



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 16

July 20, 2025



Christ in the House of Martha and Mary (1618)
Diego Velázquez (1599–1660)

Spanish master Velasquez loves to mess with our perspective (consider his greatest work, the grand portrait known as Las Meninas, for another example). Here, he places the women's kitchen work at the center, while Jesus teaches Mary through a small window. Martha has left the kitchen to complain about Mary's laziness—so all the scriptural action takes place in that one, small scene!

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.

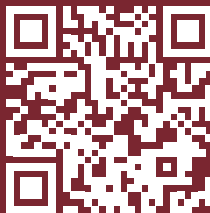


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway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

Prélude from 24 Pièces en style libre

Louis Vierne

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

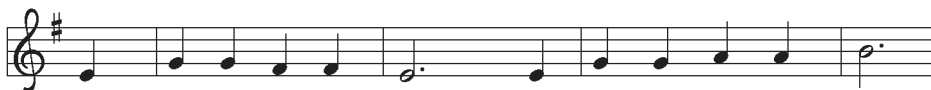
Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



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.*

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence,

that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead

it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

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

*The psalm is read
responsively.*

*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.*

PSALM

Psalm 15

Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the
Lord.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against
the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-28

[Christ Jesus] 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.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast

in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



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.

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

Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all

the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

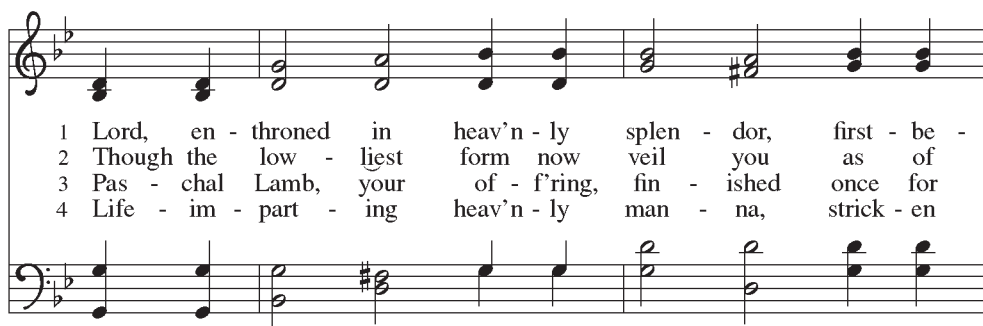
Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
 in body or spirit.*

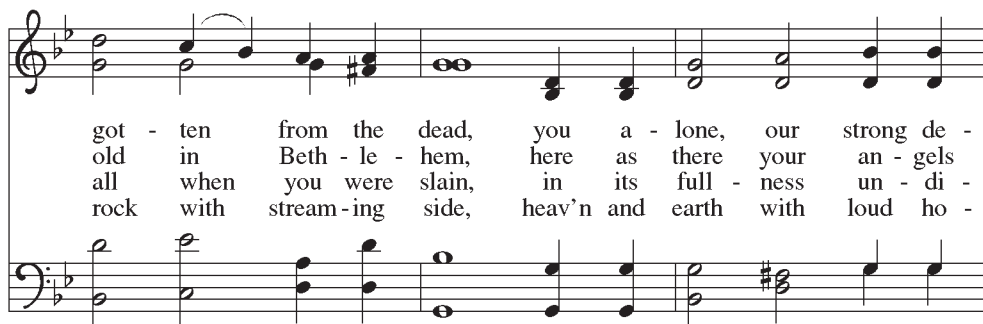
HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

ELW 475



1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, first - be -
 2 Though the low - liest form now veil you as of
 3 Pas - chal Lamb, your of - f'ring, fin - ished once for
 4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, strick - en



got - ten from the dead, you a - lone, our strong de -
 old in Beth - le - hem, here as there your an - gels
 all when you were slain, in its full - ness un - di -
 rock with stream - ing side, heav'n and earth with loud ho -

Text: George
 H. Bourne,
 1840-1925

Music: BRYN
 CALFARIA
 William Owen,
 1814-1893

fend - er, lift - ing up your peo - ple's head. Al - le -
 hail you, branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le -
 min - ished shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le -
 san - na wor - ship you, the Lamb who died, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! cleans - ing souls from
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! ris'n, as - cend - ed,

liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 join with them; we in wor - ship join with them.
 ev - 'ry stain; cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
 glo - ri - fied; ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

*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
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

Lord, Speak to Us

arr. David Himes

David Himes, saxophone

*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

- ♦ Peg Coleman
- ♦ Raymond Donald
- ♦ Diesinger (Donnie)
- ♦ David Unruh
- ♦ Nancy Nagle
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Carol Batdorf

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Art & Allison Kallbach
- ♦ Beverly Kennedy
- ♦ Edwin Kershner
- ♦ Barbara Ketchum
- ♦ John Kirby & Larry Kummerer

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Nancy Souders-Negri & Fred Negri
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ the Sawyer family
- ♦ Yadar (friend of Pat McMahon)
- ♦ Cathy Kirckoff (sister of Pat McMahon)
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl (sister of Amy Barrett)
- ♦ Susan Templin (cousing of Robin Oberholtzer)
- ♦ Nancy Zweig
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Noah Kaufmann (friend of Pr. Hans)
- ♦ Danielle Andress (Sonon/Mazur family member)
- ♦ Carlton Palmer (friend of Bill & Charlie Norton)

*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.

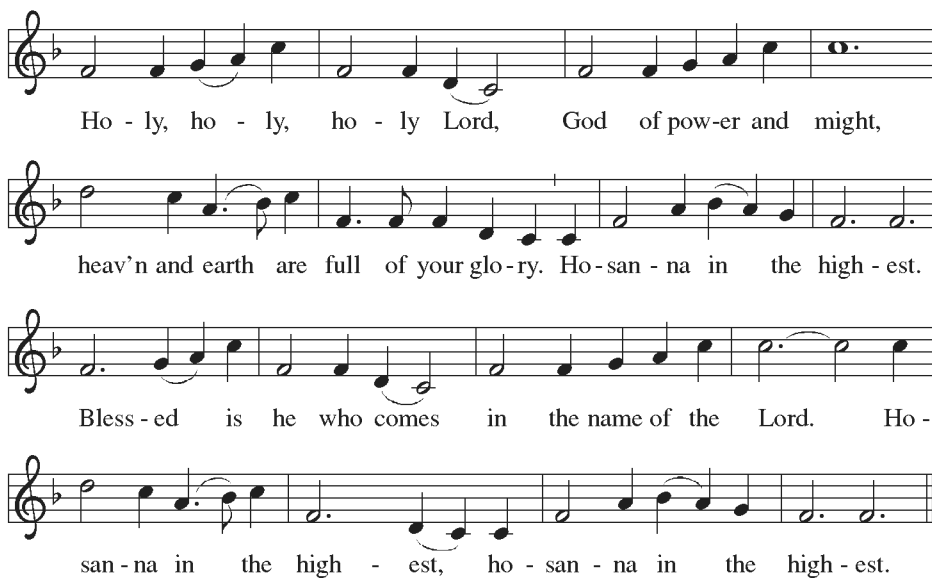
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

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

What Feast of Love

ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban - quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner,
b. 1939

Music:
GREENSLEEVES
English ballad,
16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores
Dufner, admin.
OCP Publications

*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.

SENDING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you
sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth
to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and
imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will
receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

*Lay Eucharistic
Ministers come
forward to receive the
Eucharist that they
will share with the
homebound.*

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

*Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.*

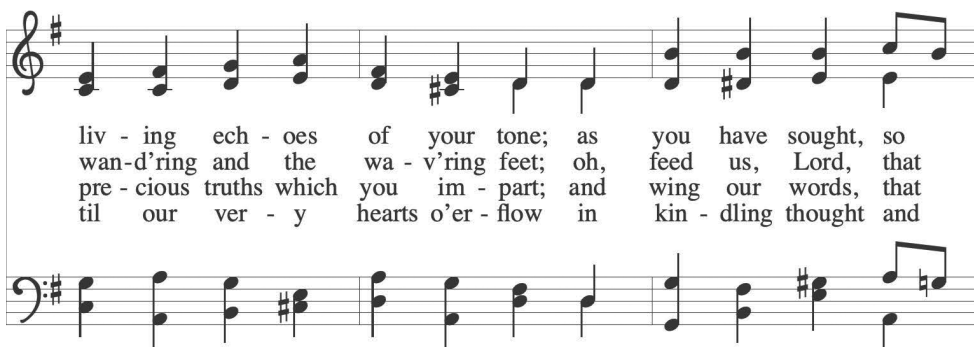
SENDING HYMN

Lord, Speak to Us

ELW 676



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y_a heart.
glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances
R. Havergal,
1836-1879, alt.

Music: O JESU
CHRISTE, WAHRES
LICHT
Robert Schumann,
1810-1856

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

arr. David Himes

David Himes, saxophone

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
Lisa Speece
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Donna Osborne
Virginia Biniek
Danielle Smith
Mae Sunderland

USHERS

Andrew Smih, Joseph Speece,
Lawrence Fredericks

MEDIA TEAM

Amy Bornhofen, Declan Rosenbaum

ALTAR GUILD

Jacinda, Josh, & Linda Motley, Charlie

Norton, Robin Oberholtzer,

Berni Ilgen, Beth Welz

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Fred Opalinski

SUNDAY, JULY 20

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

BERKS PRIDE FEST - Jim Dietrich Park

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, JULY 21

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 22

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

12:00 PM

COURTYARD CAFE

GUEST MUSICIAN

This Week's special music was provided by David Himes. Next week's special music will feature Brass with Charlie Randazo, Andrew Smith, David Himes, and Peter Graf.

David Himes received his B.S. in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and his M.M. in Music Composition from West Chester University. 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.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

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.



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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, July 13: 95

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.

