

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Reformation Sunday October 26, 2025



Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms Anton von Werner (1843–1915)

Von Werner's 1877 historical painting captures Luther standing before the Emperor at Worms, his stance upright and defiant, visualizing the Reformation's theme of freedom in the truth. The careful academic style, popular in 19th-century Germany, imbues the scene with solemnity and civic pride, linking the Reformation's theological courage to modern ideals of conscience and justice.

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

Prelude, Fugue, & Chaconne

Dieterich Buxtehude

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.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Jesus Christ came into the
world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.
In the name of + Jesus, your sins
are forgiven!

Amen.

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

Verse 1: All Voices Verse 2: Choir Verse 3: All Voices Verse 4: All Voices

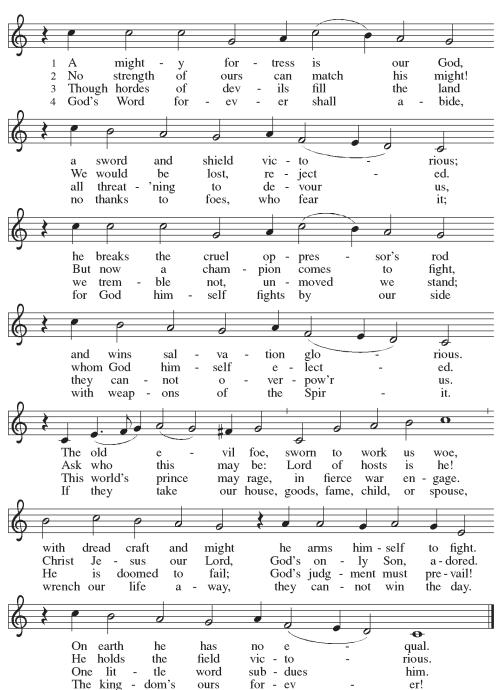
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

Music: EIN FESTE BURG Martin Luther

Text © Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



ELW 503

This prayer relates to the readings appointed for the day and asks for God's help in applying them to our lives.

Please be seated.

The congregational song can be found on page. 18.

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.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies

of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG: THE WONDERS OF WORSHIP

TEACHING TIME FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

The Wonders of Worship: Word

FIRST READING

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house

Jeremiah 31:31-34 of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write

it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life.

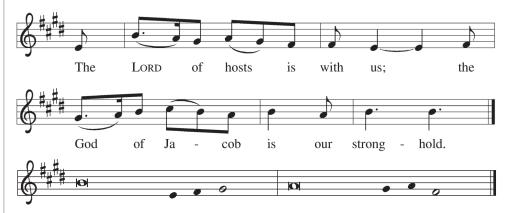
Thanks be to God.

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 46

God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;

though its waters | rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken; God shall help it at the | break of day.

The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R

The Lord of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

Come now, regard the works | of the Lord, what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;

behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."

The Lord of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold R

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the

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

redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand in body or spirit to welcome the Gospel.





GOSPEL John 8:31-36

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

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.

The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Fred Opalinski

Verse 1: All Voices
Verse 2: Lower Voices,
ALL join at "All
men and women..."
Verse 3: Upper Voices,
ALL join at "To all
the world..."
Verse 4: All Voices

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ Dale Wood, 1934-

Text and music © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress Rise, Shine, You People!



2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing; 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,

e brate; your ban - ners high un furl ing, Fa - ther Tell how the sent the Son to save us.



him is our hu - man sto - ry; God in cen - tered. He comes to free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. he brings us All men and your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark-ness hurl - ing. То all the Son, who life and free-dom gave Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur-round-ed, wom-en, who by guilt are driv-en, world go out and tell the sto-ry Spir-it calls from ev-'ry na-tion

with grace un - bound-ed. now are for - giv - en. of Je - sus' glo - ry. God's new cre - a - tion.

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Kyle Pederson

Trinity Choir

Peter Graf, guitar & Sandra Sittler, piano

A Mighty Fortress is our God, a refuge never failing. Our helper He amid the flood of mortal winds prevailing. For still our spirit's foes doth seek to work us woe; They lure with pow'r so great, with judgment and with hate; Shield us e'er, guard us as Thy own.

If we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing. Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing. You ask who this may be? Christ Jesus it is He. Emmanuel His name, from age to age the same; Who was, Who is, Who e'er shall be.

Thy Word above all earthly pow'r; Thy Love above all earthly pow'r; Thy Hope above all earthly pow'r; My God above all earthly pow'r. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill, God's truth abideth still. The Kingdom is forever.

IN OUR PRAYERS ONGOING NEEDS IN IMMEDIATE NEED Peg Coleman • Barbara Graf • Harry Feinauer Darryl Jeffries • Walter Schur (Peter's mother) Mary Drehs Carol Batdorf Yadar Hildegard Pohl David Ruth • Susan Templin • Brenda G. TRINITY HOUSEHOLDS Dar Unger Wesley Miller Noah Kaufmann Christina • Fred & Nancy David & Michelle David Strobel McMahon Souders-Negri Spanier • Joey, Rob, Kate, Danielle Andress • Marley, Julia, Raymond Donald Allison & Jason Joe & Lisa Speece • Herb & Katie Diesinger Spangler

Stine

• Frances Frezeman

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

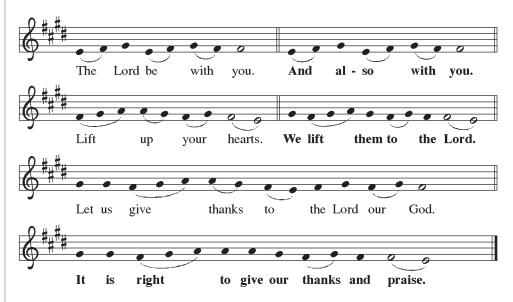
Let us pray.

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;

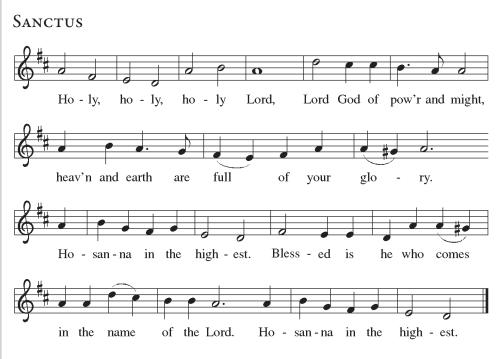
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

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.

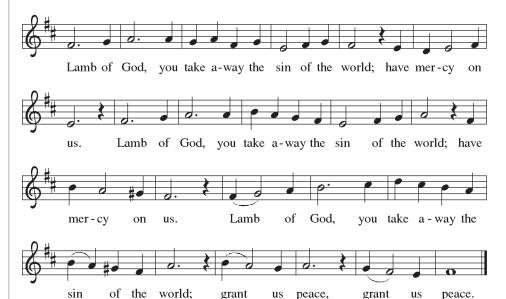
Detailed instructions for communion can be found on page 19.

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

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word

ELW 517

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.

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

BLESSING

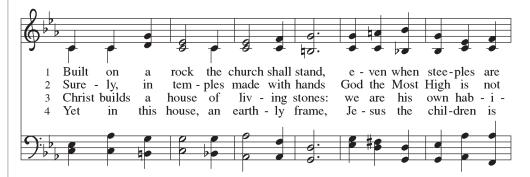
The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

d SENDING HYMN

Built on a Rock

ELW 652



Face the processional cross, turning as it passes you.



Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.

Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

5 Through all the passing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are ringing, many may come to hear your Word, who here this promise is bringing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Amen."

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

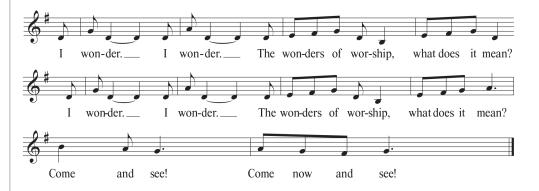
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata from Suite Gothique

Léon Boëllmann

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.

Sources and Permissions

Liturgical components are from Sundays and Seasons © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies. Annual License #22196. Hymns reprinted under ONE LICENSE #A-727586.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, October 19: 96

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	Dcs
CANTOR	I
Lector	
Communion Assistant	
ACOLYTE	
Greeter	

Pr. Fred Opalinski
Dcs. Deborah Matern Graf
Dr. Cameron Lee Wentz
Amy Litvinov
Jeff Wasmuth
Declan Rosenbaum
Lawrence Fredericks

USHERS Erica Hofmann, Pam Wasmuth
MEDIA TEAM Jorge Tomás, Amy Bornhofen,
Anna Litvinov, Grace Norton-Ritz
ALTAR GUILD Bernadette Ilgen, Charlene Norton,

Jacinda, Josh, & Linda Motley, Beth Welz, Robin Oberholtzer,

WORSHIP PLANNER Program Staff

WORSHIP SPONSORS

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

THE SILVERMAN FAMILY
In memory of loved ones from the Silverman Family

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM Hintz Room

10:00 AM

REFORMATION SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

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

2:00 PM

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

Monday, October 27

1:00 рм

PROGRAM STAFF MEETING

Tuesday, October 28

9:30 ам

STAFF MEETING

2:15 рм

WOMEN OF TLC BIBLE STUDY - The Highlands

Wednesday, October 29

12:05 рм

NOONDAY RECITAL: BRANDI DIGGS, SOPRANO

6:30 PM

TRINITY RINGERS - Bell room

7:30 PM

TRINITY CHOIR - Bard House

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

10:00 AM

Refresh Berks Shower Trailer - Parking Lot

Sunday, November 2

9:00 AM

TRINITY TOGETHER SUNDAY FORUM Hintz Room

10:00 AM

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WORSHIP - Nave

11:15 AM

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

2:00 рм

COMMON GROUND WORSHIP AND MEAL

5:00 рм

ALL SAINTS VESPERS SERVICE - Nave

Wonders of Worship: Word

