



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 22

August 31, 2025



The Peasant Wedding
Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525–1569)

Luke 14:7-14's counsel to choose the low place finds a visual foil in Bruegel's crowded barn feast, where social choreography and rustic table-manners become moral theater. Bruegel's humanist eye flattens hierarchies—wedding honor sits alongside scarcity and service—mirroring Jesus' inversion of status. The Kunsthistorisches' panel epitomizes Northern Renaissance genre painting as social critique.

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.

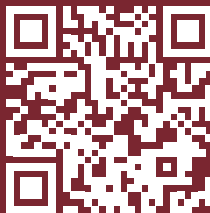


CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME in our worship! A changing table can be found in the all-gender restroom on the first floor. Our Meditation Room has space for nursing or a sensory break. Restrooms can be found on the first floor and are accessible by elevator. Our AED is mounted on the wall in the stairway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

Vocalise

Kathleen Bahena, viola

Sergei Rachmaninoff

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.

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.*

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

*Continues on the
next page.*

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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 Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you resist those who are
proud and give grace to those who
are humble. Give us the humility of
your Son, that we may embody

the generosity of Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's
presence

or stand in the place of the great,
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a
noble.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*The psalm is read
responsively; the
congregation reads
the bold text.*

PSALM

Psalm 112

Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!

**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine
away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

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

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes,

he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Deaconess Deborah Matern Graf

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Are Welcome

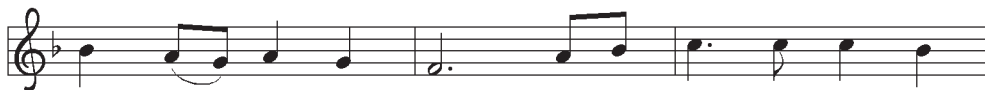
ELW 641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:

Text: Marty Haugen,
b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS
Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1994
GIA Publications, Inc



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

*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.*

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

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Rondo (excerpt)

Jean Sibelius

Kathleen Babena, viola

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
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ David Unruh
(brother of Ralph Unruh)
- ♦ the family and
friends of Jerry
Rhodes
- ♦ Sandi Sittler
- ♦ Mary Drehs

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Fred & Janet
Opalinski
- ♦ Kristin Opalinski
- ♦ Megan Opalinski
- ♦ Donna Osborne
- ♦ Richard (Jr.) &
Jean Palmer

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ Nancy Souders-
Negri & Fred Negri
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Hildegard Pohl
- ♦ Susan Templin
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Noah Kaufmann
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Danielle Andress
- ♦ Carlton Palmer
- ♦ Nancy Nagle
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Donny Diesinger
- ♦ Carol Batdorf
- ♦ Frances Frezeman

*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.

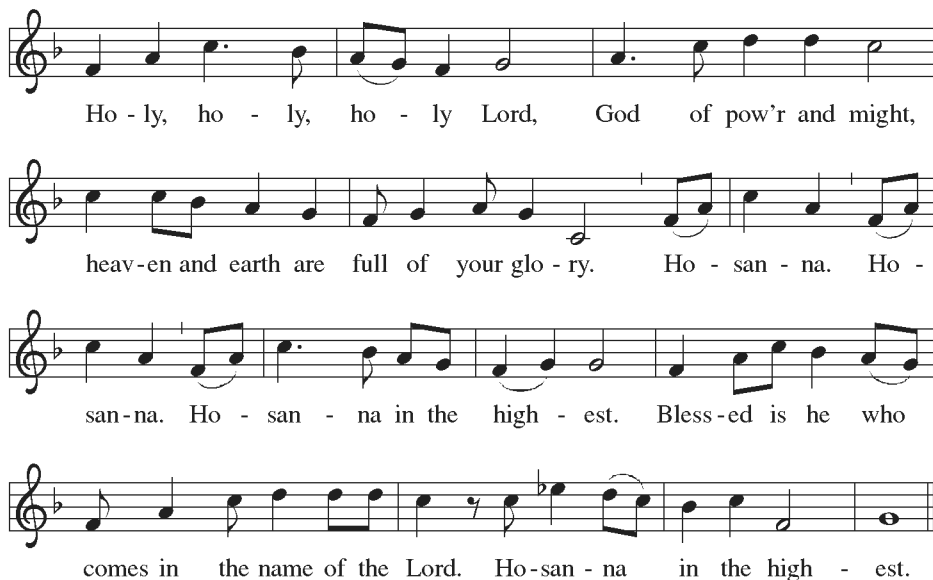
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

*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,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

*Silence is kept as the
bread is broken.*

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

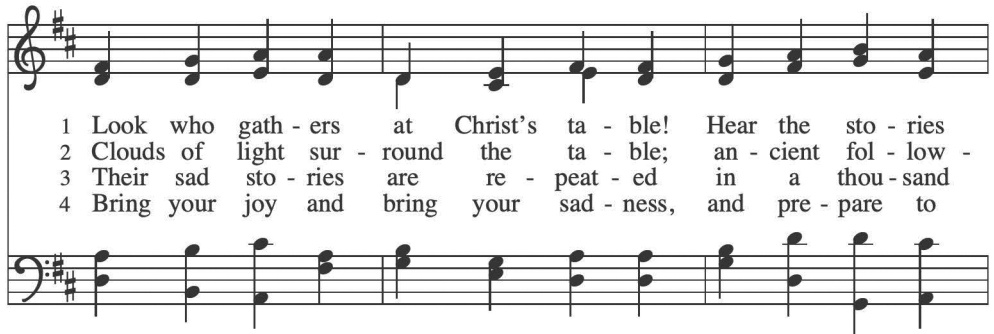
*Detailed instructions
for communion can
be found on page 19.*

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.

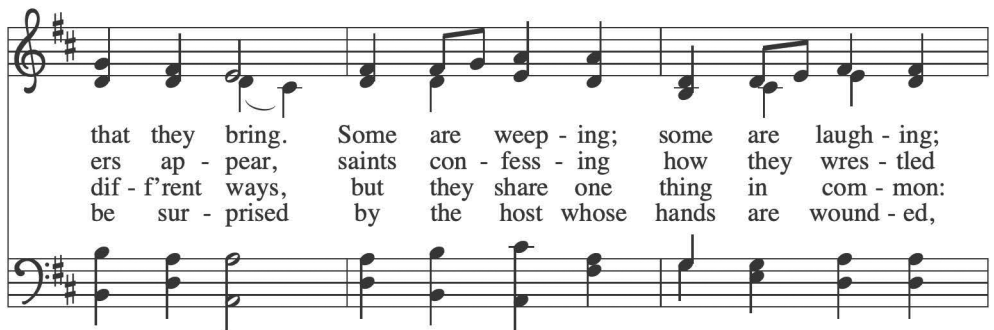
MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

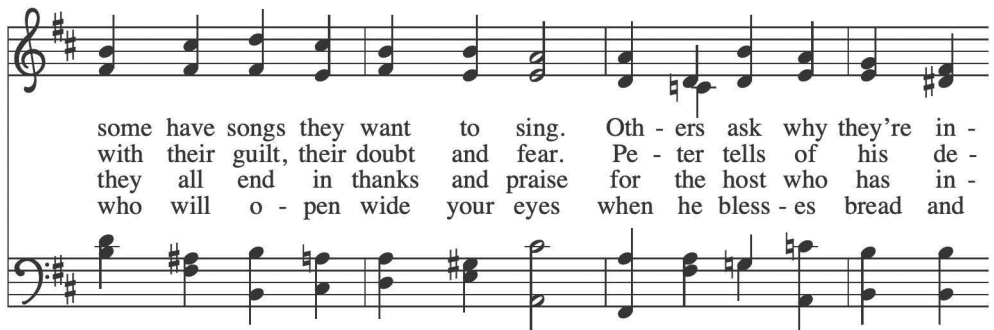
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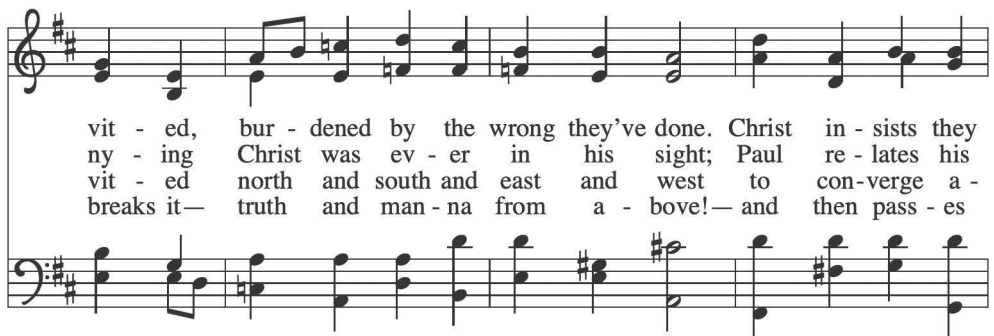
1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
 2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
 3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
 4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
 ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
 dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
 be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
 with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
 they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
 who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
 ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
 vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
 breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es

Text: Thomas H.
 Troeger,
 1945-2022

Music: COPELAND
 Michael Corzine,
 b. 1947

Text © 2002 Oxford
 University Press

Music © 2000 Michael
 Corzine, admin.
 Augsburg Fortress



*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, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*Sending Hymn can
be found on page 18.*

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Romance Oubliée

Franz Liszt

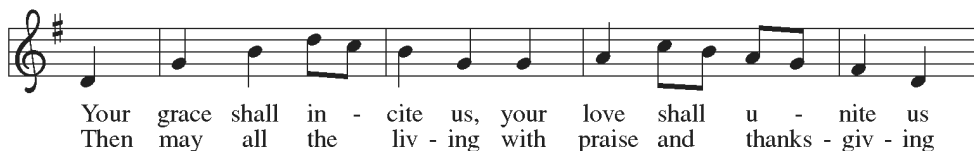
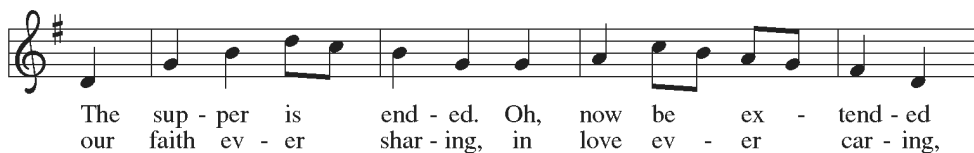
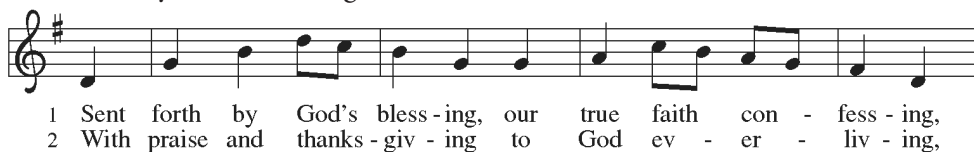
Kathleen Bahena, viola

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

SENDING HYMN

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547



Text: Omer
Westendorf,
1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH
GROVE
Welsh folk tune

Text © 1964 World
Library Publications

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
MUSIC LEADER
LECTOR
COMMUNION ASSISTANT
ACOLYTE
GREETER

Pr. Virginia Biniek
Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Sandra Sittler
Tom Souders
Pam Wasmuth
Abbie Smith
Anita Dolak

USHERS Nancy Everson, Allison Kallbach
MEDIA TEAM Anna Litvinov, Danielle Smith,
Jennifer Smith
ALTAR GUILD Anita Dolak, David Himes,
Amy Stewart-Himes, Donna Osborne, Amy Reinsel
WORSHIP PLANNERS Jill Hull & Don Bechtel

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

JAMES AND JAN DUGGAN AND FAMILY
in loving memory of James & Louise Duggan

JILL & DON (BECHTEL)
to all teachers and students starting a new year

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

Evangelism & Media Committee - Welcome Center

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

6:00 PM

PROPERTY WORK NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

6:00 PM

FFA ART SHOW OPENING & RECEPTION

The Hintz Room

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

9:00 AM

DUMPSTER DAY

GUEST MUSICIANS

This Week's special music is provided by Kathleen Bahena. Next week's special music will feature Wendy Thompson & Lisa Speece.

Kathleen Bahena is a professional violist from Reading who performs with the Reading and Lancaster Symphonies, and teaches privately for Orchestra Zone and CMSP at Temple Prep. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in viola performance at Temple University.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

FFA ART SHOW - Hintz Room

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

1:00 PM

COVENANT CUP GOLF OUTING

Heidelberg Country Club

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, August 24: 79