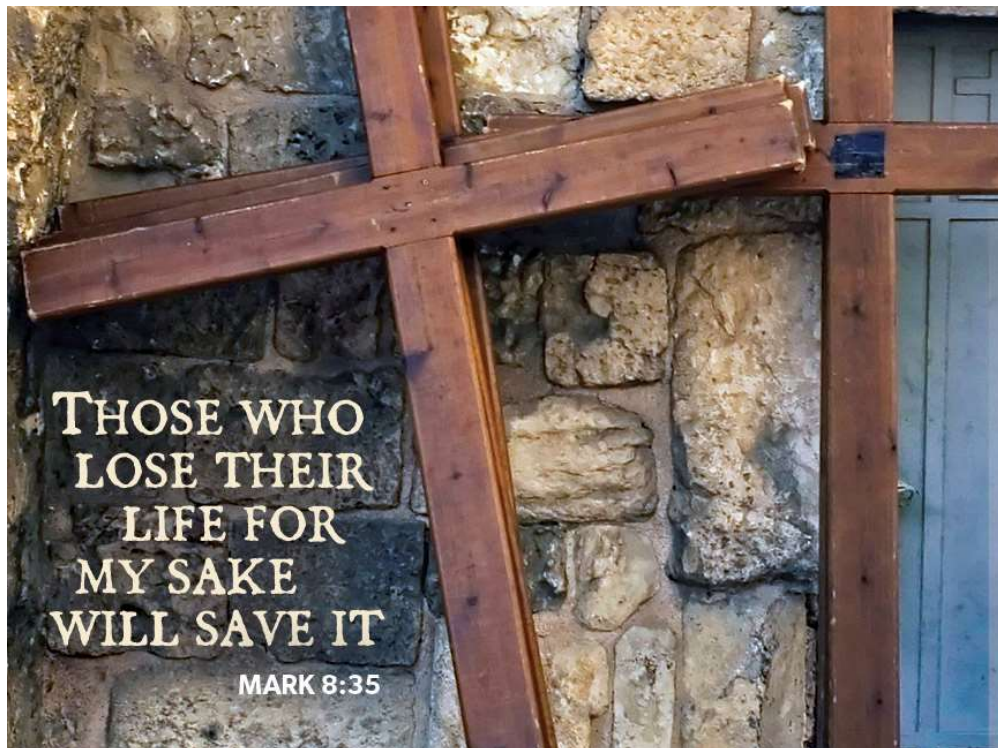


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
FEBRUARY 25, 2024 *LENT 2*



Crucifixion Crosses in Old City of Jerusalem, Israel by Rafael Ben-Ari/age fotostock. Copyright © 2022 Superstock. Used by permission.

PRELUDE *When We Are in the Highest Need* J.C. Bach (1642-1703)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

O Word of God Incarnate

ELW 514



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - 'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

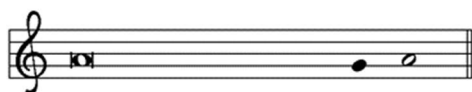
Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

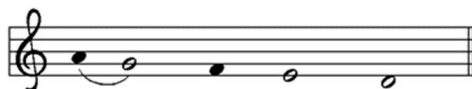
GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Bruce Everly

A reading from Genesis.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

PSALM: Psalm 22:23-31



²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hid- | den from them;**
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever! R

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**
who rules o- | ver the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

A reading from Romans.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his

sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

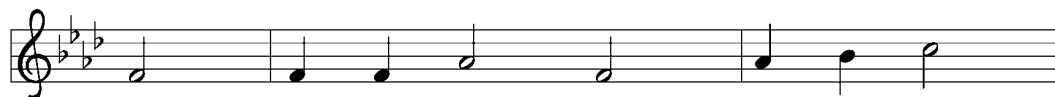
SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

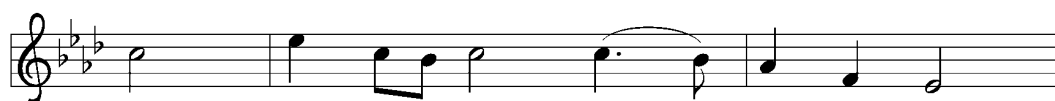




1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
 3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,



"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
 per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
 nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
 nor think till death to lay it down;



for - sake the past, and come this day,
 his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
 for you the Lord en - dured the cross
 for those who hum - bly bear the cross



and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.
 Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848

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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. It is up to us, through you, to save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate, cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil, preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, so generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. We must lead by example, upholding the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. May we show compassion by helping to shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved traveling especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Christi, Juanita, Earl, Carl, Bobby, Tom and Paula and others we name now (*worshippers many add names silently or aloud*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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



OFFERING

How Firm a Foundation arr. Sandra Eithun

Trinity Chimes

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

Create in Me a Clean Heart (Capers)

ELW 185

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

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

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

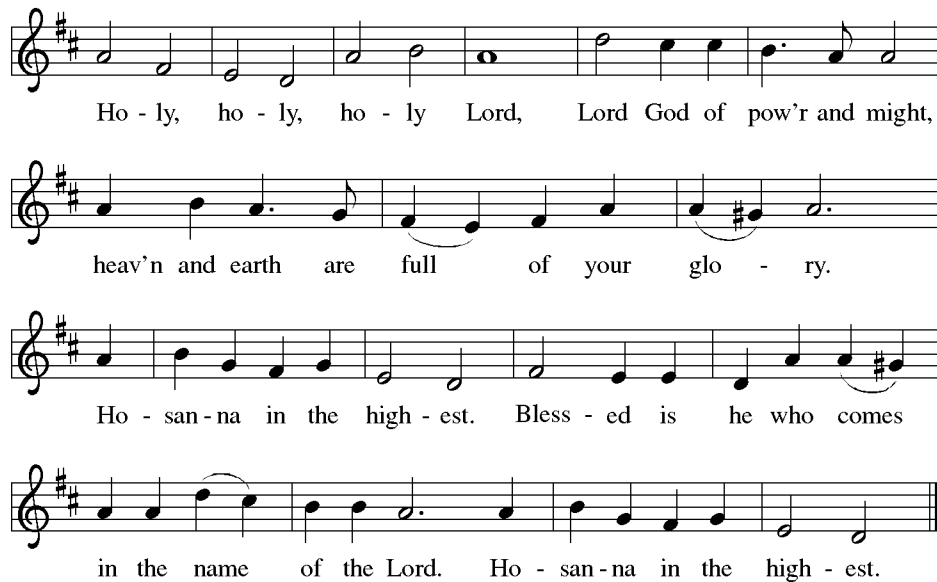
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace.
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

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.

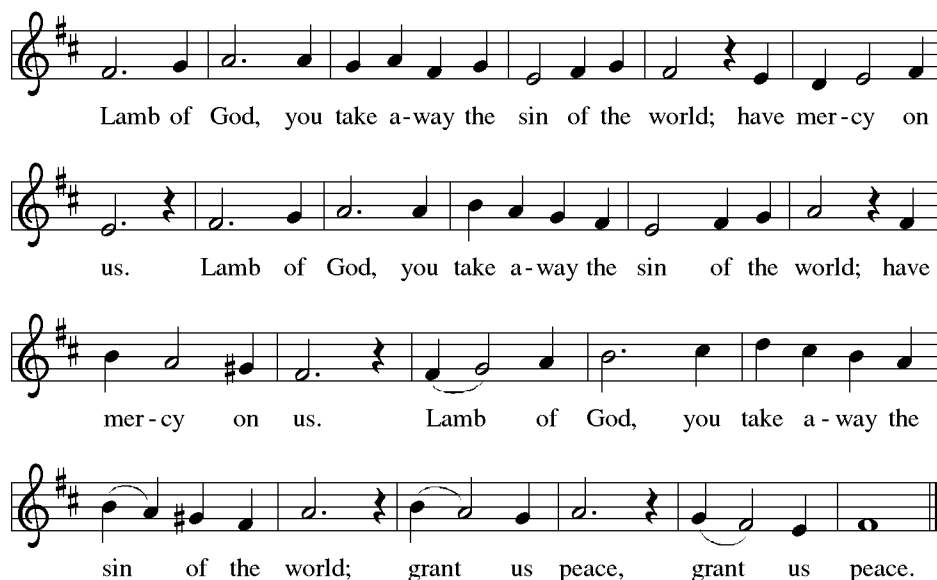
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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

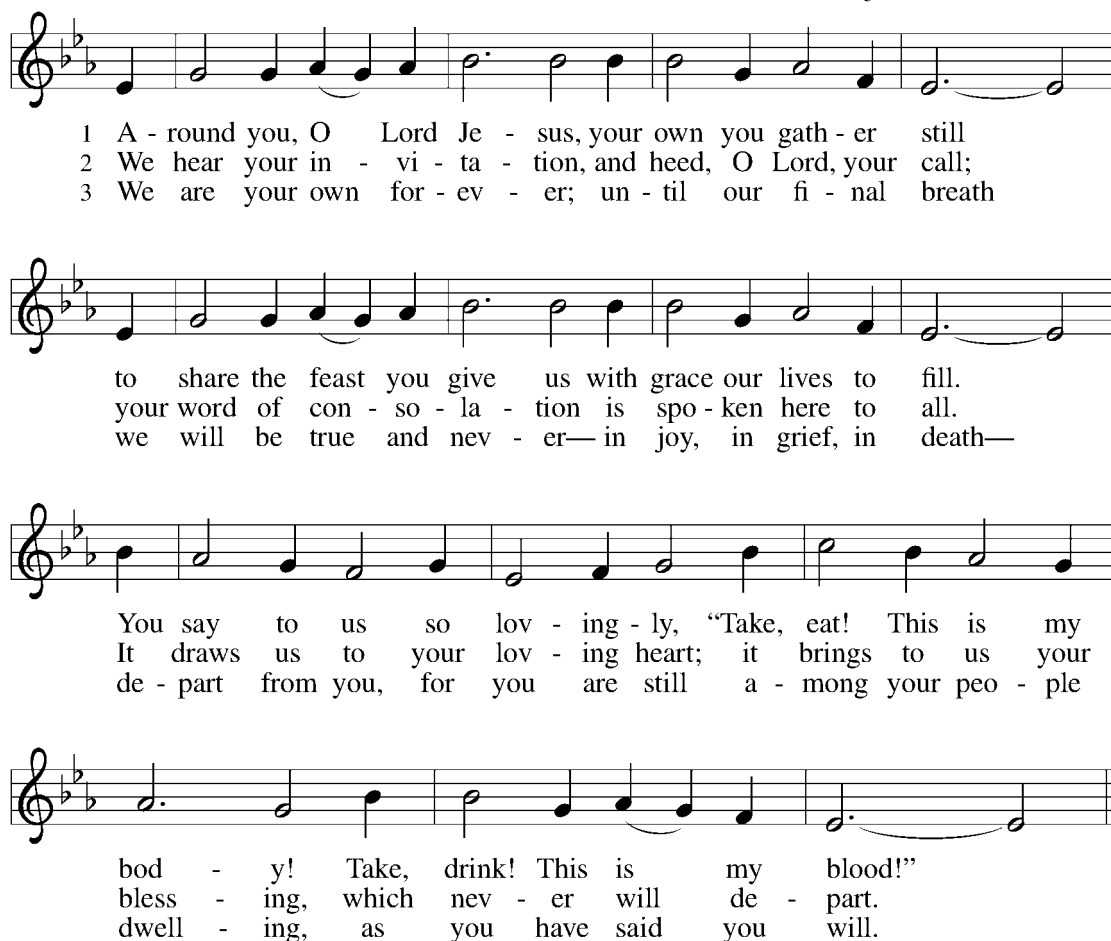


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Around You, O Lord Jesus

ELW 468



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.
we will be true and nev - er—in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, “Take, eat! This is my
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple

bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!”
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

O God, You Search Me

1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,
All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
you have known its mean - ing through and through.
still I search for shel - ter from your light.
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.
When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:
ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - dian - t in your sight.
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME, Bernadette Farrell

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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.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

We Will Glorify

1 We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will glo - ri - fy the Lamb;
2 Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will bow be - fore his throne;
3 He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, he is Lord of all who live;
4 Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le - lu - jah to the Lamb;

we will glo - ri - fy the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.
we will wor - ship him in righ - teous - ness, we will wor - ship him a - lone.
he is Lord a - bove the u - ni - verse, all praise to him we give.
hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: WE WILL GLORIFY, Twila Paris, b. 1958
© 1982 Singpiration Music/ASCAP, admin. Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

G. Tritant (1800s)

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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: Diann Dailey; Reader: Bruce Everly; Comm. Asst.: Susan Scheulen

Next week: Greeters: David & Pam Reichert; Reader: Bill McPadalin; Comm. Asst.: Barry Hockenberry

TRENDING @ TRINITY

Sewing for the Savior will meet this Tuesday at 9:30AM in room 204. Anyone with interest in hand sewing quilts is welcome.

During Lent there will be a soup supper each Wednesday (except Feb 28, which will be the community meal) followed by a Taizé service at 7PM. Mark your calendars now and plan to participate.

Pastor JMe will begin a study on the Gospel of Mark, in the parish hall, following worship this morning.

Pick up your copy of the free Lenten devotional booklet in the Narthex.

March 2 Trinity will host a Community Pancake Breakfast 7:30AM-10:30AM with all proceeds going to the Building Fund. The original Building Fund goal was \$50,000 and projects on the list included:

- Church Parking Lot: repair cracks, seal lot, repaint lines (completed)
- Fix A/C (completed)
- Upgrade Security Camera System
- Replace freezer
- Need a new commercial vacuum (completed)
- Repair guttering & drain spouts (completed)
- Loose wire hanging from bell tower
- Fix/repair wood & paint under eave on old sanctuary or have covered with vinyl
- Drain ditch behind Church needs lined with large rock to prevent weeds/overgrowth
- Lights in Parish Hall: Currently one light is out. Lights are discontinued.
- Lights in Narthex: Two ballasts out.
- Parsonage: Storage Building needs to be replaced or remodeled

As you can see there are still a number of items left to be completed and there has been the necessary addition of \$39,000 repairing the foundation beneath the sanctuary. (That work begins this week.) To date approximately \$24,000 has been given to the Building Fund. Your help in spreading the word about the Pancake Breakfast, and your generosity in giving to the Fund is most appreciated.

Trinity is forming a new prayer ministry. This group will throughout the month, but especially on the 15th of the month...so we know that we are all praying together for those on the prayer list at church. These are private prayers, not public. We want to respect those wishing confidentiality. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry—or if you have a prayer request-- speak to Mistie McPadalin, Susan Scheulen or Pastor JMe.

Food pantry donation request this month: soup, macaroni & cheese. Your donations are always most welcome; however, we do ask you remember a few important guidelines: no personal

hygiene or other products unless specifically asked for; no opened products of any kind (this includes unopened items that are in an opened multipack), and please check expiration date and make sure it is at least one year away. The black bin for donations is located in the front stairwell.

The Community Meal will be Wed. February 28 at 5:30PM. Menu is hot dogs, chili, cornbread, salad and dessert. The Lenten Taizé service will follow the meal at 7PM. Those wishing to assist by providing a portion of the meal, helping to set up, clean up or serve, will find a sign-up list in the parish hall. Financial contributions are always welcome, mark your check “community meal” and place it in the offering plate.

March

Calendar

Choir rehearsals every Thursday at 5:45PM

2 - 7:30AM Community Pancake Breakfast for Capital Campaign

5 – 6:30PM Congregation Council

6 – 5:30 Soup supper

7:00PM Taizé worship

9 – 2:00AM Spring Forward, Time changes

12 – 9:30AM Sewing for the Savior, Room 204

11:30AM Lutheran Church Women, parish hall

13– 5:30 Soup supper

7:00PM Taizé worship

16- Food box distribution

17- Noisy Offering, benefits Blue Ridge Area Food Pantry

20– 5:30 Soup supper

7:00PM Taizé worship

23-9AM-Easter Craft Bazaar

24-Palm Sunday

26-9:30AM sewing for the Savior, room 204

27-5:30PM Community Meal (fish, mac ‘n cheese, broccoli, dessert)

28- 7:00PM Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion

29- 7:00PM Good Friday Tenebrae

31 Easter Sunday

8AM potluck breakfast

9:30AM Easter worship

Birthdays

1 Darla Wolf

3 Amy Groah

4 Beverly Scheulen

8 Susan Scheulen

14 William Wolf

16 Tammy Rogers

23 Christine Cornwell

24 Mike Perritt