

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

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9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
OCTOBER 1, 2023 PENTECOST 18

PRELUDE *ELW 770, Summer Celebration #49 (ELW 423)*

GATHERING SONG

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

ELW 527



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our
2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise in
3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry, "O
4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and



hearts in true de - vo - tion bow. Your
end - less hymns through all our days; in -
ho - ly, ho - ly Lord Most High!" And
Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One! To



Spir - it send with light di - vine, and
crease our faith and light our minds; and
in the light of that blest place we
you, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty, be



let your truth with - in us shine.
set us free from doubt that blinds.
then shall see you face to face.
praise through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: attr. Wilhelm II, 1598–1662; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND, *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485–1550; tr. composite
 Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius
 Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Susan Scheulen

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”?

³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

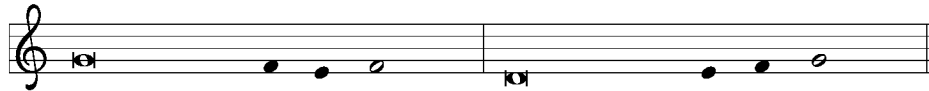
³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9



¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-|ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians.

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the

same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work

in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jme Lowden

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
 let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
 and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
 nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Earl, Jay, Nancy, Pam, Denny, Stephen and others we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING

Lift Up Your Heads Briehl, Highben

Trinity Choir



Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

Praise Ye the Lord

ELW 872

Refrain

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The first line of music is the refrain, marked with a double bar line and repeat dots at both ends. The lyrics for the refrain are 'Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-'ry-bod-y, praise the Lord.' The second line of music starts with a key signature change to one flat (Bb) and contains the lyrics '4 Praise God on top of the moun-tains;'. The third line continues with 'praise God both day and night;'. The fourth line continues with 'praise God down in the low val-leys;'. The fifth line concludes with 'praise God be-cause it's all right.' and is marked with a double bar line and repeat dots, with the word 'Refrain' written above the final measure. The lyrics are aligned under the corresponding notes on the staff.

Praise ye the Lord, hal-le-lu-jah! Ev-'ry-bod-y, praise the Lord.

4 Praise God on top of the moun-tains;

praise God both day and night;

praise God down in the low val-leys;

praise God be-cause it's all right.

Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

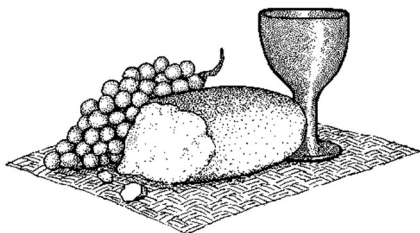
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

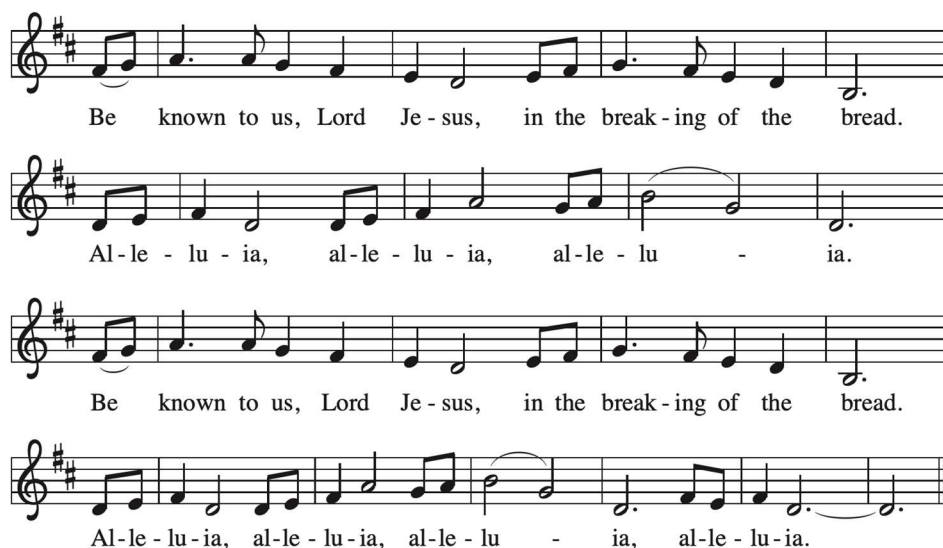
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges those at home and says: "Take and eat. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you." Then you may partake.



COMMUNION SONG



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

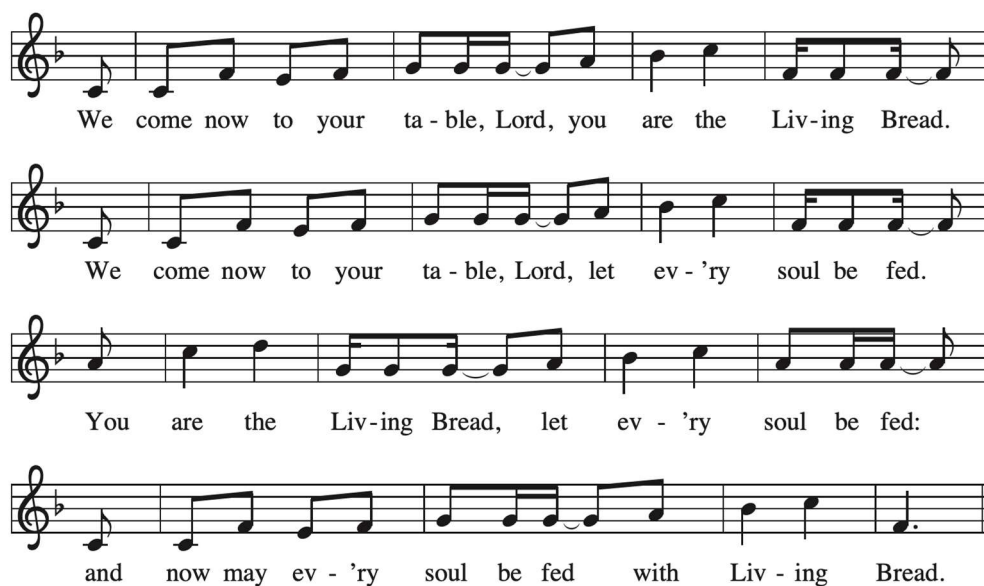
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

We Come Now to Your Table



We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.

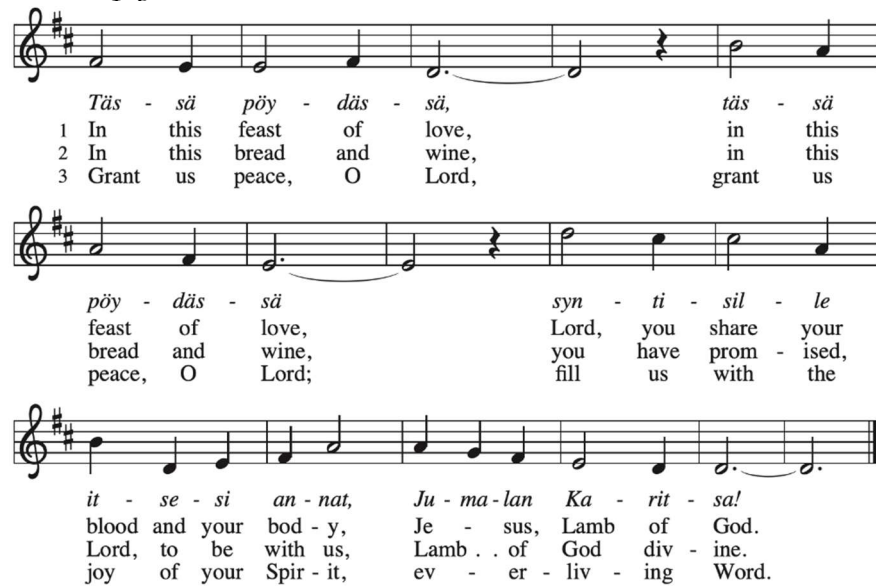
We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.

You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:

and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop
Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013
Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

In This Feast of Love: Tässä pöydässä



Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, *täs - sä*
 1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us

pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
 feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
 Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio
 Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

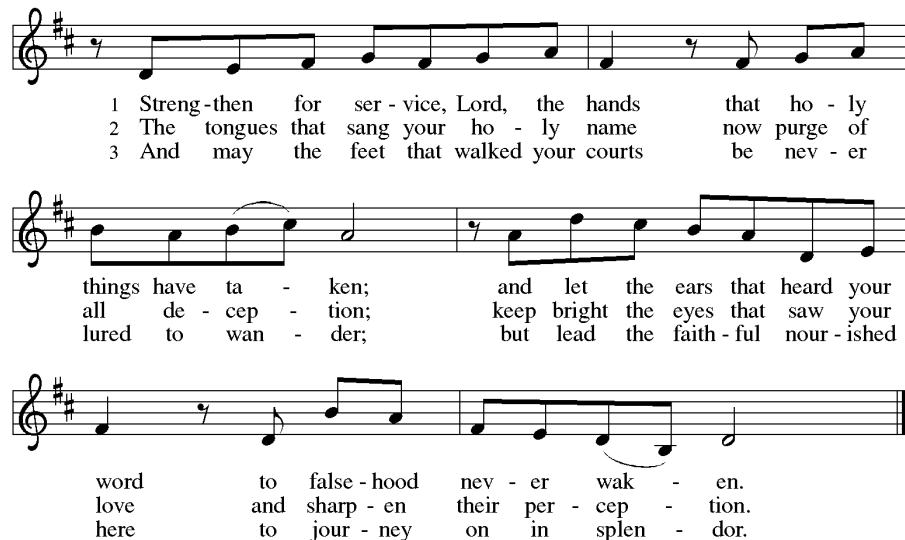
BLESSING

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in ☩ Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Strengthen for Service, Lord (BUCKHURST RUN)

ELW 497



1 Streng-then for ser-vice, Lord, the hands that ho-ly
 2 The tongues that sang your ho-ly name now purge of
 3 And may the feet that walked your courts be nev-er

things have ta-ken; and let the ears that heard your
 all de-cep-tion; keep bright the eyes that saw your
 lured to wan-der; but lead the faith-ful nour-ished

word to false-hood nev-er wak-en.
 love and sharp-en their per-cep-tion.
 here to jour-ney on in splen-dor.

Text: Syriac Liturgy of Malabar; tr. composite
 Music: BUCKHURST RUN, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Canzona

Giovanni Gabrieli (1557-1612)

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TRENDING @ TRINITY

Pastor JMe and Brenda will be attending the Virginia Synod gathering of the Ministerium October 2-5, so the church office will be closed. Pastor JMe will still be available on her cell phone in the event of a pastoral emergency.

Pastor JMe is offering a three-week class for those who have recently begun attending Trinity, attendance is not mandatory though can prove helpful, entitled “For Inquiring Minds” about Lutheranism. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Sessions will take place at 1PM on Sundays October 8, 15 and 22.

The Congregation Council will hold another Community Fund Raising Breakfast on Saturday, October 7th, 7:30AM-10:30AM. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. If you would like to help, please speak to any member of council.

Planning ahead: Sunday October 29th we will celebrate Reformation Sunday. In addition to a special worship, there will be a German potluck meal following the service. You do not have to bring a German dish for your potluck, but for those that do, we will be providing some recipes in case you have trouble finding one or two.

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

This week: Greeters: Tom and Nan Righter, Reader and Comm. Asst.: Sue Scheulen

Next week: Greeters: Deb Wickboldt, Tom and Nan Righter, Comm. Asst.: Mary Anderson



Don't Miss Out!

**OUR NEW
PARISH
PICTORIAL
DIRECTORY**

PHOTOGRAPHY WILL BE AT THE CHURCH.
EVERY FAMILY RECEIVES A FREE 8X10 FAMILY
PORTRAIT AND A PRINTED DIRECTORY!
IT WON'T BE OUR DIRECTORY WITHOUT YOU!

Photography Dates:

Mon. Nov. 27: 2:00-8:30PM

Tues. Nov. 28: Noon - 6:00PM

**Bring family and friends, you do not have to appear in the
directory to sit for a portrait.**

Church Pictorial Directory! Members can sign up now to have their picture taken on 11/27 or 11/28. They can sign up themselves at www.ucdir.com or they can see Mistie McPadalin or Sue Scheulen before or after services to sign up.

Every member who has their picture taken will receive a free 8 X 10 portrait and a free directory. Everyone will receive their images right away and will have the opportunity to purchase family portraits for themselves or for gifts.

Plus, you may invite family and friends to participate by signing up to have their portraits taken. This is a great way to reach out to the community. They can have their photo taken and can purchase photos. Family and friends that are not members just will not be in the directory.

This is also a great opportunity for portraits including extended families, recent graduates, those serving in the military, or those who recently had a baby! People can bring their cat or dog to be in the photo too! Want to have your photo taken in different outfits...you can do that too...just sign up for multiple spots and let them know which one you want in the directory. Lots of fun to be had for everyone!

If you have six or more people in your photo, please sign up for two spots!

If you prefer to use a digital photo you already have, you can send that to Mistie at msmcpadalin@gmail.com and she will be sure to include this in the directory. Please note, there will be a \$15 cost for the use of the digital photo. Individuals using their own digital photo will receive a directory.

We need volunteers for this project, too! Please, volunteer to help with the photo sign up before and after church services and with the photo shoot in November by talking to Mistie or Sue.

If you have any questions, please contact Mistie or Sue.