



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
READING, PENNSYLVANIA
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 26, 2026



*Yusuf and Zulaikha, Folio 51r from a Bustan of Sa'di (c. 1530s)
Unknown Iranian Artist, Bukhara School*

Behzad's famous 1488 composition of Yusuf fleeing Zulaikha's seven-room palace — read by Sufi poets as the soul finding its true gate through divine fidelity — inspired countless later versions, including this Bukhara folio. For John's 'I am the gate for the sheep,' the image of a figure moving through locked door after locked door toward freedom offers an unexpected but vivid visual parallel.

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED IN 1751

*The Rev. Hans E.
Becklin*
SENIOR PASTOR

*Deaconess Deborah
Matern Graf*
DEACON FOR
FORMATION
AND SERVICE

*Dr. Cameron
Lee Wentz*
CANTOR

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
COORDINATOR

Peter Graf
FINANCIAL
ADMINISTRATOR

Pam Wasmuth
BOOKKEEPER

John McKeon
PROPERTY MANAGER

Dave Troche
SEXTON



*The Rev. Fred S.
Opalinski*
PASTOR EMERITUS

*Karen S.
Eddinger*
MINISTER OF MUSIC
EMERITA



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY as we worship God through word and sacrament in this landmark building, home to our congregation since 1791. Our liturgy is rooted in tradition; all are welcome to participate as they feel comfortable.

TRINITY IS A VIBRANT CONGREGATION with members from around Berks County and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about membership, speak with a member of our staff.



DURING WORSHIP, we pray, sing, listen, chant, read, and move our bodies. Please silence your cell phone so as not to disturb this rich experience for yourself or others.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR WORSHIP is receiving the Eucharist, the true Body and Blood of Christ. All who trust that Jesus is present in this holy meal are invited to receive Him with us today. Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19 of the bulletin.



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



WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

OUR WORSHIP IS AN ACT OF OFFERING. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.



WE ALSO PRESENT our tithes and monetary offerings to God. During the offertory procession, they are brought forward along with the bread and wine used for the Eucharist.

WE NO LONGER pass an offering plate in the pew. However, an offering plate for cash or checks is available in the narthex. You can also share your offering electronically using this QR code.

The HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

PRELUDE

Meditation

Louis Vierne
(1870-1937)

*Please stand in body
or spirit and face the
processional cross.*

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, fountain of living water, source of mercy, tender and mighty, you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, satisfying the thirst of all living things, sustaining life in this community, nourishing and delighting us.

We bless you for these gifts of water: the Schuylkill River, Blue Marsh Lake, and Maiden Creek.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water, a sign of your saving power: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again. Your steadfast love fills the earth.
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism joined to your life-giving Word: your well of mercy and cleansing flood, your sea of deliverance from death into life, your healing river washing sin away, your living water springing up to eternal life.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (continued)

Shower us with your Holy Spirit.

Fill us with your love.

Clothe us and all your people with grace.

Embolden us to do justice.

Bless us to love mercy.

Guide us to walk humbly with you,

whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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.

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

ENTRANCE HYMN

The Day of Resurrection!

ELW 361

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in,
all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Text: John of
Damascus,
c. 696–c. 754;
tr. John Mason Neale,
1818–1866, alt.

Music: ELLACOMBE
German melody,
18th cent.; adapt.
X. L. Hartig,
*Melodien zum Mainzer
Gesangbuche*, 1833

*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.

O God our shepherd, you know
your sheep by name and lead us to
safety through the valleys of death.
Guide us by your voice, that we may
walk in certainty and security to the
joyous feast prepared in your house,

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

Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the
apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the
breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many
wonders and signs were being done through
the apostles. All who believed were together
and had all things in common; they would
sell their possessions and goods and
distribute the proceeds to all, as any had
need. Day by day, as they spent much time

together in the temple, they broke bread
at home and ate their food with glad and
generous hearts, praising God and having the
goodwill of all the people. And day by day
the Lord added to their number those who
were being saved.

Word of God. Word of life.

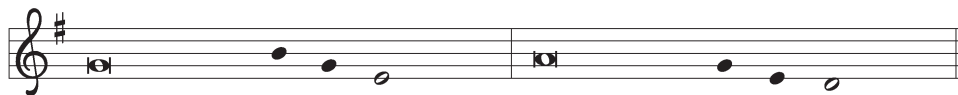
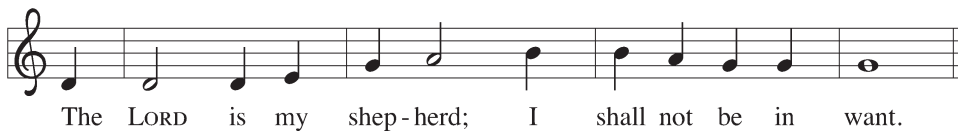
Thanks be to God.

*The choir introduces
the refrain.*

PSALM

Psalm 23

*The congregation
repeats the refrain
and sings the refrain
where indicated with
the symbol R.*



*The choir and
congregation chant
alternating verses.*

The Lord | is my shepherd;

I shall not | be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

You restore my | soul, O Lord,

and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall | fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever R

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Please stand
 in body or spirit to
 welcome the Gospel.*

*The congregation
 joins the choir
 in singing the
 acclamation
 and verse.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
 Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

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

Please be seated.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

SERMON

Pastor Hans E. Becklin

HYMN OF THE DAY

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

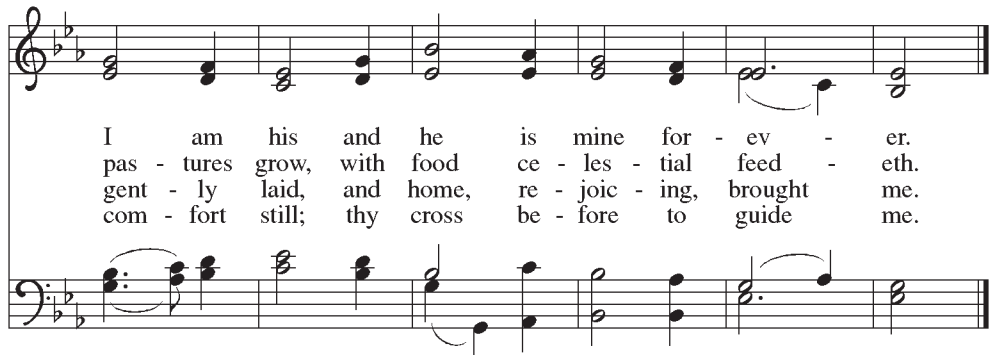
ELW 502



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker,
1821-1877

Music: ST.
COLUMBA
Irish tune

*Together, we confess
the faith of the
Church.*

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

*After the final
petition:*

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Dialogue & Preface

Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf

I won - der.____ I won - der.____ The won - ders of wor - ship,
what does it mean? I won - der.____ I won - der.____ The won - ders of wor - ship,
what does it mean? Come and see! Come now and see!

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ family and friends of Lynnn C., Rachel Gambone's father, who died this week.
- ♦ Carol P. Miller (former member, Pr Glenn Miller's wife)

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Cecilia, Jacinda, Josh & Christine Motley
- ♦ Linda Motley
- ♦ CJ, Cobi, & McKenzie Motley,
- Owen, Olivia, & Noah Redmond, Ben & Jen Motley
- ♦ Rodger & Chris Mountz

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ Linda Liptak
- ♦ Matt Sawyer and family
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ David Himes
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Amy Bornhofen

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

OFFERTORY

For The Bread Which You Have Broken

César Franck
(1822-1890)

Trinity Choir

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By your call to heav'n above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

As our blessed ones adore you, seated at our Father's board,
may the Church still waiting for you keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

In the world to which you send us, let your kingdom come, O Lord. Amen.

- Louis F. Benson

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits
of our labor, gathered to give you
glory. You have set a table before us,
a glimpse of that great day when we
will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and

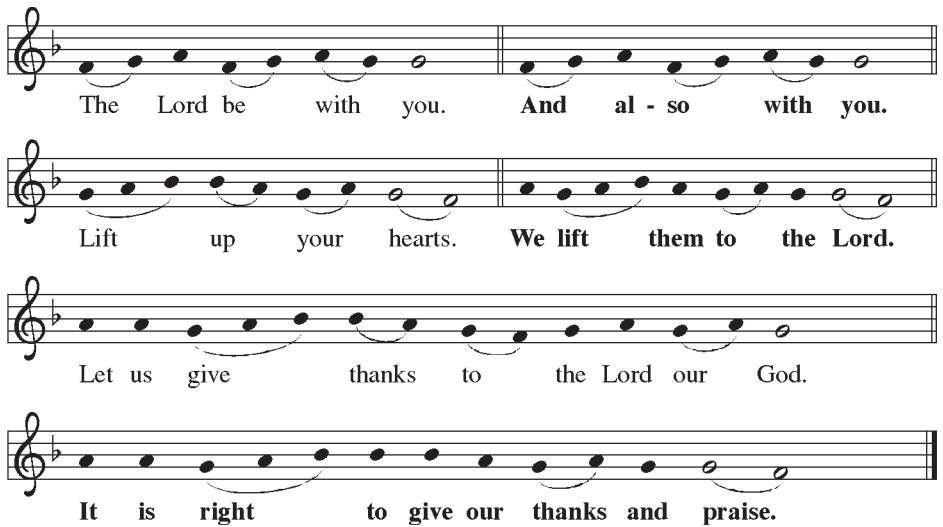
blood of Jesus, that goodness and
mercy may follow us and bless the
world you love.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

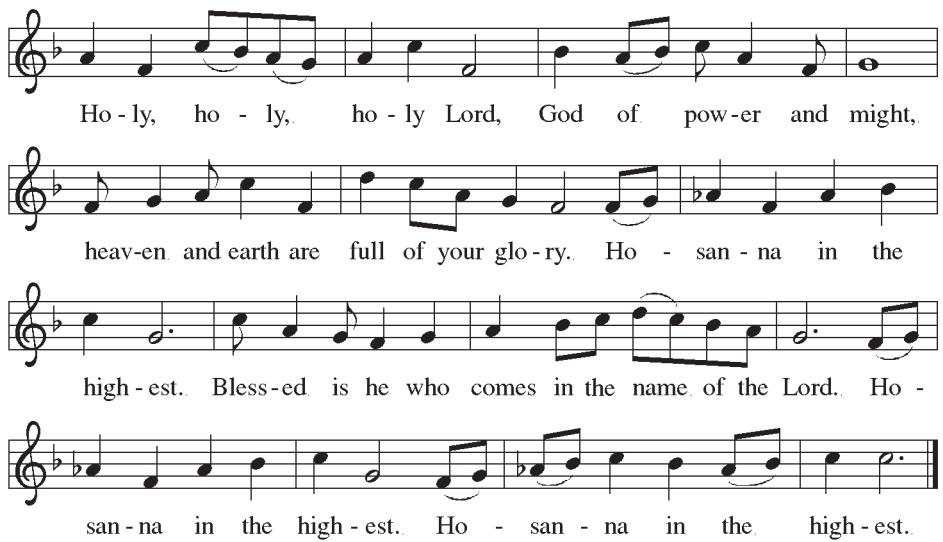


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy. . .
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God triune, how majestic is your name. . .
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus. . .
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

*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.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold. . .
we rise from our deaths to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.
The earth is full of your glory

Amen, and amen.
Amen, and amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.*

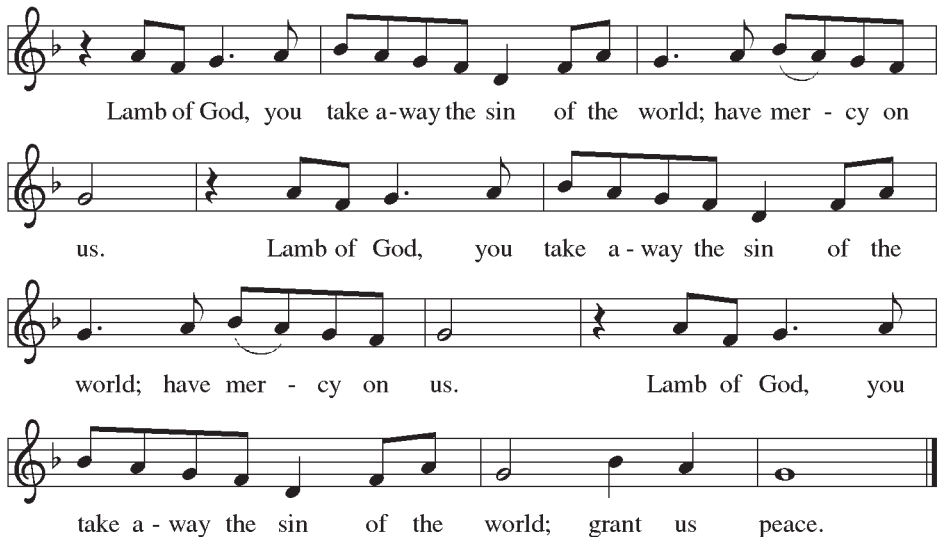
Please be seated.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

This hymn can be found in the red hymnal (ELW).

Please stand in body or spirit.

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

This hymn can be found on page 18.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

ELW 484

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.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

Send us now to speak peace to

anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

Amen.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, † bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Recessional in the English Style

Daniel E. Gawthrop
(b. 1949)

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

SENDING HYMN

Build a Longer Table

ACS 1062



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.

Text: David Bjorlin,
b. 1984

Music: NOËL
NOUVELET
French carol



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.

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Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

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

Pr. Hans Becklin

USHERS

Nancy Everson & Allison Kalbach

ASSISTING MINISTER

Donna Osborne

MEDIA TEAM

Anna Litvinov, Grace Norton-Ritz

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

Jorge Tomás

LECTOR

Steve Hofmann

ALTAR GUILD

Berni Ilgen, Jacinda Motley,

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Amy Litvinov

Josh Motley, Linda Motley, Charlie Norton,

ACOLYTE

Abbie Smith

Robin Oberholtzer, Beth Welz

GREETER

Anita Dolak

WORSHIP PLANNERS

Jon & Rita Dienst

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

MARIAN JAMESON AND FAMILY
in loving memory of Bob Jameson

VIRGINIA BINIEK
in memory of Robert and Helen Biniek

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

11:30 AM

WORSHIP & MUSIC - Bard House

OUTREACH & SERVICE - Welcome Center

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

4:00 PM

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY CHOIR - Nave

5:30 PM

STRONGER TOGETHER WBMD

YOUTH PIZZA AND GAME NIGHT

Atonement Lutheran

MONDAY, APRIL 27

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

2:00 PM

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

12:05

NOONDAY RECITAL: BEFORE AND AFTER
SUMMER; JONATHAN MORTENSEN, BARITONE
Nave

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

SUNDAY, MAY 3

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room

EVANGELISM & MEDIA COMMITTEE

Conference Room

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE & TRINITY RINGERS - Nave

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, APRIL 19

In-person: 93

Online: 132