

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

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9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
JANUARY 21, 2024 EPIPHANY 3



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PRELUDE

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo-ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Dorrie Greene

A reading from Jonah.

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 62:5-12 *read responsively*

⁵For God alone I wait in silence;
truly, my hope is in God.

⁶**God alone is my rock and my salvation,
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor;

God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸**Put your trust in God always, O people,
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted.
Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,
that power belongs to God.

¹²**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

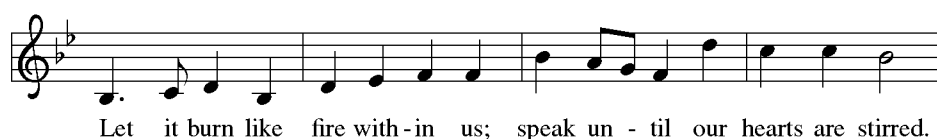
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

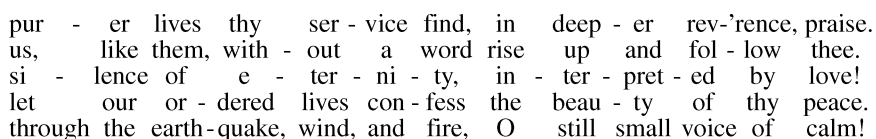
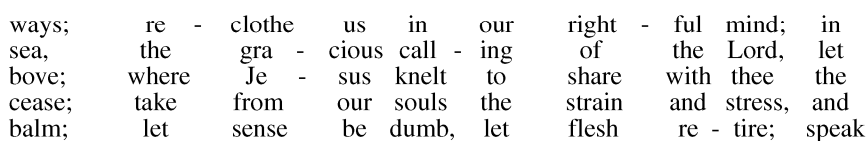
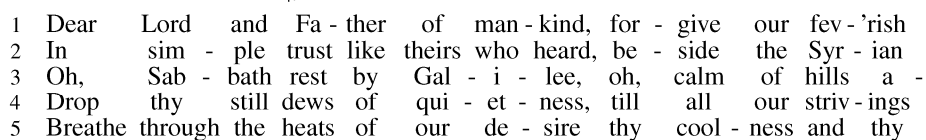
¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat

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

The Reverend Melissa May

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind



CREED

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.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, May leaders of every neighborhood and nation serve with mercy and understanding. May they embody your vision for justice and unity. Give each of us hearts, hands and voices to promote equality. Help us to be instruments of hope for those on the margins of society. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Guide us to keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Christi, Earl and Paula and other we name now (*worshippers many add names silently or aloud*). God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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



OFFERING & NOISY OFFERING

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 God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW 885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all
creatures here below; praise God above, ye
heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

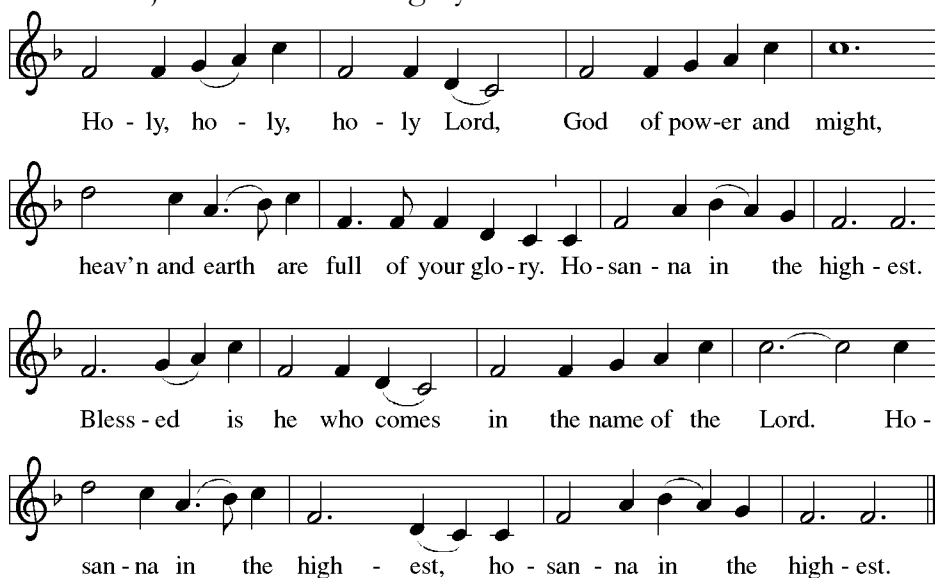
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

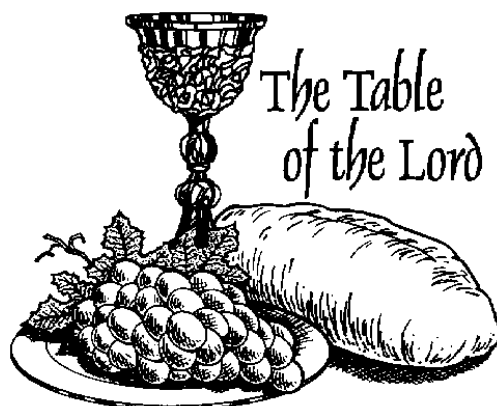
COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

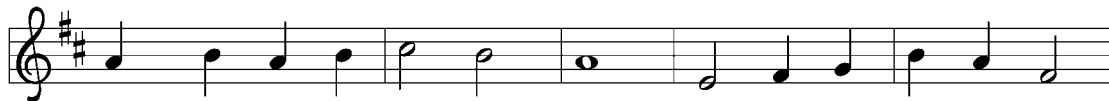


you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.





1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
 2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
 3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
 blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
 word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
 all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
 with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841–1913, alt.

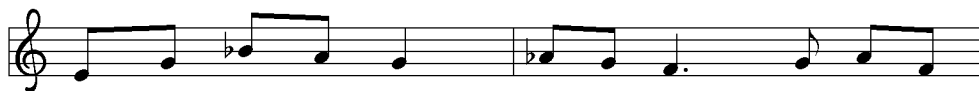
Music: BREAD OF LIFE, William F. Sherwin, 1826–1888

Come, Beloved of the Maker

ELW 306



1 Come, be - lov - ed of the Mak - er, come, be -
 2 See the Morn - ing - star now beck - on to those
 3 Fol - low to the birth of new - ness; fol - low
 4 There we too will burn and bright - en, God's re -
 5 Christ, bright im - age of the Mak - er, God, whose



hold the First - born One; see re - vealed cre - a - tion's
 bound to doubt and night; "Fol - low me," Christ calls in
 to the life of peace; fol - low to the hill of
 splen - dent work be - gun; glo - ry will as - cend and
 glo - ry none may pass, Spir - it, sun of love and



splen - dor crowned in glo - ry like the sun.
 wel - come, "come from dark - ness in - to light."
 an - guish; fol - low to the gar - den bliss.
 height - en, crown - ing us with glo - rious sun.
 splen - dor, bear us in - to light at last.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957

Text © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May 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, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May Christ the Son be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world. And the blessing our God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

ELW 318



- 1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
- 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
- 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
- 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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TRENDING @ TRINITY

This morning we welcome the Reverend Melissa May, who is Trinity's vice pastor while Pastor JMe is having her Time of Renewal. She is a native of the Shenandoah Valley and a resident of Harrisonburg. Melissa is a graduate of Gettysburg Seminary (United Lutheran Seminary). Much of her ministry was in northern Canada and Alaska. Melissa now teaches at Eastern Mennonite University in the Intensive English Program and regularly supply preaches at various congregations.

We also extend a warm welcome this morning to Melinda Russell, for being our musician while Ricky is away. Melinda is a retired public school music teacher of 30 + years. She received her Bachelor of Music (1976) and Masters in Music Education (1994) from Shenandoah Conservatory. She has taught private piano for 53 years. She has three children, three grandchildren and lives with her husband in Gore, VA.

This morning's Noisy Offering will be donated to the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS).

Trinity is going to start back with the one-item-a-month-donations-to-the-food-pantry requests, which will be listed in the bulletin and the weekly email. January is canned soup. Donations may be placed in the black bin in the front stairwell.

The January community meal will be on the 31st. Menu: soup, grilled cheese, and dessert. Those willing to help by providing a portion of the meal, help with set up, serving or clean-up, look for the sign-up list in the parish hall.

During Pastor JMe's Time of Renewal, the congregation will also be having a Time for Renewal. The Congregation Council will be leading a Bible Study entitled **Walking Together: Ministry Renewal Conversations**. It will be held in the Parish Hall around 10:50 and will run 20-30 minutes for the next 5 Sundays. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. Note that Pastor May is leading this week's discussion, please plan to attend!

It will be led by the following people:

Jan 21 - Pastor May, Luke 24:13-35

Jan 28 - Dorrie Greene, Romans 12:9-21

Feb 4 - Jim Hall, Exodus 16:2-12

During Pastor JMe's Time of Renewal (now until Feb. 12) if you have a pastoral emergency within regular office hours (Monday through Thursday 8AM-1PM) please call the church and Brenda will see that care is provided. Outside of those hours, please call Council President Roger Wickboldt (614-477-2431). In an emergency, Brenda or Roger will contact Pastor Melissa May.

Inclement weather policy: during winter months if the weather on a Sunday is questionable, please check your email. Council will determine if services are cancelled by 7:30AM on that Sunday then a mass email, like the weekly emails, will be sent if services are cancelled. Council members will form a phone tree to contact those without email.

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: Greeter: Dorrie Greene , Reader: Dorrie Greene: Comm. Asst. Susan Scheulen

Next week: Greeter: Mistie McPadalin; Reader: Marcie Stern; Comm. Asst. David Reichert