

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Lectionary 29 October 19, 2025



The Unjust Judge and the Importunate Widow After Sir John Everett Millais (1829–1896)

For Luke 18:1-8, Millais' Pre-Raphaelite clarity dignifies a persistent widow amid bureaucratic stone. The 1864 print—part of a parables series—models public pressure for justice; its crisp line and everyday textures translate the parable into Victorian civic ethics. Millais' naturalism blends narrative clarity with moral force.

# WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1751

The Rev. Hans E.

Becklin
Senior Pastor

Deaconess Deborah

Matern Graf

Deacon for

Formation

AND Service

Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz Cantor

Matthew Mellen
DIRECTOR OF
TECHNOLOGY AND
COMMUNICATION

Rachel Gambone
Congregational Life
Coordinator

Peter Graf Financial Administrator

Pam Wasmuth

John McKeon Property Manager

> Dave Troche Sexton

+ + +

The Rev. Fred S.

Opalinski
PASTOR EMERITUS

Karen S. Eddinger Minister of Music Emerita



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

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



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

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



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



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



Our worship is an act of offering. By being here, we present ourselves and our time to God.

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

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

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT 10:00 A.M.

Congregational words are in bold print.

After the prelude, please stand in body or spirit and face the processional cross.

PRELUDE

No. 3 from Four Fleeting Pieces

Clara Schumann

The congregational song can be found on page. 18.

SONG: THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

The Wonders of Worship: Invocation/Sign of the Cross

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and

forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Iesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of  $\dotplus$  Jesus, your sins are forgiven! Amen.

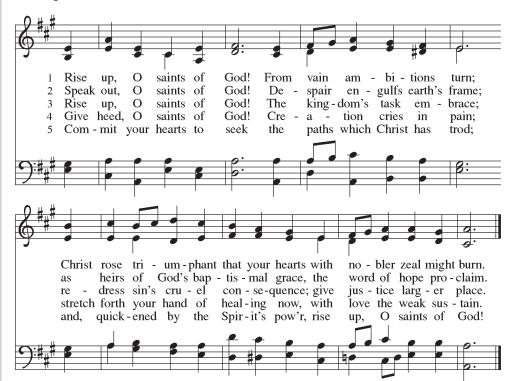
Rise Up, O Saints of God

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

Text: Norman O. Forness, 1936-2009

Music: FESTAL SONG William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress



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.

# Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.** 

Let us pray.

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### FIRST READING

The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let

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

# Genesis 32:22-31

you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The choir introduces the refrain.

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

The choir and congregation sing alternating verses

PSALM

Psalm 121





I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come?

My help comes | from the Lord, the maker of heav- | en and earth.

The Lord will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R

the Lord watches | over you;
the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;
the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.

The Lord will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.

The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in, from this time forth for-| evermore.  $\mathbb{R}$ 

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I

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

solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.



GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

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

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps

bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Al - le - lu

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor John Richter

ia.

Please stand in body or spirit.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770





Text: African American spiritual

Music: GIVE ME JESUS African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version

> Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

# Apostles' Creed

Together, we confess the faith of the Church. 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

After a brief silence each petition concludes:

After the final petition:

God of grace, receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please greet one another and then be seated.

The offering, bread,

and wine are

brought forward

and the altar is set.

#### **PEACE**

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

#### Announcements

#### **OFFERTORY**

Psalm 131 Nathan Carter

# Trinity Choir

Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.

Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned from its mother:

My soul is even as a weaned child.

Let Israel hope in the Lord from hencefoth and forever, Amen.

#### IN OUR PRAYERS

# In Immediate Need

- Peg ColemanFamily & friends of Nancy Nagle
- Barbara Graf (Peter's mother)
- Suzy Evans

# TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS

• Danielle, Abbie, Andrew & Jennifer Smith • Michael, Anne, & Brandon Pruss, & Kristen Sonon • George & Pam

Sonon

 Faye, Quillan, Kristin & Tom Soper
 Tom & Louise Souders

# Ongoing Needs

- Harry Feinauer Linda Motley
- Nancy Souders-
- Negri & Fred Negri

   Walter Schur
  - Yadar
- Hildegard Pohl
- Susan TemplinDar Unger
- Noah Kaufmann
- David Strobel
- Danielle Andress

- Carlton Palmer
- Christine Motley
- Raymond Donald
- Diesinger
   Frances Frezeman
  - Darryl Jeffries
  - Mary Drehs
  - Carol BatdorfDavid Ruth
    - Brenda G.
  - Wesley Miller

Please stand in body or spirit.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

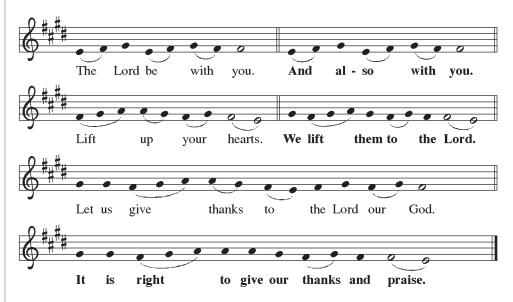
Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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,

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;

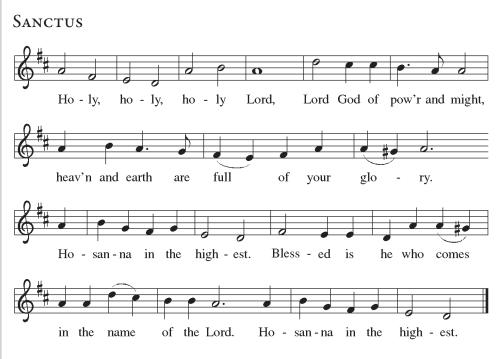
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

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:



# 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

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

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Silence is kept as the bread is broken.

Please be seated.

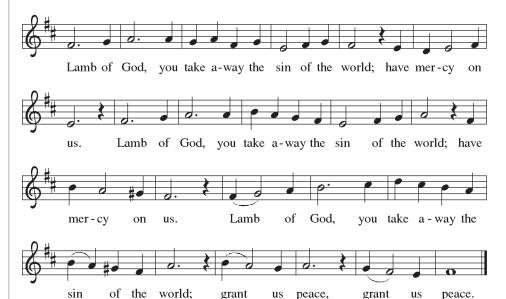
Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19.

#### Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

# LAMB OF GOD



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

# Music during Distribution

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

**ELW 800** 

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, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good and to share our

possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

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

# BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

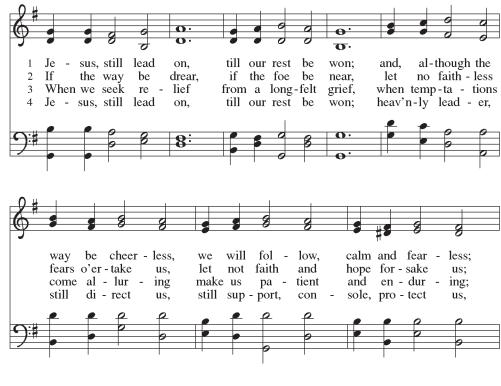
Amen.

16

#### SENDING HYMN

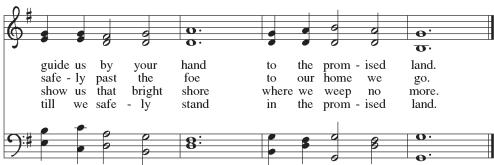
Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW 624



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

> Music: SEELEN-BRÄUTIGAM Adam Drese, 1620-1701



# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

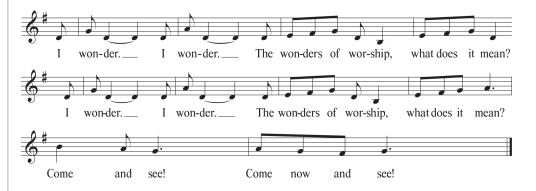
Thanks be to God.

# POSTLUDE

Prelude & Fugue in G Major

J.S. Bach

# THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP



I wonder...

From October to June our Teaching Time will happen at various times and places in the liturgy. We will be using various art forms (visual imagery, music, movement, words) for praise, prayer, and proclamation that both nourishes and is nourished by children. The simple song by Ann Krentz Organ will be the signal for kids to come forward.

Trinity has been selected to participate in this pilot project of Nourishing Vocation with Children through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN. "The Wonders of Worship" seeks to connect the Word of God with the worship of God with the world of God, thereby accompanying children in Christian congregations as they grow in their capacity to know, love, and serve God by nourishing their active engagement in, and contributions to, arts-enriched intergenerational, congregational worship and prayer.

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#### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 12: 88

#### 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.

#### 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
Cantor
Lector
Communion Assistant
ACOLYTE
Greeter

Pr. John Richter
Donna Osborne
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Hannah Long
Amy Bornhofen
William Norton-Ritz
Mae Sunderland

USHERS Allison Kalbach
MEDIA TEAM Declan Rosenbaum,
Danielle & Abbie Smith
ALTAR GUILD Bernadette Ilgen, Charlene Norton,

Jacinda, Josh, & Linda Motley, Beth Welz,

Robin Oberholtzer,

Worship Planner Beth Welz

# Worship Sponsors

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

PAT PERFECT in loving memory of her mother, Marjorie Louise Hendel Perfect

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM Hintz Room

10:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

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

12:00 рм

FFA: Dogs in Space Puppet Show - Nave NEPA LLM Worship Retreat

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

# Monday, October 20

1:00 рм

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

7:00 PM

VESTRY - All Saints Room

# Tuesday, October 21

9:30 AM

STAFF MEETING

# Wednesday, October 22

6:30 рм

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell room

7:30 pm

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

10:00 AM

REFRESH BERKS SHOWER TRAILER - Parking Lot

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM Hintz Room

10:00 ам

REFORMATION SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

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

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

#### Wonders of Worship Image

