



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Christ the King

November 23, 2025



Christ Crucified
Diego Velázquez (1599–1660)

Velázquez's quiet Christ Crucified delivers sovereignty through serenity—not triumph—but the still posture and luminous body assert dominion over death. For Christ the King Sunday, it is especially resonant: the king rules not with pomp, but with self-offering. The calm classicism and tender chiaroscuro fuse Caravaggio's realism and a classical ideal, presenting divine kingship as sacrifice, grace, and luminous peace.

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.

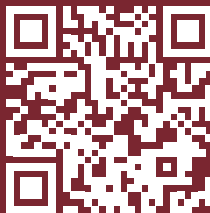


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway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

*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

Adante

Kate Loder

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your
grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and
forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were
lost and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless,
God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the
world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of † Jesus, your sins
are forgiven!
Amen.

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

Verse 1: All Voices
in unison

Verse 2: Upper Voices

Verse 3: All Voices
in parts, a cappella

Verse 4: Lower Voices

Verse 5: All Voices
in parts

Verse 6: All Voices
in unison

GATHERING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

ELW 634



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Text: Edward Perronet,
1726-1792,
sts. 1-4;
J. Rippon,
A Selection of Hymns,
1787,
sts. 5-6



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Music:
CORONATION
Music: Oliver Holden,
1765-1844

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

*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 congregational
song can be found
on page 17.*

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you
is freedom, and to know you is
unending joy. We worship you, we
glorify you, we give thanks to you
for your great glory. Abide with us,
reign in us, and make this world

into a fit habitation for your divine
majesty, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and
scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the
Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the
God of Israel, concerning the shepherds
who shepherd my people: It is you who
have scattered my flock and have driven
them away, and you have not attended to
them. So I will attend to you for your evil
doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will
gather the remnant of my flock out of all
the lands where I have driven them, and I
will bring them back to their fold, and they
shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise
up shepherds over them who will shepherd

them, and they shall no longer fear or be
dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the
Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous
Branch, and he shall reign as king and
deal wisely and shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land. In his days Judah
will be saved, and Israel will live in safety.
And this is the name by which he will be
called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SONG: THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

The Wonders of Worship: Psalm

*The choir introduces
the refrain.*

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

*The choir and
congregation sing
in alternation.*

*The last verse uses
the second-half
of the tone.*

PSALM

Psalm 46



God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
Come now, regard the works | of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
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.
"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
The Lord of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold R

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things

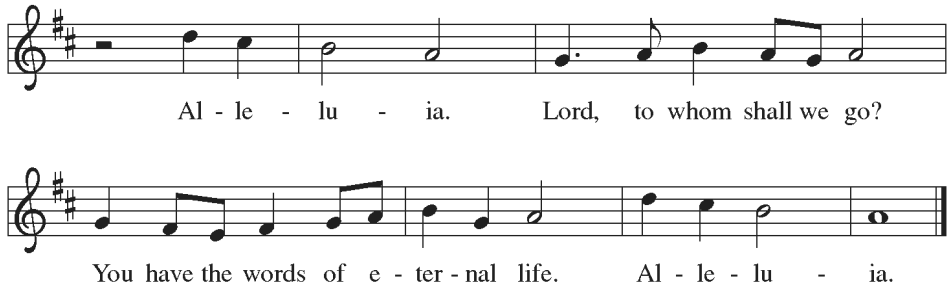
visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 23:33-43

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

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

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

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blessing and Honor

ELW 854

*Verse 1: All Voices
in unison*

*Verse 2: All Voices
in parts*

*Verse 3: All Voices
in unison*

*Verse 4: All Voices
in parts, a cappella*

1 Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and pow'r, wis - dom and
2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name; let all the
3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy, ev - er de -
4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb! Take we the

rich - es and strength ev - er - more, be to the Lamb who our
earth sing his glo - ry and fame. O - cean and moun - tain, stream,
scend-ing the love from on high; bless - ing and hon - or and
robe and the harp and the palm; sing we the song of the

bat - tle has won, whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the
for - est, and flow'r ech - o his prais - es and tell of his
glo - ry and praise— this is the theme of the hymns that we
Lamb who was slain, dy - ing in weak-ness and ris - ing to

throne; whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne!
pow'r; ech - o his prais - es and tell of his pow'r.
raise; this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.
reign; dy - ing in weak - ness and ris - ing to reign!

Text: Horatius Bonar,
1808-1889, alt.

Music: AMERICAN
HYMN
Matthias Keller,
1813-1875

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

**God of grace,
receive our prayer.**

*After the final
petition:*

**We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

PEACE

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

My Eternal King

Jane Marshall

Trinity Choir

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heav'n thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally.

Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me upon the cross embrace;
For me didst bear the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace,

Why, then why, o blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well?
Not for the hope of winning heav'n, or of escaping hell;
Not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward;
But as Thyself hast loved me, o everloving Lord!

E'en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing;
Solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ Mary Drehs

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ David Ruth
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Danielle Andress
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Christina McMahon
- ♦ Wesley Miller
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl
- ♦ Yadar

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Amy Young
- ♦ Ben, Jane, David
- Zobian & Megan
- Souders-Zobian
- ♦ Nancy Zweig
- ♦ Gholam & Diana
- Ahmadi
- ♦ Alexander Ahmadi

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we return to
you a portion of what you have
given to us. Turn us to set our hope
not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides

for us. Multiply what we have
gathered to bless all who are
suffering and in need, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

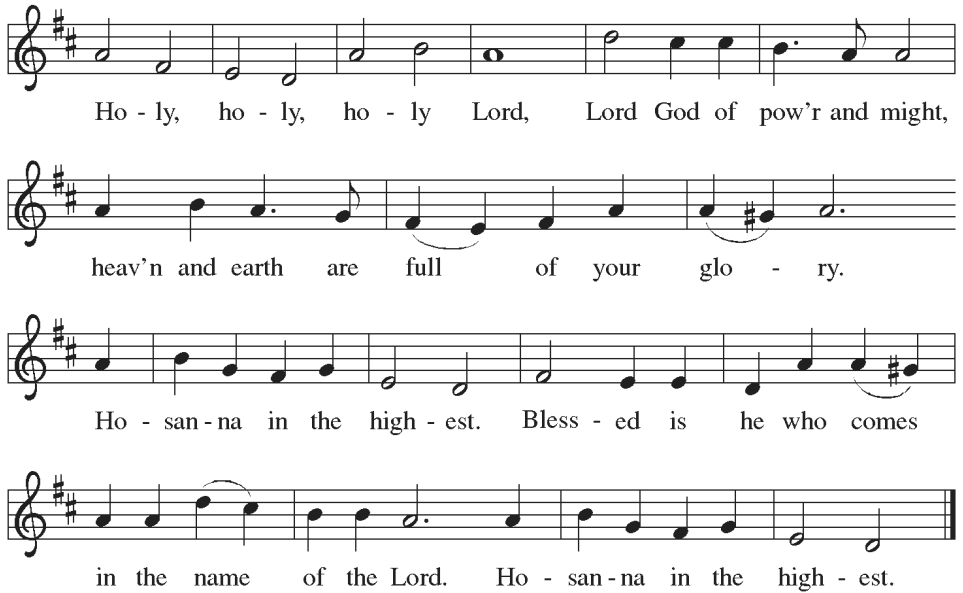
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

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.

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

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

*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.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

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, through this meal you have
strengthened us and appointed us
to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our

possessions with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.
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

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

ELW 435

*Verse 1: All Voices
in parts*

*Verse 2: Choir,
all join at "Alleluia"*

*Verse 3: All Voices
in unison*

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,

once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;

thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill to the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.

Text: Charles Wesley,
1707–1788, alt.

Music: HELMSLEY
Thomas Olivers,
1725–1799

CHRISTMAS EVE ORCHESTRA SIGN-UP!

Calling young and old!! The Trinity Family Orchestra will be performing at the 5:00 Christmas Service again this year. If you haven't played your instrument for some time, pull it out of the closet and join us. OR if you are a brand new instrumentalist and just started taking lessons this year, we will make a part for you and include you too!

We will rehearse in the Bard House on the Sundays of Advent 2, 3 and 4 at 9:00 a.m. Then we play first in the 5:00pm service on Christmas Eve. So, our first rehearsal will be on Sunday, 12/7.

Please let Dave Himes know if you would like to play this year and your instrument and your ability level.

FIRST COMMUNION!

We rejoice with **Nina Rose Litvinov** and her family as she receives her first Holy Communion today.

Welcome, Nina! There's a place for you with Jesus at the table!

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, November 16

In-person: 97

Online: 67

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.



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
Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Amy Stewart-Himes
Virginia Biniek
Avery Mazur
Jeff Wasmuth

USHERS

Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel,
Jennifer Mazur

MEDIA TEAM

Amy Bornhofen, Jorge Tomás,
Jenn Smith

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, Donna Osborne,
David Himes & Amy Stewart-Himes,

Jenn Smith, Amy Reinsel

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Program Staff

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

JOHN & KATHY DUGGAN
in loving memory of Jim & Louise Duggan
and Carl Gibson, Kathy's father

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM -
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
THE MIXED ENSEMBLE - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:15 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

6:30 PM

275TH COMMITTEE - Welcome Center

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

12:05 PM

NOONDAY RECITAL:
SONGS OF THANKFULNESS & PRAISE - Nave

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 AM

ADVENT BREAKFAST - All Saints Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
THE MIXED ENSEMBLE - Bard House
VESTRY/FINANCE JOINT MEETING - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

6:30 PM

TRINITY YOUTH AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

WONDERS OF WORSHIP: PSALM

