



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
READING, PENNSYLVANIA
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026



Christ Healing the Blind (c. 1570)

El Greco (Domenikos Theotokopoulos) (1541–1614)

El Greco's swirling gestures and stretched figures feel like illumination breaking into a crowded street. The scene's urgency mirrors John's insistence that sight is more than eyesight—it's a new way of seeing the world.

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.

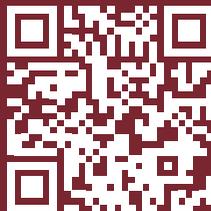


WE WELCOME ALL LGBTQ+ people as full participants in our common life. We're proud to proclaim this publicly in our city and wider church as a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

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.

Young people come forward as the congregation sings a refrain. During this time, we learn about the liturgy together.

Please kneel or remain seated.

The ministers gather at the baptismal font.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

Kyrie

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that
deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of
hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your
coming reign, and for hindering the
work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-
serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water
Christ offers: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the
margin, and for distrusting signs of
your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-
pity and discontent, and for
disregarding Christ's call to come
forth to life: Gracious God,
**have mercy on us according to
your steadfast love.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (continued)

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

KYRIE (continued)



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer-cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer-cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

*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 leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.

Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world

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

Amen.

READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height

of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God. Word of life.

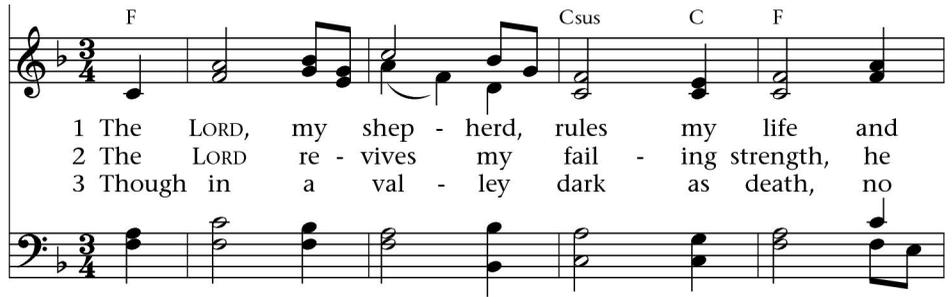
Thanks be to God.

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

*During Lent, we
sing the psalm using
metrical settings from
a variety of sources.*

PSALM & GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 23



1 The LORD, my shep - herd, rules my life and
2 The LORD re - vives my fail - ing strength, he
3 Though in a val - ley dark as death, no

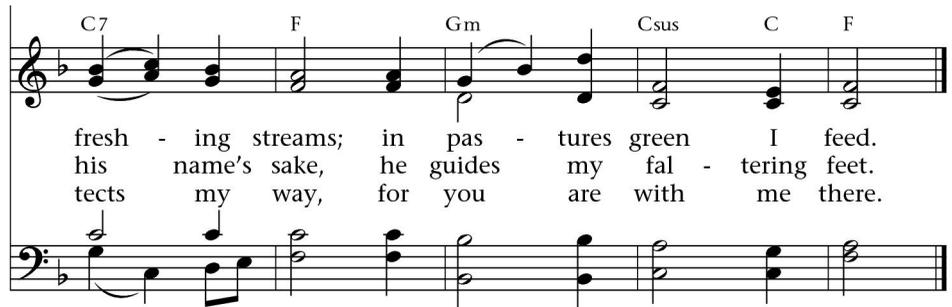


gives me all I need; he leads me by re -
makes my joy com - plete; and in right paths, for
e - vil makes me fear; your shep - herd's staff pro -

Text: Christopher Idle,
b. 1938

Music: CRIMOND
Jessie Seymour Irvine,
1836-1887;
harm. David Grant,
1833-1893

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Hope Publishing
Company.



fresh - ing streams; in pas - tures green I feed.
his name's sake, he guides my fal - tering feet.
tects my way, for you are with me there.

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

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

Please be seated.

SERMON

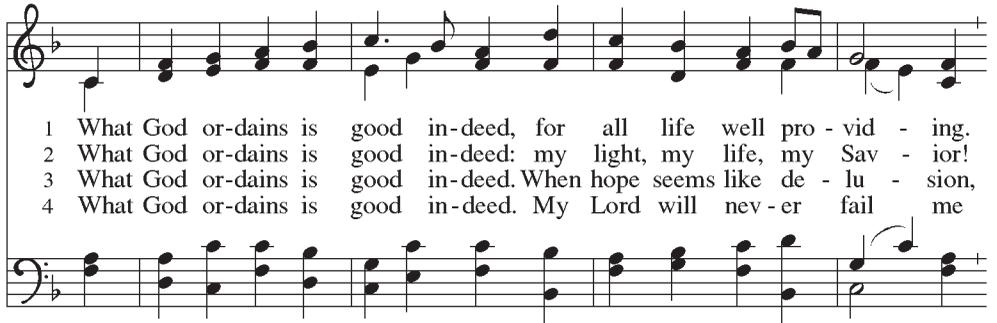
Pastor Hans E. Becklin

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

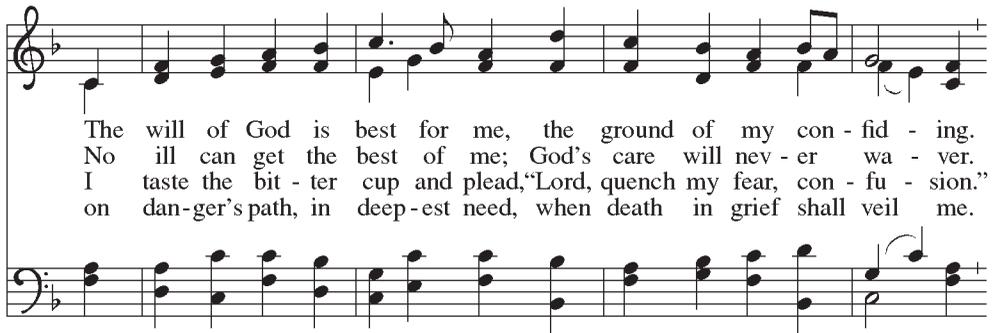
HYMN OF THE DAY

What God Ordains is Good Indeed

ELW 776



1 What God or-dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
2 What God or-dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
3 What God or-dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
4 What God or-dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



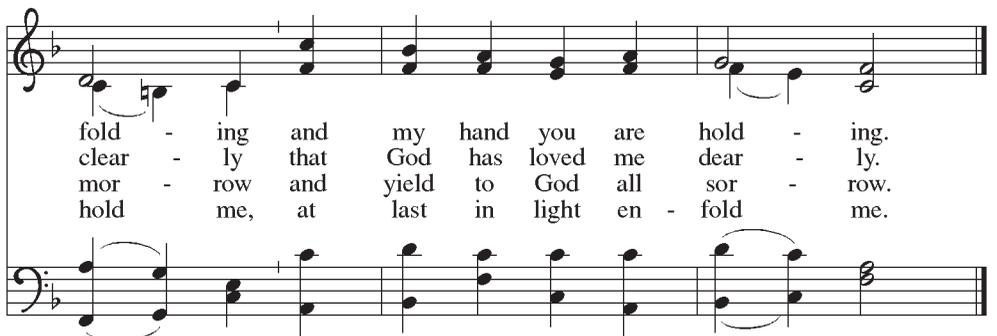
The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
on dan-ger's path, in deep-est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will

Text: Samuel Rodigast,
1649-1708;
tr. Martin A. Seltz,
b. 1951

Music: WAS GOTT
TUT
Severus Gastorius,
1646-1682



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: © 2000 Augsburg
Fortress

*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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*After a brief silence
each petition
concludes:*

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

*After the final
petition:*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

*Please greet one
another and then
be seated.*

PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN OUR PRAYERS

IN IMMEDIATE NEED

- ♦ Lisa Speece
- ♦ Barbara Ketchum
- ♦ Larry Kummerer
- ♦ Darryl Jeffries
- ♦ David Himes

TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

- ♦ Jacob & David Himes, Amy Stewart-Himes
- ♦ Thomas, Mark, Erica & Steve Hofmann
- ♦ Jerry & Carolyn Holleran
- ♦ Donna Horst
- ♦ Allison Huyett

ONGOING NEEDS

- ♦ Harry Feinauer
- ♦ Frances Frezeman
- ♦ Christine Motley
- ♦ Walter Schur
- ♦ David Strobel
- ♦ Dar Unger
- ♦ Rob Unger
- ♦ Donnie Diesinger
- ♦ Yadar
- ♦ Marian Jameson
- ♦ Dee Horst
- ♦ Peggy Bobb
- ♦ Mary Drehs
- ♦ Jerry Holleran
- ♦ Matt Sawyer and family
- ♦ Linda Liptak

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

OFFERTORY

O Ye That Love the Lord

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
(1875-1912)

Trinity Choir

O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil.
The Lord preserveth the souls of his saints;
he shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly.
Amen.

*Please stand
in body or spirit.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

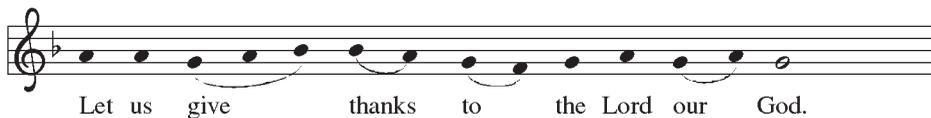
O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all
creation.

You send rain and sunshine to
nourish the earth and bring forth
its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and
wine, draw us into the death and
life of your Son, who calls us to bear
witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

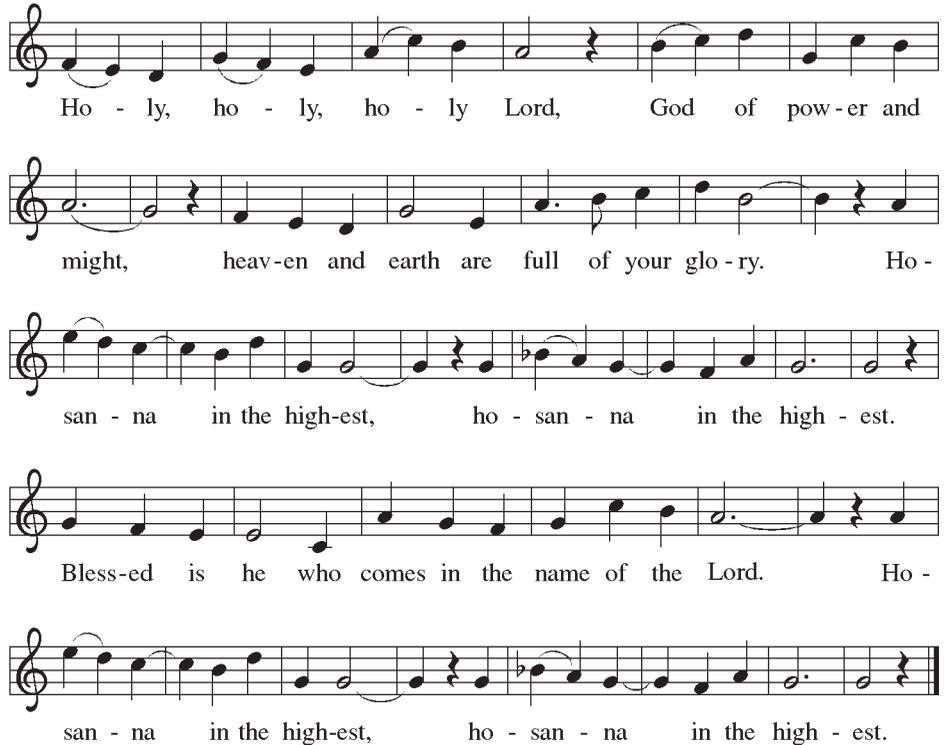
*The presider greets
the assembly and
invites all to give
thanks.*



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, 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

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son . . .
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

HE IS THE ONE WHO, HANDED OVER TO A DEATH HE FREELY ACCEPTED,
IN ORDER TO DESTROY DEATH, TO BREAK THE BONDS OF THE EVIL ONE,
TO CRUSH HELL UNDERFOOT, TO GIVE LIGHT TO THE RIGHTEOUS,
TO ESTABLISH HIS COVENANT, AND TO SHOW FORTH THE
RESURRECTION,
TAKING BREAD AND GIVING THANKS TO YOU, SAID:
TAKE AND EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, GIVEN FOR YOU.
DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

*During the Words of
Institution, the bread
and wine are elevated
for the congregation
to revere and adore
Christ's presence in
our midst.*

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (continued)

IN THE SAME WAY 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, then, his death and resurrection. . .
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*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, grant us peace.

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

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

*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.

God of our salvation, we give you
thanks for this meal that restores
our souls, reconciles us to you, and
strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of
your Son, may we become Christ's

body in the world, bearing witness
to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING OF LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you
sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth
to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound.
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

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

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

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

Face the processional
cross, turning as it
passes you.

SENDING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

Text: John Newton,
1725-1807, alt.,
sts. 1-4;
anonymous, st. 5

Music:
NEW BRITAIN
W. Walker,
Southern Harmony,
1835;
arr. Edwin O. Excell,
1851-1921, alt.

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fuga from Sonata No. 6

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP SONG

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!

SOURCES AND PERMISSIONS

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WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

In-person: 76

Online: 40

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

In-person: 13

LENTEN OFFERING SUPPORTS LIGHTHOUSE

Through our special Lenten offerings, Trinity continues to support the ministry of the LightHouse Women's and Children's Center as we fulfill our pledge to sponsor a room. LightHouse Center provides a safe home and holistic support for women and their kids as they work towards healthy, independent living. <https://www.hopeforreading.org/lighthouse>



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 E. Becklin

USHERS

Lawrence Fredericks, Andrew Smith

ASSISTING MINISTER

Hannah Long

Joseph Speece

CANTOR

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz

MEDIA TEAM

Declan Rosenbaum, Amy Bornhofen

LECTOR

Hannah Long

Veronika Shick

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Steve Hofmann

ALTAR GUILD

Bob Hetico, Allison Kalbach,

ACOLYTE

Abbie Smith

Amy Litvinov, Cheryl Moody,

GREETER

Robert Brems

Brooke Rosenbaum, Doris Strobel

WORSHIP PLANNER

Mike Faust

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

SANDRA SITTLER

In loving memory of her niece, Carol Smith Reed

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM
Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

COFFEE & CONVERSATION - Hintz Room
OUTREACH & SERVICE - Conference Room

11:30 AM

MIXED ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL - Bard House

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 16

1:00 PM

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM

VESTRY - All Saints Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

12:05 PM

LENTEN MIDDAY WORSHIP - Chapel

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell Room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

4:00 PM

PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Conference Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

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

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.

