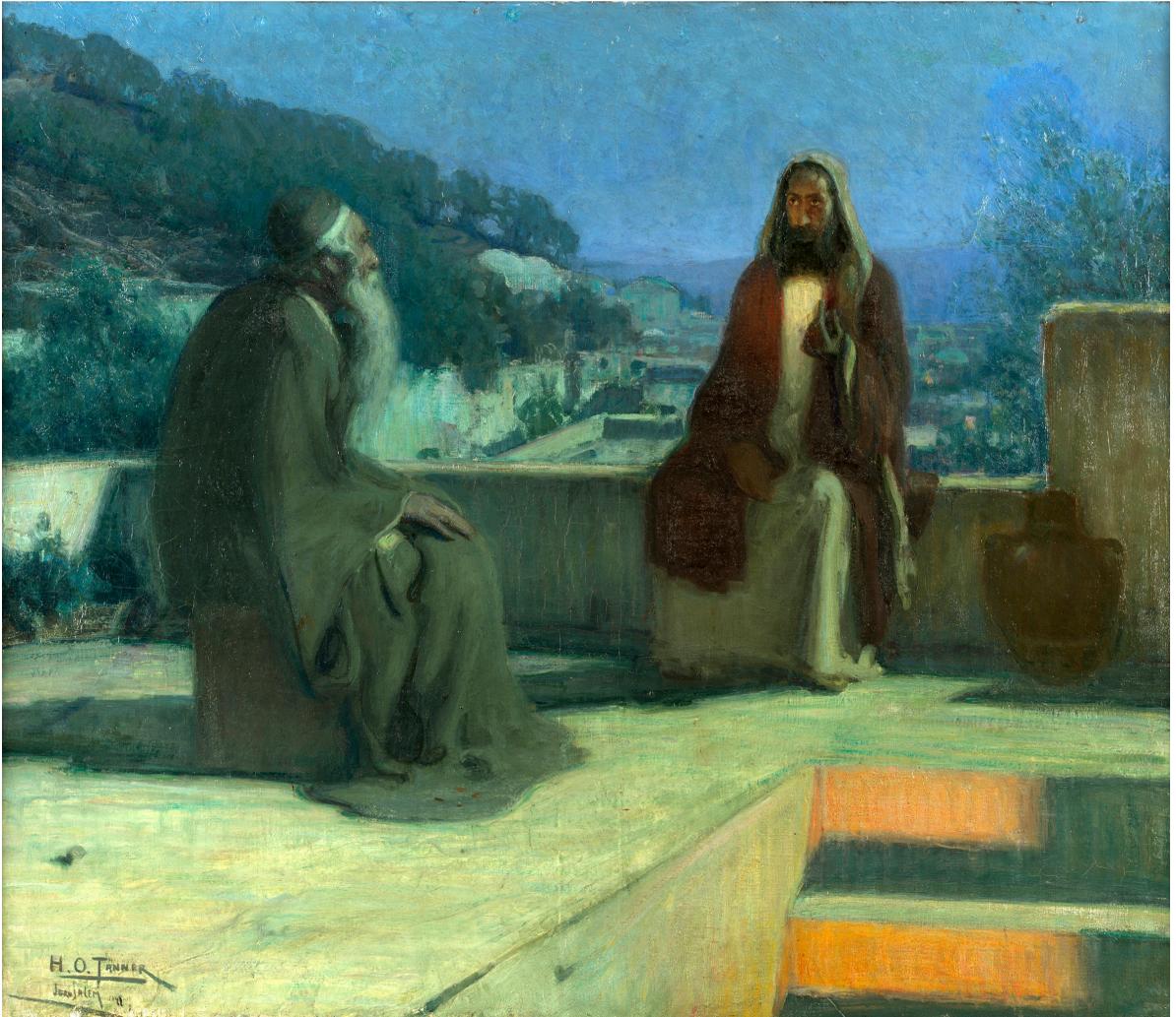




TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
READING, PENNSYLVANIA
Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026



Nicodemus Visiting Jesus (1899)

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937)

Tanner sets Nicodemus in the hush of night, where questions can finally be asked without performance. The cool blues and faint glow suggest a life being turned—born “from above,” moving from darkness toward light.

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

Alas, and did My Saviour Bleed

Linda Scholes
(b. 1956)

*Please kneel or
remain seated.*

Trinity Ringers

*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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world

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

Amen.

Please be seated.

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

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Lent

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first two staves are identical and contain the lyrics: "I won-der. I won-der. The won-ders of wor-ship, what does it mean?". The third staff contains the lyrics: "Come and see! Come now and see!". The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes.

READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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 121

1 To the hills I lift my eyes; whence shall help for
2 Your pro - tec - tor is the LORD; shade for you he

me a - rise? From the LORD comes all my aid,
will af - ford. Nei - ther sun nor moon shall smite;

who the heavens and earth has made. He will guard through
God shall guard by day and night. He will ev - er

dan - gers all, will not let you slip or fall. He who
keep your soul; what would harm he will con - trol. In the

safe his peo - ple keeps nev - er slum - bers, nev - er sleeps.
home and by the way God will keep you day by day.

Guitar Chords: D7, G, Em, D, G, G/B, D7, G, D7, G, D7, G, D, G, G/B, D7, G

Text: *Psalter,*
1912, alt.

Music: GUIDE
Marcus M. Wells,
1815-1895;

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these

things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

Womb of Life and Source of Being

ACS 948



1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry rest - less
2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us sec - ond
3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner, be our
4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it, On - ly



heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have
birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing
friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we
Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, One - in -



loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er
weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man
are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us; aid the
Three and Three - in - One. We would share your life, your



round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing
strug - gles, Life of life and Death of death, ris - en
birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of
pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er



sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Text: Ruth Duck,
1947-2024

Music: RAQUEL
Skinner Chávez-Melo,
1944-1992

Text: © 1992 GIA
Publications, Inc.

Music © 1985, 1991
Estate of Skinner
Chávez-Melo

*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.

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Family & friends of Carol Batdorf
- ♦ Lisa Speece
- ♦ Barbara Ketchum
- ♦ Larry Kummerer

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Abby & Emma Care, Martha Good
- ♦ Kathrine, Daniel, Deborah & Peter Graf
- ♦ Russel & Linda Grim
- ♦ Jonathan & Stacie Grim
- ♦ Katie Hannon

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
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Jerry Holleran
- ♦ Mary Ellen Coldsmith

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

OFFERTORY

Psalm 130

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

Trinity Choir

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice: Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If Thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope;

My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is redemption, and

He shall redeem Israel from all His iniquities.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

*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.

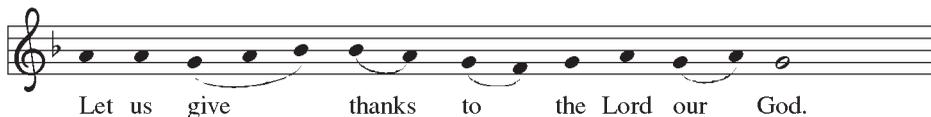
Through these gifts of bread and
wine, draw us into the death and
life of your Son, who calls us to bear
witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

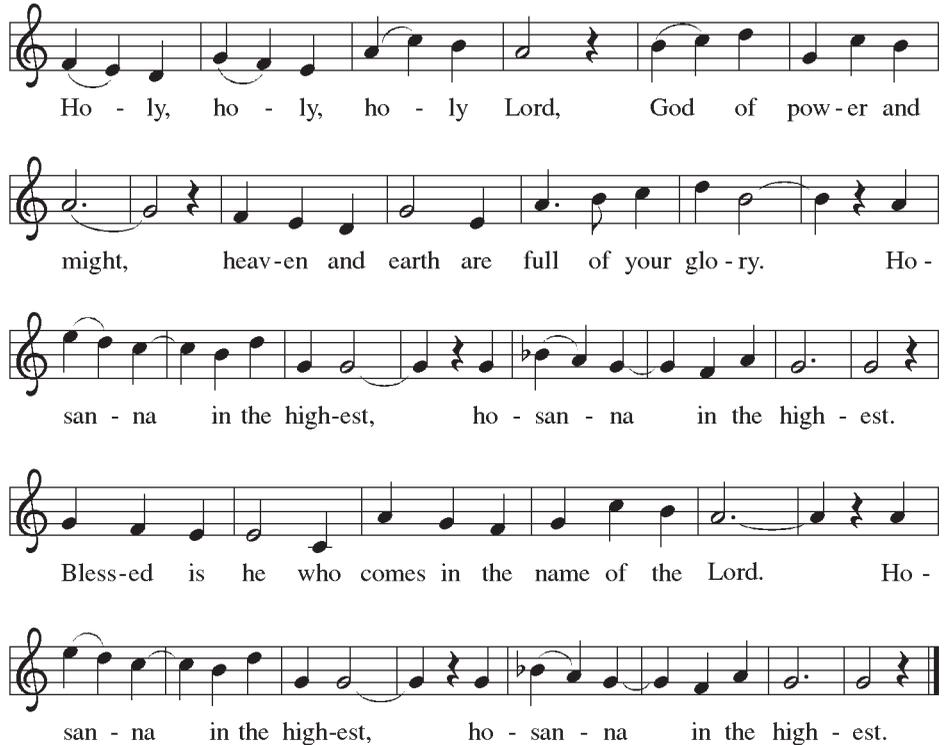
*The presider greets
the assembly and
invites all to give
thanks.*



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

God Loved the World

ELW 323

*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

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!

Text: Ruth Duck,
1947-2024

Music:
BEACH SPRING
The Sacred Harp,
Philadelphia, 1844;
arr. Selected Hymns,
1985



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.

Text © 1989 The United
Methodist Publishing
House, admin. Music
Services.

Arr. © 1985 Augsburg
Fortress.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

A Bridge Called Faith

Fred Gramann
(b. 1950)

Trinity Ringers

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

In-person: 59

Online: 62

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP, WEDNESDAYS AT 12:05 PM

Beginning Wednesday, March 4th, join us for midweek worship in the chapel. The theme will be “Questions Jesus Asks” and will integrate the gosepl story with personal reflections from Pastor Hans. The service begins at 12:05 PM and lasts about 30 minutes.

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
Donna Osborne
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Joseph Speece
Jeff Wasmuth
William Norton-Ritz
Allison Kalbach

USHERS
MEDIA TEAM
ALTAR GUILD
WORSHIP PLANNER

Christine Motley
Jennifer Smith, Abbie Smith
Grace Norton-Ritz
Bob Hetico, Allison Kalbach,
Amy Litvinov, Cheryl Moody,
Brooke Rosenbaum, Doris Strobel
Mike Faust

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

RUSSELL DIESINGER
in loving memory of Shirley A. Diesinger

VIRGINIA BINIEK
to the glory of God

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
EVANGELISM AND MEDIA COMMITTEE MEETING
Conference Room

11:30 PM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Nave

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 2

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION AND PRAYER
Hintz Room

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

12:05 PM

LENTEN MIDDAY WORSHIP - Chapel

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

2:00 PM

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION AND PRAYER
Hintz Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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

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.

