

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Holy Cross Day September 14, 2025



The Good Shepherd (Mausoleum of Galla Placidia) Unknown Ravenna mosaicists (c. 5th century)

Appropriately for Holy Cross Day, this early Christian mosaic presents Christ as the Good Shepherd—his cross-like staff subtly reinforcing the cross's role in salvation. The gold and stone tesserae radiate timeless consolation, bridging the ancient cross's power with modern yearnings for guidance, hope, and sacred continuity. The late-antique style—symbolic, frontal, and richly emblematic—speaks directly into today's world, where presence and endurance matter more than realism.

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.

PRELUDE

Allemande from Sonata in F Major

Antonio Vivaldi

Peter Graf, recorder

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.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

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

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

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



Continues on the next page.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

[From Mount Horeb the Israelites set out,] but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said,

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

"We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The psalm is read responsively; the congregation reads the bold text. PSALM Psalm 98:1-4

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

O Lord, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written.

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the

world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.





GOSPEL John 3:13-17

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

[Jesus said:] "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 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.

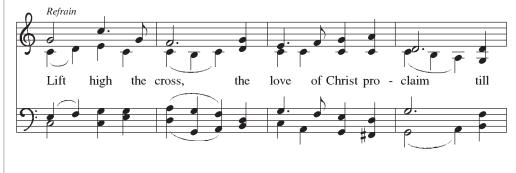
SERMON

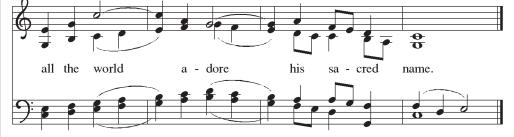
Pastor Mark Christy

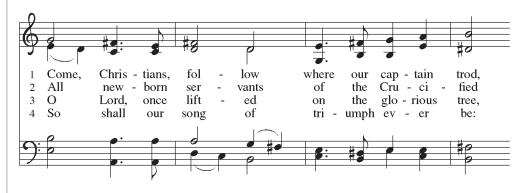
HYMN OF THE DAY

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660



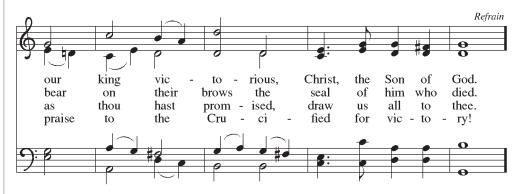




Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: CRUCIFER Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company



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

Symphonie Espagnole

Édouard Lalo

Naomi Tam, violin

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these

gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- Peg Coleman
- Nancy Nagle
- David Unruh
- David Ruth
- Mary Drehs

• Harry Feinauer

- Linda Motley
- Negri & Fred Negri
 - Walter Schur
 - Yadar
 - Hildegard Pohl
 - Susan Templin

ONGOING NEEDS

- Nancy Souders-

- Dar Unger

- Noah Kaufmann
 - David Strobel
- Danielle Andress
- Carlton Palmer
- Nancy Nagle
- Christine Motley
- Donny Diesinger
- Frances Frezeman
 - Darryl Jeffries

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Ralph & Pamela Reeves
- Thomas & Amy Reinsel
- E. Russel Richards
- Allison & Joe Rogers Matthew

Rohrbach

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,

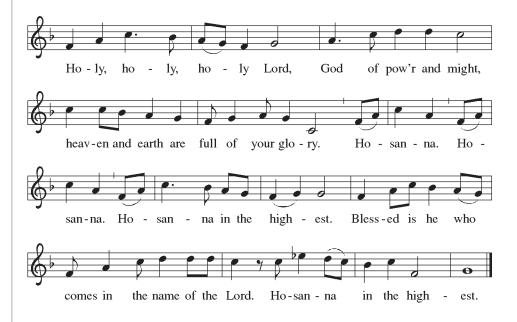
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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, 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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

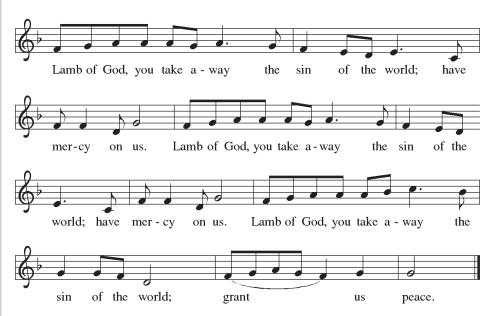
Please be seated.

Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19. Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

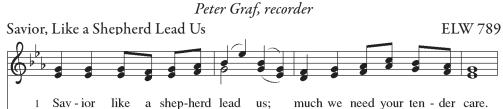
LAMB OF GOD





Adagio from 2nd Sonata

Daniel Purcell



We are yours; in love be - friend us,

You have prom-ised to re - ceive us,

the guard-ian of our way; poor and sin - ful though we be;

4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, let us do your will; ear - ly



your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior,

for our use your fold pre-pare. seek us when we go a - stray. grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free. with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray. Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you. Je-sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still. Bless-ed





Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed

Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed

you have bought us; we are yours. hear us chil - dren when we pray. ear - ly let us turn you. you have loved us, love still.



Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847

Music: BRADBURY William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868 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.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to

serve all in need and to give

ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn can be found on page 18.

SENDING HYMN

Come, Labor On

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Vivace from 2nd Sonata

Daniel Purcell

Peter Graf, recorder

Face the processional cross, turning as it passes you.

SENDING HYMN

Come, Labor On



Text: Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

Music: ORA LABORA Thomas Tertius Noble, 1867-1953

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by Naomi Tam & Peter Graf.

Naomi Tam, a ninth-grade homeschooler, has studied violin for seven years and performs with the RSYO. She is a recipient of several RMF awards and wishes to thank RMF for support in her musical journey.

GUEST MUSICIANS (CONT.)

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.

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.

WORSHIP PLANNERS

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Cantor
Lector
Communion Assistant
Acolyte
Greeters

Pr. Mark Christy
Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Vickie Unruh
Virginia Biniek
Declan Rosenbaum
Brooke & Eric Rosenbaum

USHERS Cecilia, Josh, & Christine Motley
MEDIA TEAM Jacinda Motley, Amy Bornhofen,
Anna Litvinov, Jennifer Smith
ALTAR GUILD Linda Grim, Erica Hofmann,
Amy Litvinov, Cheryl Moody, Doris Strobel

Worship Sponsors

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

MOLLY LEVAN
in loving memory of the Detwiler and LeVan
families

VIRGINIA BINIEK to the glory of God Program Staff

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:15 AM

TRINITY YOUTH AND PARENT MEETING
All Saints Room

10:00 ам

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday Worship Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - All Saints Room FFA ART SHOW - Hintz Room FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE- Welcome Center MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

1:00 PM

POTATO PROJECT 265 Maidencreek Rd, Fleetwood, PA 19522

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

Monday, September 15

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

7:00 рм

VESTRY - All Saints Room

Tuesday, September 16

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

Wednesday, September 17

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 рм

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

4:00 рм

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Bard House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:30 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL - Nave

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - All Saints Room
FFA ART SHOW - HINTZ ROOM
MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

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, September 14: 68