



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 32

November 9, 2025



Agnus Dei
Francisco de Zurbarán (1598–1664)

This stark Baroque still life—a bound lamb against a black void—echoes Luke's affirmation that God is 'of the living' by presenting Christ—the Living Lamb—awaiting resurrection and redemption. Zurbarán strips away ornate iconography for stark emotional power, reminding modern viewers that real faith often resides in quiet surrender rather than spectacle. His mastery of light, texture, and spiritual symbolism defines the emotive force of Catholic Counter-Reformation art.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.
Becklin*
SENIOR PASTOR



*Deaconess Deborah
Matern Graf*
DEACON FOR
FORMATION
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron
Lee Wenz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION



Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR



Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER



Dave Troche
SEXTON

+

*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

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

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

*Silence is kept for
reflection.*

Please be seated.

PRELUDE

Largo, from *O Jerusalem: A Symphony for Organ*

Daniel E. Gawthrop

CONFSSION 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.

GATHERING HYMN

In Heaven Above

ELW 630

Verse 1: All Voices

Verse 2: Choir

Verse 3: All Voices

Verse 4: All Voices

1 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a-bove, where God our Fa - ther dwells:
2 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a-bove, what glo - ry deep and bright!
3 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a-bove, no tears of pain are shed,
4 In heav'n a - bove, in heav'n a-bove, God has a joy pre - pared,

how bound-less there the bless - ed-ness! No tongue its great-ness tells.
The splen - dor of the noon-day sun grows pale be - fore its light.
for noth - ing there can fade or die; life's full - ness round is spread,
which mor - tal ear has nev - er heard, nor mor - tal vi - sion shared,

There face to face, and full and free, the ev - er -
The might - y sun that goes not down, be - fore whose
and like an o - cean, joy o'er - flows, and with im -
which nev - er en - tered mor - tal thought, in mor - tal

liv - ing God we see, our God, the Lord of hosts!
face clouds nev - er frown, is God, the Lord of hosts!
mor - tal mer - cy glows our God, the Lord of hosts!
dreams was nev - er sought, O God, the Lord of hosts!

Text: Laurentius L.
Laurinus,
1573-1655;
tr. William Maccall,
1812-1888

Music: I
HIMMELEN,
I HIMMELEN
Norwegian folk tune;
arr. Elmer T. R.
Hanke,
1901-1958

Arr. © 1942 Augsburg
Publishing House,
admin. Augsburg
Fortress

APOSTOLIC GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Please be seated.

The congregational song can be found on page 17.

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 eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment.

Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SONG: THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

The Wonders of Worship: Greeting

FIRST READING

Job 19:23-27a

“O that my words were written down!
O that they were inscribed in a book!
O that with an iron pen and with lead
they were engraved on a rock forever!
For I know that my vindicator lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the
earth;
and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not
another.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

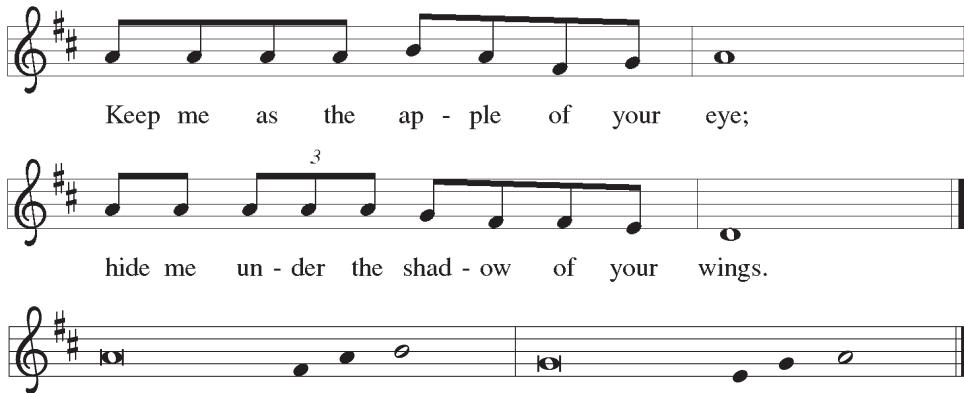
*The choir introduces
the refrain.*

PSALM

Psalm 17:1-9

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

*The choir and
congregation sing
alternating verses*



Hear a just cause, O Lord; give heed | to my cry;
listen to my prayer, which does not come from | lying lips.

Let my vindication come forth | from your presence;
let your eyes be | fixed on justice.

Examine my heart, visit | me by night,
melt me down; you will find no impuri- | ty in me.

I have not regarded what | others do;
at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways | of the violent. R

My footsteps hold fast to your | well-worn path;
and my feet | do not slip.

I call upon you, O God, for you will | answer me;
incline your ear to me and | hear my words.

Show me your marvelous | lovingkindness,
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who | rise against them.

Keep me as the apple | of your eye;
hide me under the shadow | of your wings,
from the wicked | who assault me,
from my deadly enemies | who surround me R

SECOND READING

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord,

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

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

GOSPEL

Luke 20:27-38

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

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] and asked him a question: "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage,

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Mark Christy

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Text: Christoph
Homburg,
1605–1681; tr.
Catherine Winkworth,
1827–1878, alt.

Music: JESUS,
MEINES LEBENS
LEBEN
Das grosse Canticum,
Darmstadt, 1687



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.



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.**

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.*

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

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

Jean Berger

Trinity Choir

The eyes of all wait upon thee;
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand,
and satisfiest the desire of ev'ry living thing.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Walter Schur
 - ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl
- ♦ Susan Templin
 - ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Noah Kaufmann
 - ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Danielle Andress
- ♦ Raymond Donald Diesinger
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Carol Batdorf
- ♦ David Ruth
 - ♦ Brenda G.
- ♦ Wesley Miller
 - ♦ Christina McMahon
- ♦ Barbara Graf
- ♦ Christine Motley

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Ralph & Vickie Unruh
- Sophia, William, David & Pamela VanFossen
- Joanne Wagner
- Andrew, Jeff & Pam Wasmuth
- Lauren Wasmuth

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

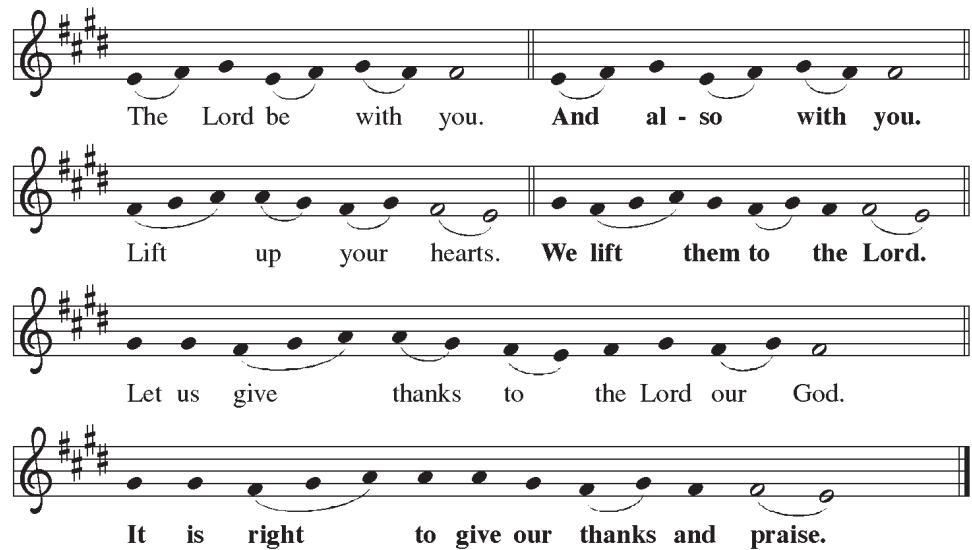
Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides

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.

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.

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

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.

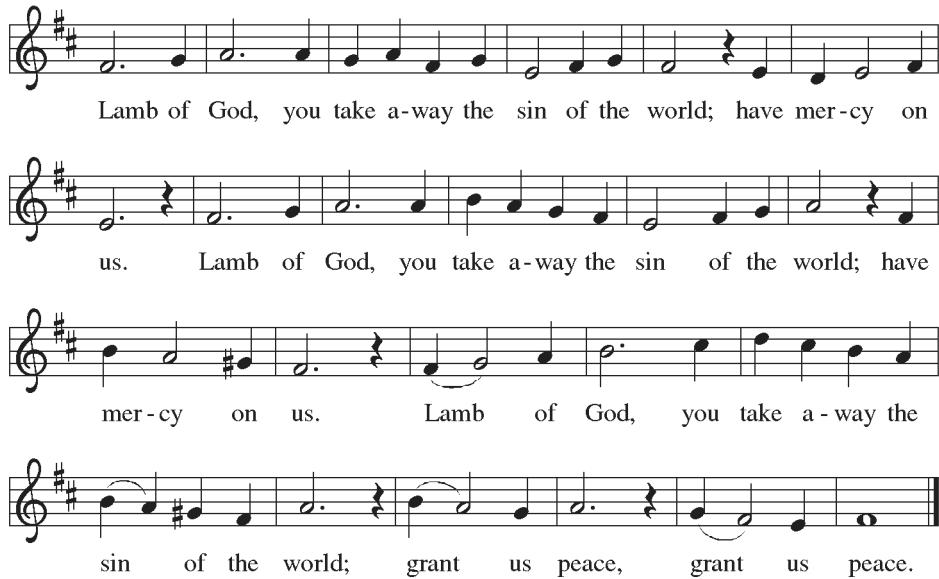
Come to this meal of mercy.

*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.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

In Thee is Gladness

ELW 867

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.

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

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.

Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.

SENDING HYMN

God Bless the Hands

ACS 1022

1 God, bless the hands stretched out in love through floods be - low and
2 Bring com - fort to the hearts that mourn, left bro - ken, emp - tied
3 O God, our strength and ref - uge sure, our hope while storms of

storms a - bove; they search and res - cue, com - fort, calm, give
by the storm. Give hope to those in deep - est grief; em -
life en - dure: teach us to live in har - mo - ny with

shel - ter, of - fer heal - ing balm. Oh, guard them by your
pow - er us to bring re - lief. To you, O God, we
earth and riv - er, sky and sea, pre - serv - ing wa - ters,

stead - fast hand; reach out in love to help us stand.
raise our hands. Save us, we pray, from sink - ing sands.
air, and lands as ho - ly work for hu - man hands.

Text: Marty Haugen,
b. 1950

Music: MELITA
John B. Dykes,
1823-1876

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Publications, Inc.,
giamusic.com

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

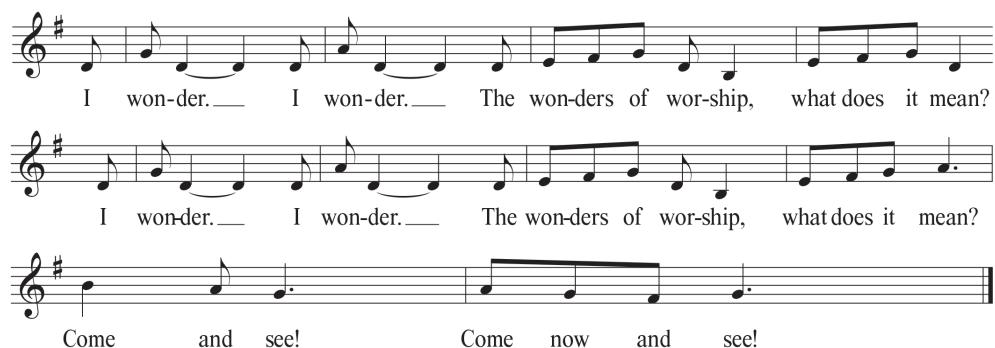
Chorale

Samuel Barber

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Worship is at the center of our faith and life. The Wonders of Worship teaching time is held at various points in our liturgy, helping us understand why we do what we do: connecting the Word of God with the worship of God with the world of God.

As we sing the song, children are welcome to meet the leader holding the Tree of Life poster, which contains all of the images of worship we will learn about throughout the program year. Together we will use our voices, minds, and bodies to learn and pray. Each week children receive a special card with the image and prayer, to collect and save.



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!

CHRISTMAS EVE ORCHESTRA SIGN-UP!

Calling young and old!! The Trinity Family Orchestra will be performing at the 5:00 p.m. 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 5:00 p.m. 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.

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 26: 94

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

Pr. Mark Christy

ASSISTING MINISTER

Lisa Speece

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

LECTOR

William Norton

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Stephen Welz

ACOLYTE

Danielle Smith

GREETER

Russ Diesinger

USHERS

MEDIA TEAM

Anita Dolak, Raye Watson

Amy Bornhofen, Anna Litvinov,

Jennifer Smith

ALTAR GUILD

Anita Dolak, Donna Osborne,

David Himes & Amy Stewart-Himes

WORSHIP PLANNER

Beth Welz

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

STEVE & BETH WELZ
In honor of Refresh Berks volunteers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM -
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - Welcome Cener
MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

6:30 PM

CIRCLE OF LIGHT - Courtyard

7:00 PM

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - Nave

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:15 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - Highlands

6:00 PM

COMMUNITY ESL DINNER - All Saints Room

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM -
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

WONDERS OF WORSHIP: GREETING

