

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 17 July 27, 2025



The Lord's Prayer (Le "Pater Noster") (1886–1896) James Tissot (1836–1902)

Here Tissot, a regular on our bulletin covers, uses his great attention to clothing detail (acquired as the child of a cloth merchant), mastery of watercolor, and multiple trips to the Holy Land to show Jesus' instructions on prayer to the disciples. Jesus shows a posture of prayer, and the seated disciples raise their hands in supplication to the Father, too.

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

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

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell

Trinity Brass

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

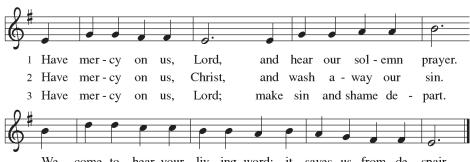
Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. Amen.

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

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

Kyrie



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be-gin. Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

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



- 1 Come, let us join our cheer-ful songs with an-gels round the throne;
- 2 "Wor thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex alt ed thus!"
- 3 Je sus is wor-thy to re-ceive hon-or and pow'r di vine;
- 4 Let all cre a tion join in one to bless the sa cred name



ten thou-sand thou-sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.

"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"

and bless-ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.

of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

This prayer relates
to the readings
appointed for the day
and asks for God's
help in applying them
to our lives.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us

those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Genesis 18:20-32

will forgive the whole place for their sake."

myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust

Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon

Please be seated.

FIRST READING

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I

and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

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

The psalm is read responsively.

PSALM Psalm 138

The regular text is read by the lector and the north (font) side.

The **bold text** is read by the presider and the south (floor piano) side.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me;

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual

circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

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

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.
May your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

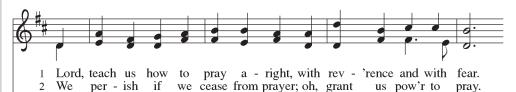
Pastor Mark Christy

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright

ELW 745



- 3 Give deep hu mil i ty; the sense of god ly sor row give; 4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;
- 5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength-ened with all might,





Though dust and ash - es in your sight, we may, we must draw near.

And when to meet you we pre - pare, Lord, meet us on our way.

a strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live; to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone. we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

Music: SONG 67 Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625 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 he 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

Te Deum

arr. Fco. Javier Garcia Rios

Trinity Brass

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our

labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Peg Coleman
- Mary Drehs
- Raymond Donald Diesinger (Donnie)
- Carol Batdorf • Vickie Unruh

• Nina, Anna, Amy

& Igor Litvinov

• Hannah & Micah

Long

• David Unruh

• Christopher

Kissinger &

Rebecca Watkins

• Barbara Kline

• Judith Krick

- Darryl Jeffries
 - Negri & Fred Negri
 - Walter Schur
 - the Sawyer family Yadar (friend of
 - Pat McMahon) Cathy Kirckoff
 - (sister of Pat McMahon)
 - Hildegard Pohl (Amy Barrett's
 - sister)

ONGOING NEEDS

- Harry Feinauer
- Linda Motley
- Nancy Souders-
- Nancy Zweig • David Strobel

• Susan Templin

(Robin

Oberholtzer's

cousin)

- Dar Unger
- Noah Kaufmann
- (friend of Pr. Hans) • Danielle Andress (Sonon/Mazur
- family member) Carlton Palmer
- (friend of the Norton's)
- Nancy Nagle

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,

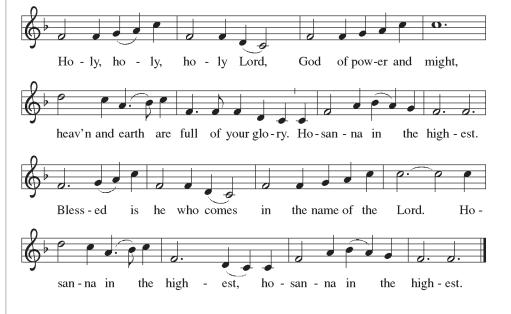
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father...

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

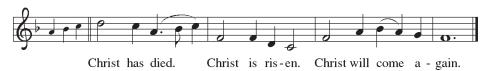
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup... to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit... and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants... all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



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.

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

Please be seated.

Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19.

Invitation to Communion

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Lamb of God





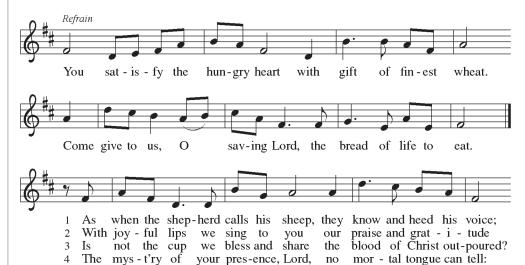
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray. e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Music During Distribution

You give your-self to

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-1996

Text & Music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Refrain when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice. SO you should count us wor-thy, Lord, to share this heav'n-ly food. that loaf, de-clare our the Lord? Do not one cup, one one - ness in the world can - not con-tain comes our hearts to dwell. serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

us,

O Lord; then self-less let

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.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

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

BLESSING

Amen.

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit + bless you and give you peace. Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song As I Journey



Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931

Music: LES PETITES SOEURS Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

> Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Variation on "Hymn to Joy"

Mark Rippe

Trinity Brass

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. Mark Christy
Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Lisa Speece
Amy Litvinov
Jane Zobian
Lawrence Fredericks

USHERS Jeff & Pam Wasmuth
MEDIA TEAM Jennifer & Danielle Smith,
Jorge Tomás
ALTAR GUILD Jacinda, Josh, & Linda Motley, Charlie

Norton, Robin Oberholtzer, Berni Ilgen, Beth Welz

Worship Planners Fred Opalinski

Worship Sponsors

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

AMY LITVINOV In honor of Nina's 7th birthday MAE SUNDERLAND
in loving memory of her husband, The Rev.
William Sunderland

Sunday, July 27

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

Coffee & Conversation - Hintz Room

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

Monday, July 28

1:00 рм

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

Tuesday, July 29

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by Trinity Brass. Next week's special music will feature Evan Derr and Jessica Manning.

Charles Randazzo taught science for 33 years, and in retirement works with Berks Nature. He has played the trumpet since he was 11 years old and currently directs and plays lead trumpet in the "Let's Dance Big Band".

Andrew Smith earned degrees in music education from Millersville and Duquesne. He is currently the elementary instrumental music teacher for the Schuylkill Valley School District.

David Himes received degrees in Music from IUP and West Chester. 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.

Peter Graf serves as Trinity's financial adminstrator and is also a versatile musician. He enjoys playing trombone, guitar, and recorder, and is a devoted chorister and handbell ringer.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

Coffee & Conversation - Hintz Room

2:00 рм

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.



Sources and Permissions

Liturgical components are from Sundays and Seasons © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #22196. Hymns reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, July 20: 81

Donate to Lutheran Disaster Response

With your help, Lutheran Disaster Response will support people affected by the catastrophic flooding in Texas and any other disasters that may strike this season.

