The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity
Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 30, 2026

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

GATHERING — *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:
Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake ..... Robert J. Powell
Jesus, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (John Smith, Bass) ..... Robert Lau

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

✢*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,✢ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
All: Amen.

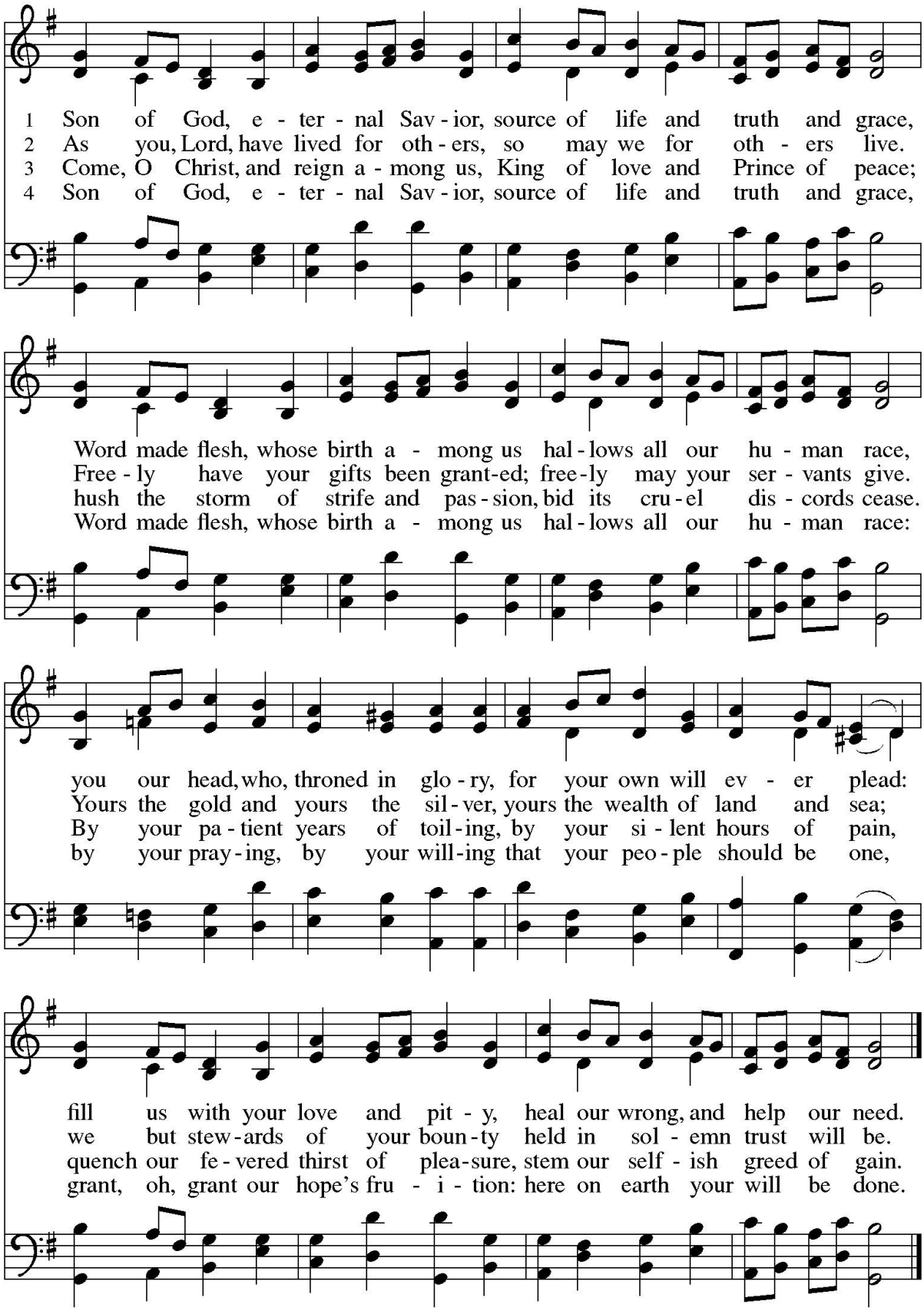
P: Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,
All: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

P: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✢ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Son of God, Eternal Savior* ..... **ELW 655**

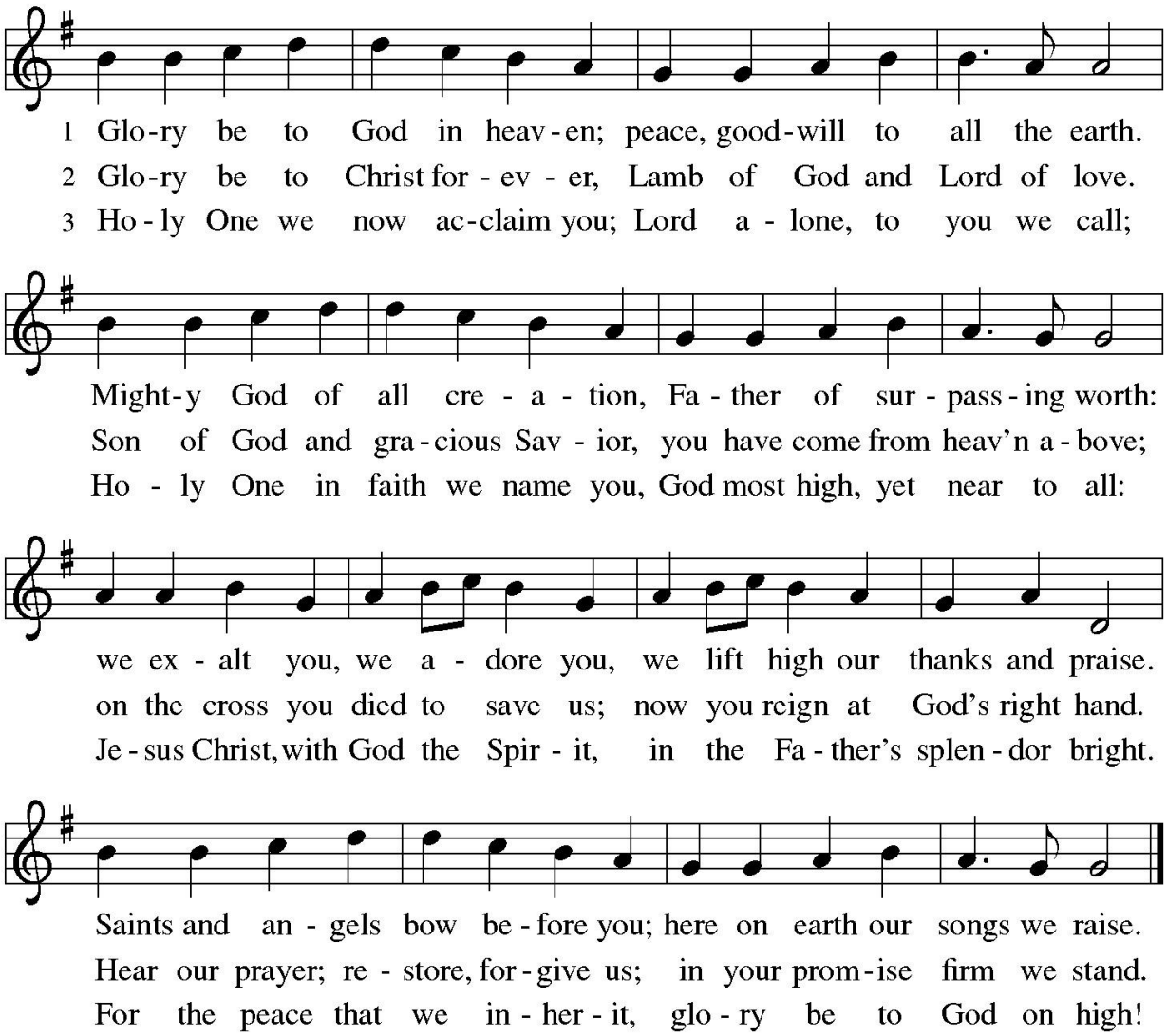


GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Glory be to God*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray… O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

The congregation sits.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

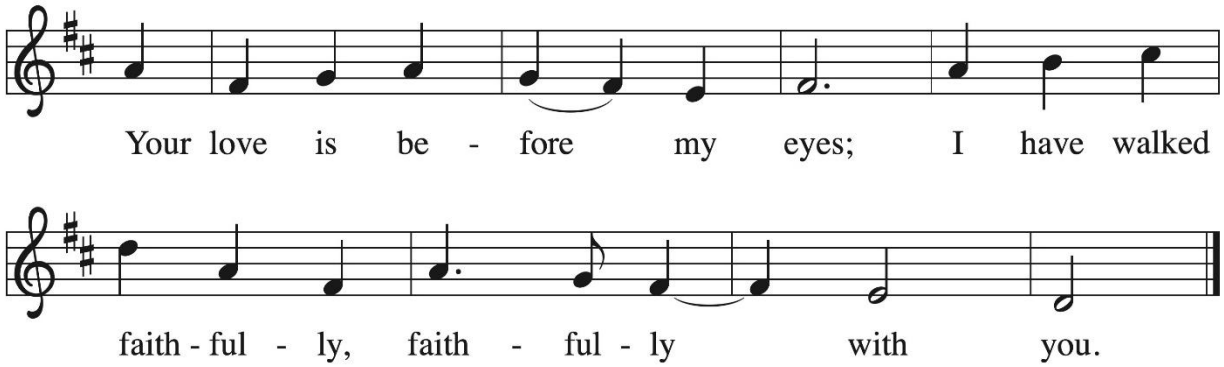
15 O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
16 Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
17 I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
18 Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

19 Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
20 And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.
21 I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

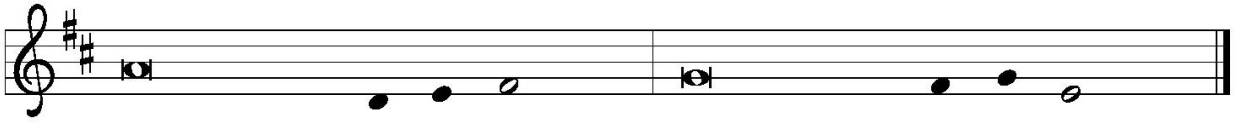
L: Word of God, word of life.
All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 26 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses)*

Refrain:



Verse:



[1] Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.
[2] **Test me, O | LORD, and try me;**
examine my heart | and my mind.
[3] For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.
[4] **I have not sat | with the worthless,**
nor do I consort with | the deceitful. R
[5] I have hated the company of | evildoers;
I will not sit down | with the wicked.
[6] **I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,**
that I may go in procession | round your altar,
[7] singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.
[8] **LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell**
and the place where your glo- | ry abides. R

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

[9] Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; [10] love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. [11] Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. [12] Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. [13] Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. [17] Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. [18] If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with

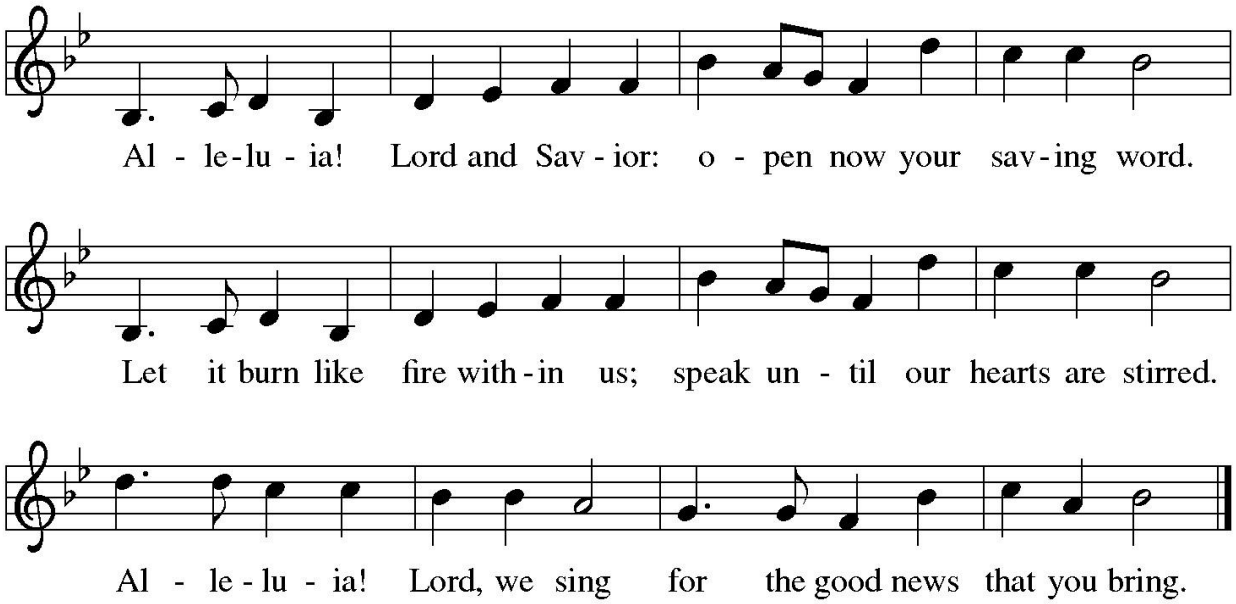
all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written,
"Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." [20] Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if
they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their
heads." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: Word of God, word of life.
All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia*

Refrain:



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

[21] From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his
disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief
priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. [22] And Peter took him aside and began to
rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." [23] But he turned and said to
Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine
things but on human things."

[24] Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me. [25] For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their
life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their
life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

[27] "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. [28] Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

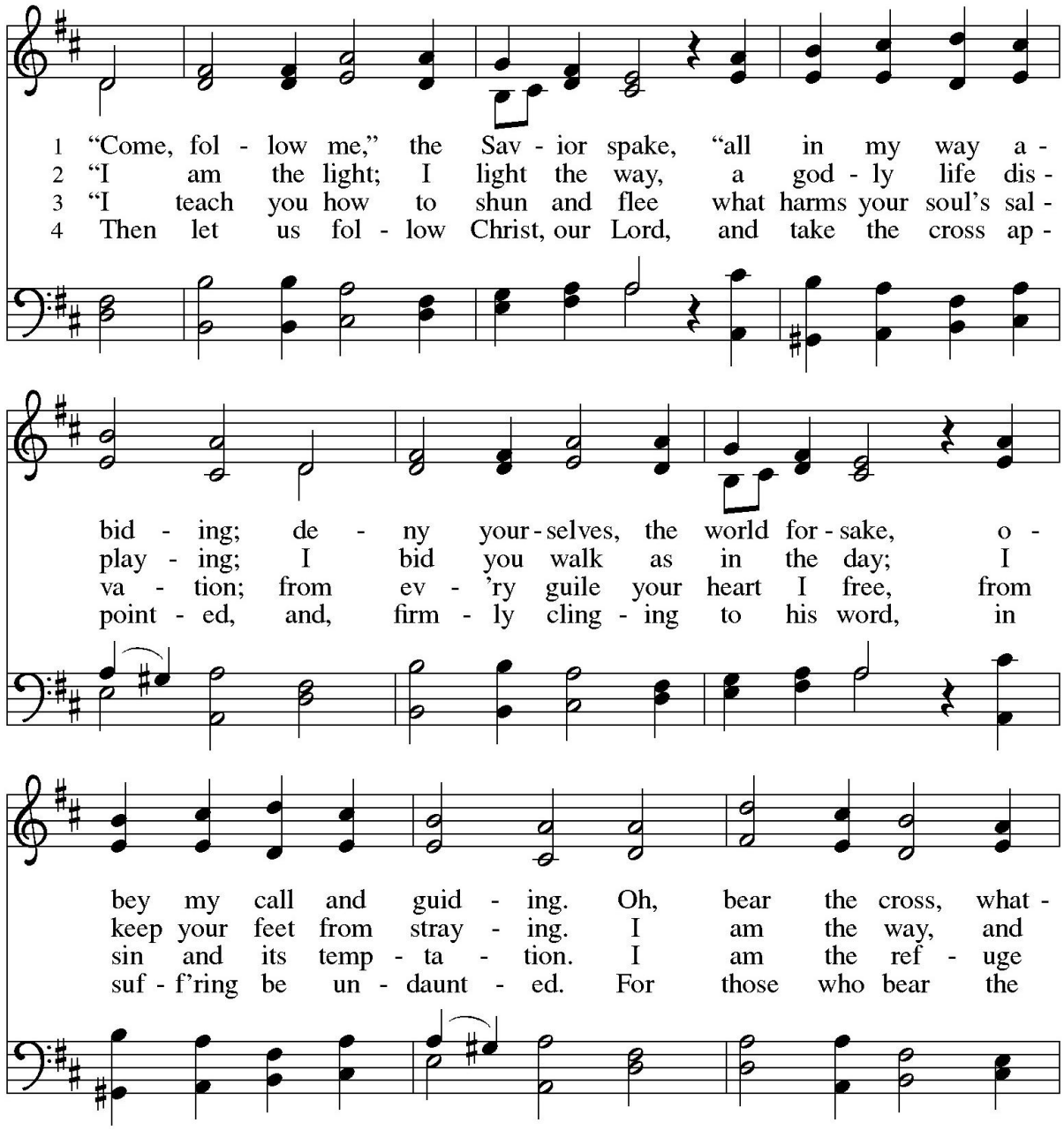
The congregation sits.

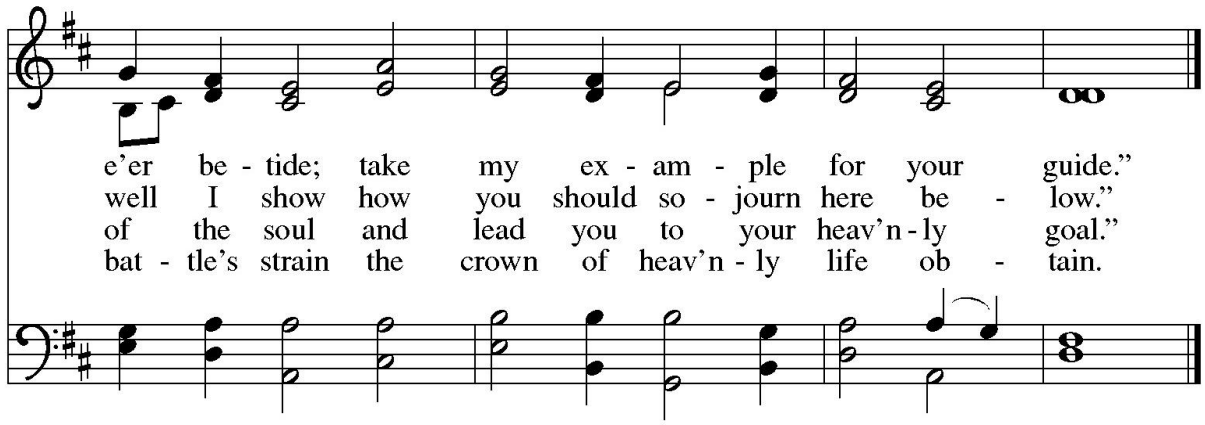
SERMON

Silence is kept for reflection.

The congregation stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake* ..... **ELW 799**





Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.
Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, 1555–1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586–1630

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.

The congregation sits.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Merciful God,
All: receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
All: And also with you.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plates at the entrance to worship or in the narthex. Or scan the QR Code.

OFFERTORY HYMN: *Come Let Us Eat* ..... **ELW 491**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

The congregation stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: Let us pray... God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

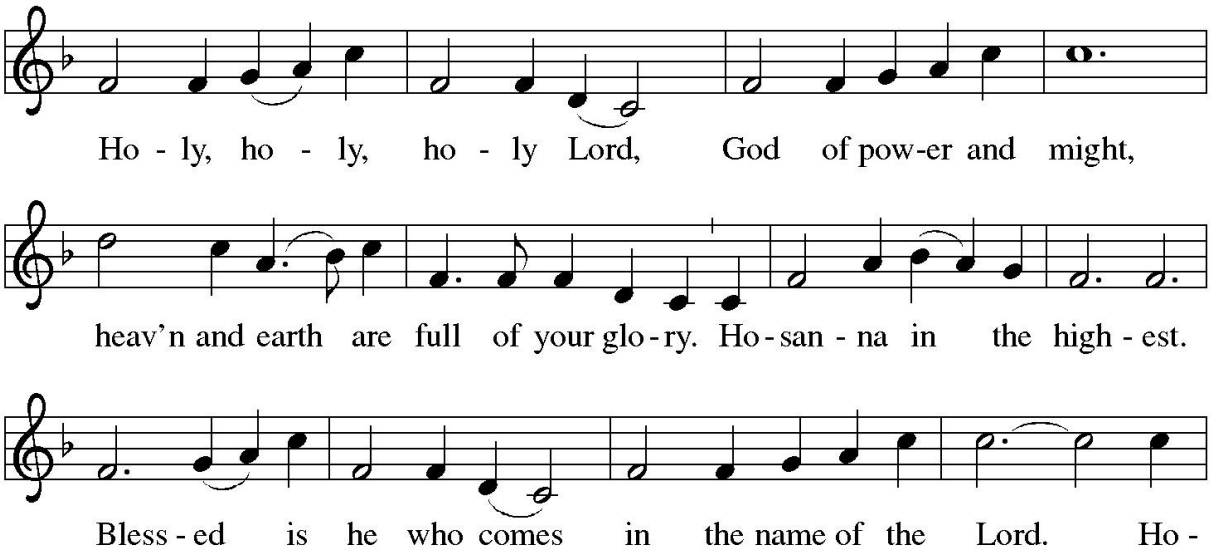
P: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.

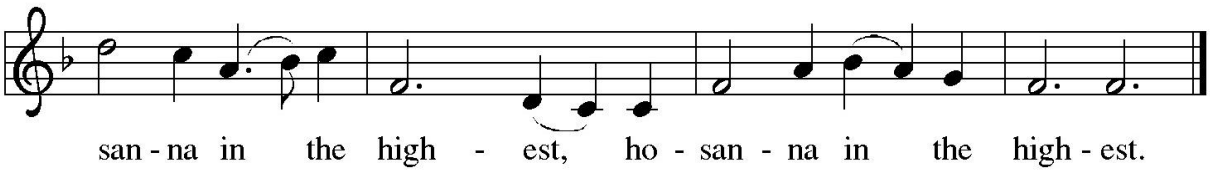
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: ….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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign…
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

All: Amen. Come, Lord, Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

All: Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

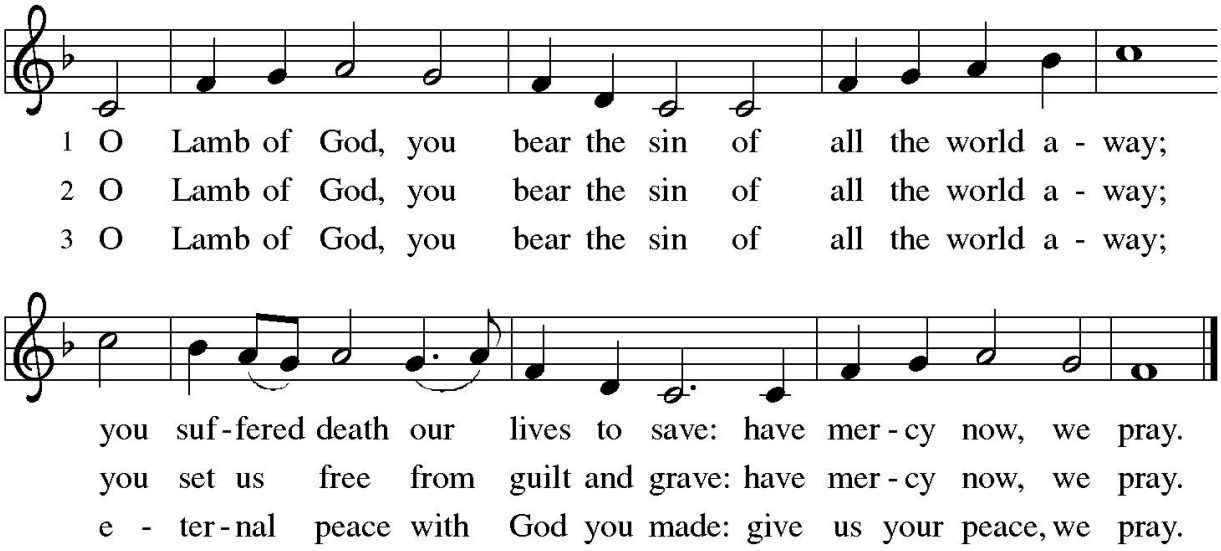
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Heaven has come near. Come share the feast.

All: Thanks be to God.

The congregation sits.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC: *Bread of Life (John Smith, Bass)* .....Joel Raney

The congregation stands.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

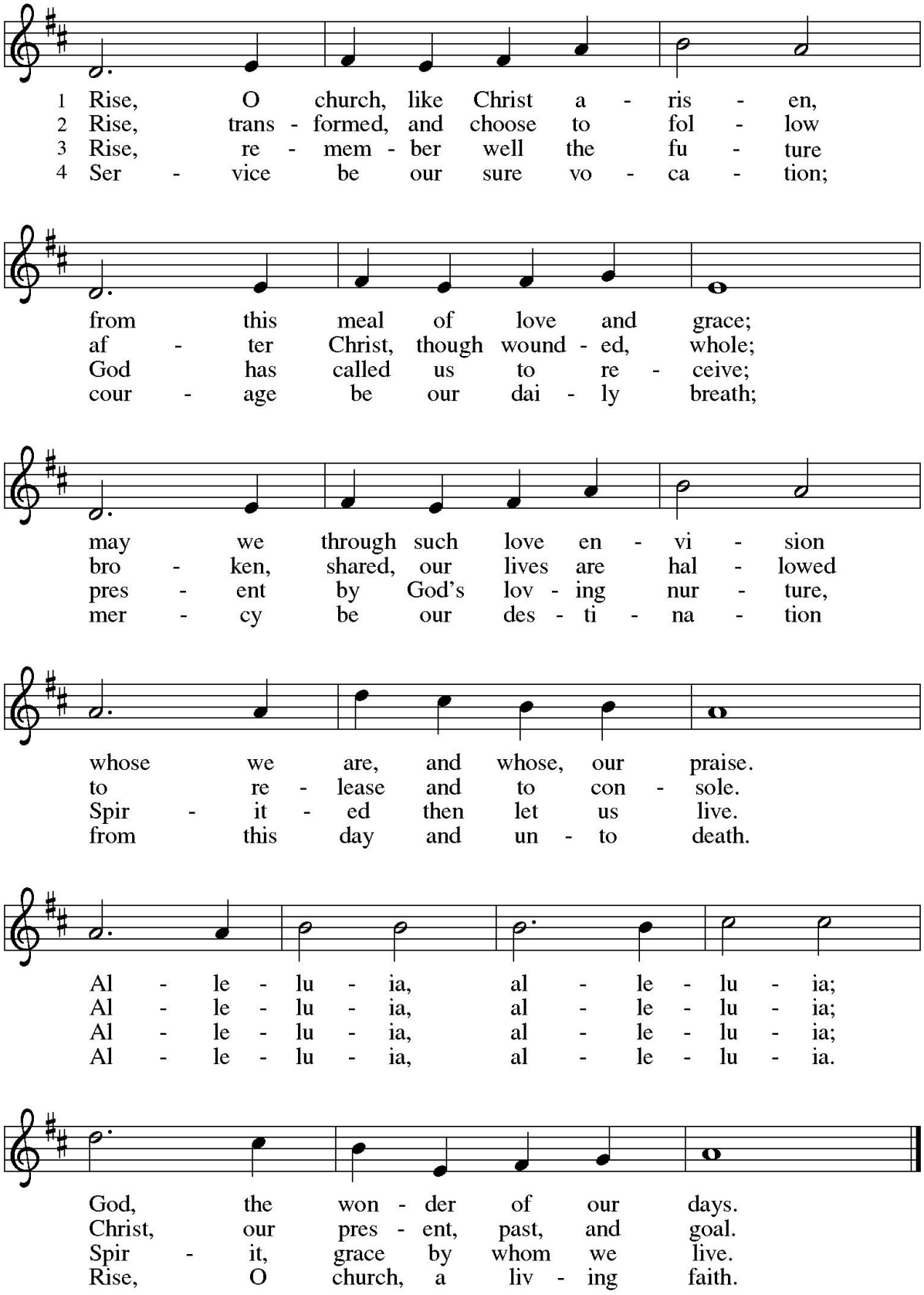
A: Let us pray . . . Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
All: Amen.

SENDING ***God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.***

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. ☩
All: Amen

SENDING HYMN: *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen* ..... **ELW 548**



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958
Text © 1997 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

A: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*.....Aaron David Miller/Benjamin M. Culli

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: .....Rev. Susan E. Scott
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: .....Alan Hair
Assisting Minister: ..... Chip Haak
Reader: .....Susan Bianchi
Altar Guild: ..... Darlene Weaver
Communion Set-up: ..... Deb Brooks
Communion Assistants:.....Jen Keeler and Jonice Storer
Communion Presenters:.....Jen Keeler and Jonice Storer
Livestream Team: .....Kirk Sponaugle, Jordan Paul, and Adam Gardner

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Prayer Concerns: Joe Brittain (friend of the Dunham's), Sharon Ellis (friend of the Dunham's), Linda Goldhart (relative of the Bishops), Christine Hall, Ben Housman, Andrea Hospodar, Ann Jonell (friend of the Dunham's), Brian Lutz, Carol Miller, Donald Moyer (Donna Artley's Father), Jessica Noeske (Derek Dunham's cousin), Geri Phillips (Sister-in-Law of Sherry Welty), Chris Ruff, Edward Sellard, Josh Snyder (nephew of Linda Lubold), Kathy Spitler (cousin of Marilyn Layman), Vicki Sponaugle, Carolyn Underkoffler (Vicki Sponaugle's Aunt).

DAILY PRAYERS

Michael Fox, Virginia Frank, Dean Huebner, Matthew Kulbacki, Sharon Murray, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all our **Homebound members:** Shirley Espenshade, Bill Fosnacht, Herb Huebner, Evadne Kopp, John and Ruth Knol, Carol Longenecker, Dennis Lubold, Chip Murray, Tookie (Delores) Peterson, Joyce Schroeder, Kay Smith, Susanne Wiest and Nila Wiley.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, and Tory Young.

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at htluth@comcast.net or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.

You are Welcome Here!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for joining us for worship today in-person and through livestreaming.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite all people, as well as young children who are not yet receiving the Sacrament to come forward and receive a blessing. At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. At his table Christ grants us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. *May your hearts be opened, and your lives made new by God's gracious love.* Please give your completed communion card to the usher during communion.

Holy Communion distribution today: The usher will guide you down the center aisle. Prepackaged Communion elements with grape juice are available on the small table. If you prefer regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver tray. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer (ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free wafer option) or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant with regular wine and an assistant with non-alcoholic wine. Stand or kneel as you are able and remain at the rail for as long as you desire.

Consecrated Communion Elements are available for "Live Stream" worship at home. Please contact the church office at 717-533-2467 or by email at htluth@comcast.net to arrange to pick up elements or have them delivered to your home.

Office Hours The office will be open this week Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m**.** To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org. **In case of emergency** Pastor Susan may be reached through the church office, on her cell phone at 717-497-1013 or via her email address at: sscott@htluth.org.

Children are always welcome in the worship space but if they need a break, the church nursery is available for parents and children during worship. A large screen monitor streams a live feed of the worship service each Sunday. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, in the classroom wing.

Many thanks for your generous donations! We continuously express our thanks to all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving which allows us to continue to operate valuable ministries and pay for the ongoing bills at Holy Trinity. The Simply Giving program offers automatic withdrawals from your bank account or charges to a credit card; donated through our website (htluth.org) by clicking on the 'Give Now" button; donated by downloading the Mobile App "GivePlus Church" (be sure to select Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity) or by taking a picture of the QR code.

In an effort for transparency, Council would like to share an important **update regarding our 2026 Ministry Spending Plan**. As of the end of July, we are experiencing a year-to-date deficit of $13,794. We recognize the congregation approved a full year deficit budget of $14,348.00 for 2026. While a deficit is not unusual in the summer months, in the first three weeks of August the giving has been very low. We extend appreciation to everyone who has faithfully supported our ministry through regular giving. Your generosity has been meaningful and continues to sustain the work of our church. For those who may have missed opportunities to give recently, and for those who are able to contribute beyond their regular offerings, we encourage you to consider supporting our ministry to meet our financial commitments.

In an effort to get to know everyone, Pr. Susan will be hosting two **"open house" style meet and greet sessions-** Wednesday, September 2 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, September 9 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. You are welcome to drop in during those times for light refreshments and conversation. Please sign up for a session using the sign up sheets posted in the narthex on the bulletin board.

Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants Training- On Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m., there will be an assisting ministers and communion assistants training in the sanctuary. This is intended to make our communion practices consistent. If you already serve and if you are interested in serving, please come to this important meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Susan.

Beginning on **September 20, 2026, Sunday School** will resume every Sunday from 9:00am-9:45am as follows: Children's Sunday School for children pre-k thru 6th grade will meet in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). An informational flyer with more details and registration forms are available in the church narthex. Affirmation of Baptism for Grades 7-8 will meet in the youth room and High School Bible Study for grades 9-12 will meet in room #1. Adult Discussion will meet in room #16.

At its meeting on July 21st, the Church Council accepted the resignation of Colleen Nielsen as Director of Faith Formation, effective August 31, 2026. In her letter, Colleen stated, "Serving in this ministry since 2020 has been a true blessing and one of the greatest privileges of my life." Colleen cited increased professional and family responsibilities that will affect her ability to continue serving in this role. We thank Colleen for her dedication to helping the children, families, and members of our congregation grow in their faith under her leadership.

The 1st HTY (Holy Trinity Youth Group) Night of the "new" season is right around the corner!! It is on Sunday, September 20th from 5 - 7:30pm at the church. HTY is for anyone in grades 6 - 12. At HTY, is all about faith, fun, and fellowship. We will play games, do group building activities, eat pizza together, have an interactive teaching, and much more. Please bring a snack to share! Please bring a friend or two! Snacks are always needed, and friends are always welcome. As usual, dinner WILL be provided. This year WILL rock!! **Spread the word and invite those friends, let's make this year the biggest year yet!!** Nuff Said.

Pick up a copy of the 2026-2027 HTY!! It is posted all around the church and physical copies are available for you on the Narthex table anytime you are at church!! There is lots of good stuff on the calendar for all HTY and families to take part in this upcoming season. Get one today, and I'll see you at everything soon enough.

Holy Trinity's **Altar Guild** will meet on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 11:15 in the sanctuary. All are welcome to attend (the guild would welcome new members!) as the guild plans for the coming Fall season.

At its August meeting, Church Council reviewed two worship practices that were paused during the pandemic. Beginning September 27th, we will return to a more active passing of the Peace and resume passing the offering plates during worship. Those who wish to move from their seats to share the Peace with others are welcome to do so. During the offertory, ushers will pass the offering plates, and plates will also remain available on the tables near the worship entrances. These changes will be introduced on a trial basis, and as always, Council welcomes your feedback.

Would you like to **present communion elements** (wafers in the ciboria and wine in the decanter) for an upcoming worship service? Details about what's required can be found on the Communion Presenters signup sheet in the narthex. This is a wonderful (and easy) way to participate in the worship service. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Pastor Susan.

Readers, Greeters, Flower Deliverers and Bakers for September and October are needed to greet people as they come into church and deliver flowers after the service on Sunday. Readers are needed to read the 1st and 2nd reading and the Psalm (when spoken) and bakers are needed to provide sweet treats. The lists are available on the bulletin board. Please sign up today or contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

THANK YOU! For your amazing support during our school kit supply drive. We have met our goal for backpack supplies- ahead of schedule! *Thanks to your generous donations, we have all the supplies we need to pack 300 backpacks!*

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,300 congregations participating in **"God's work. Our hands."** on Sept. 13. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands!

Please join us on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at 8:45am in the Holy Trinity Fellowship Hall to Celebrate God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. We'll pack 300 backpacks with the supplies we've collected this summer and then box them up to be shipped to those in need.

Blessing of the Backpacks It's the start of a new school year and Pastor Susan will be giving a special blessing for all the children returning to school. Students are invited to bring their backpacks to the church service on Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Send articles and announcements for the Newsletter to Anita Housman, our Communications/IT Specialist, at aahousman2@gmail.com. **Please have all announcements for the October newsletter to Anita by September 15, 2026.**

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