

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 25 September 21, 2025



Mammon George Frederic Watts (1817–1904)

Luke 16:1-13 wrestles with wealth's power; Watts' hulking idol crushes the poor while coins crown his asinine ears—Victorian symbolism condemning deified markets. The painting critiques systems that prize profit over people, paralleling Jesus' warning that one cannot serve God and Mammon. It's a landmark in social-moral painting, fusing allegory with the moral urgency of late-19th-century British art.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1751

The Rev. Hans E.

Becklin
Senior Pastor

Deaconess Deborah

Matern Graf

Deacon for

Formation

AND Service

Dr. Cameron Lee 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.

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

Little Prelude & Fugue in G-minor

J.S. Bach

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.

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.

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.

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.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Sayior and Lord.

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.

Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the Lord be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high,

but stoops to behold

the heavens and the earth?

The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes, enthroning them with the rulers,

with the rulers of the people.

The Lord makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all

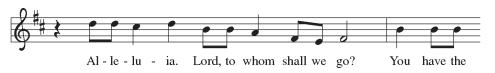
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.





GOSPEL Luke 16:1-13

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

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him. 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and

make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Virginia Biniek

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW 710



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

> Text © 1989 William Whitla

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

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

Trinity Choir

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 • Family & friends

of David Unruh

- David Ruth
 - Carole Batdorf

• Nancy Nagle

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
- Christine Motley
- Donny Diesinger
- Frances Frezeman
 - Darryl Jeffries
 - Mary Drehs

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- Laura & Neil Rohrbach-McGettigan
- Daniel Rothermel
 - Irene Routté
 - Jesse & Emily Mooney Routté
- Declan, Brooke, &
- Eric Rosenbaum
- Reagan, Jillian,

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,

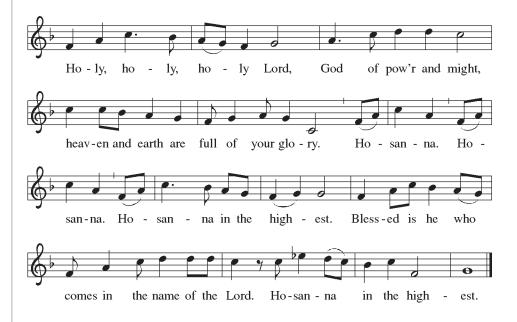
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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.

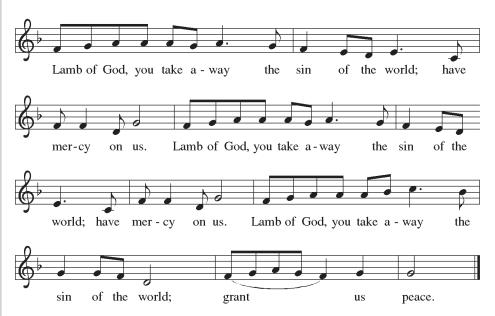
Please be seated.

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.

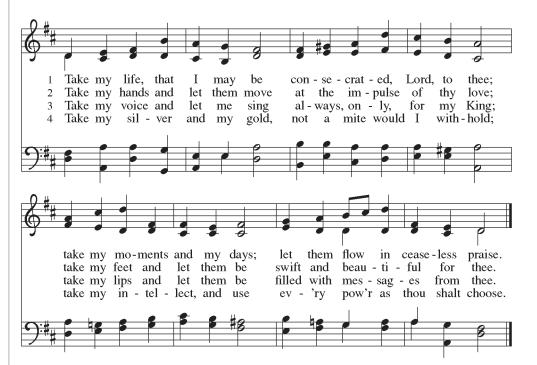
LAMB OF GOD



Music during Distribution

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685



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

Music: PATMOS William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

5 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee. 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

the body and blood of your Son.

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast,

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

By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give

Amen.

Lay Eucharistic
Ministers come
forward to receive the
Eucharist that they

will share with the

As a sign of God's

blessing, you may

make the sign

of the cross.

homebound.

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

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn can be found on page 18.

SENDING HYMN

Commonwealth is God's Commandment

ACS 1036

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Da bei rami scendea

Clementine de Bourges

17

SENDING HYMN

Commonwealth is God's Commandment

ACS 1036



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar-ing lav ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac es, tribes, and na tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel-come an - gels un - a - ware. stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man - y folds. bid - ding all to work to - geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.





Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.





Shan-ti, pax, sha - lom, mas-la - ha: com-mon good is ho - ly ground.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

> Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc.

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	Dr.
Lector	
Communion Assistant	
ACOLYTE	
Greeters	

Pr. Virginia Biniek Albert Pohl Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Erica Hofmann Amy Bornhofen Jane Zobian Larry Kummerer USHERS Jeff & Pam Wasmuth
MEDIA TEAM Danielle & Abbie Smith,
Declan Rosenbaum
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.

Allison Kalbach and Barbara Ketchum

in honor of International Day of Peace.

We pray for peace in our world, community and in our hearts.

Program Staff

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
All Saints Room

9:30 AM

CHOIR REHEARSAL - Nave

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - All Saints Room MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House FEA ART SHOW - Hintz Room

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

Monday, September 22

1:00 рм

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

6:00 рм

LEARNING MINISTRIES - off site

Tuesday, September 23

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:00 рм

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

Wednesday, September 24

12:05 рм

SORROW & JOY NOONDAY RECITAL - Nave

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00 ам

TRINITY TOGETHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Hintz Room

9:30 ам

CHOIR REHEARSAL - Nave

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
OUTREACH & SERVICE - Bard House
MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

3:00 рм

FFA PRESENTS "OUR CLASS" - Christ Church

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: 77