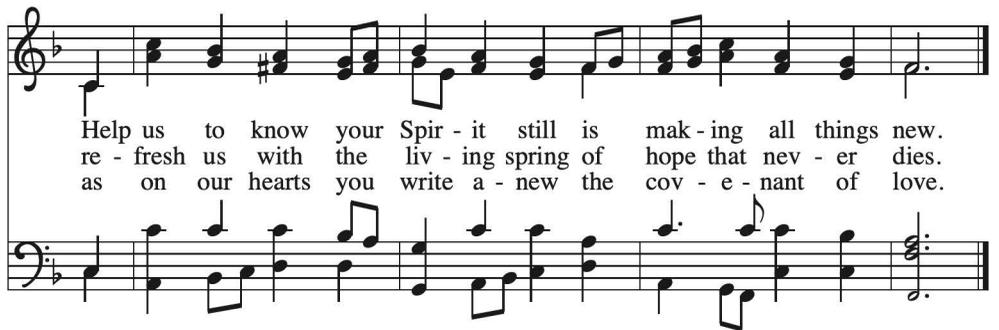
who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr.,
b. 1944

Music: NOEL
English melody;
arr. Arthur S. Sullivan,
1842-1900



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text © 1990 Hope
Publishing Company

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D-minor

Clara Schumann

(1819-1896)

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP SONG

I won-der. ___ I won-der. ___ The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean?
I won-der. ___ I won-der. ___ The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean?
Come and see! Come now and see!

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

In-person: 89

Online: 39

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

In-person: 11

LENTEN OFFERING SUPPORTS LIGHTHOUSE

Through our special Lenten offerings, Trinity continues to support the ministry of the LightHouse Women's and Children's Center as we fulfill our pledge to sponsor a room. LightHouse Center provides a safe home and holistic support for women and their kids as they work towards healthy, independent living. <https://www.hopeforreading.org/lighthouse>



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

Pr. Hans E. Becklin

USHERS

Pam & Jeff Wasmuth

ASSISTING MINISTER

Albert Pohl

MEDIA TEAM

Jenn Smith, Jorge Tomás

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

ALTAR GUILD

Bob Hetico, Allison Kalbach,

LECTOR

Susan Pohl

Amy Litvinov, Cheryl Moody,

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Doris Strobel

Brooke Rosenbaum, Doris Strobel

ACOLYTE

Danielle Smith

WORSHIP PLANNER

Mike Faust

GREETER

Erica Hofmann

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

SHERRI, TONY, ALI & MEG SACCO
in loving memory of Charles & Grace Weiser

CAROLYN HOLLERAN
in honor of Jerry Holleran's 90th birthday

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 23

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:00 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

7:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK STUDY - Hintz Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

12:05 PM

NOONDAY RECITAL: KATHLEEN BAHENA - Nave

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Nave

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

2:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK STUDY - Hintz Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:00 AM

PRAYER WALK - Begin in Hintz Room

10:00 AM

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP - Courtyard/Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Nave

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.

