[540] 869-4019 9:30AM

810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA

office©trinitychurchvirginia.org May 26, 2024 Holy Trinity



PRELUDE

Nicaea Var. 3

Piet Post

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

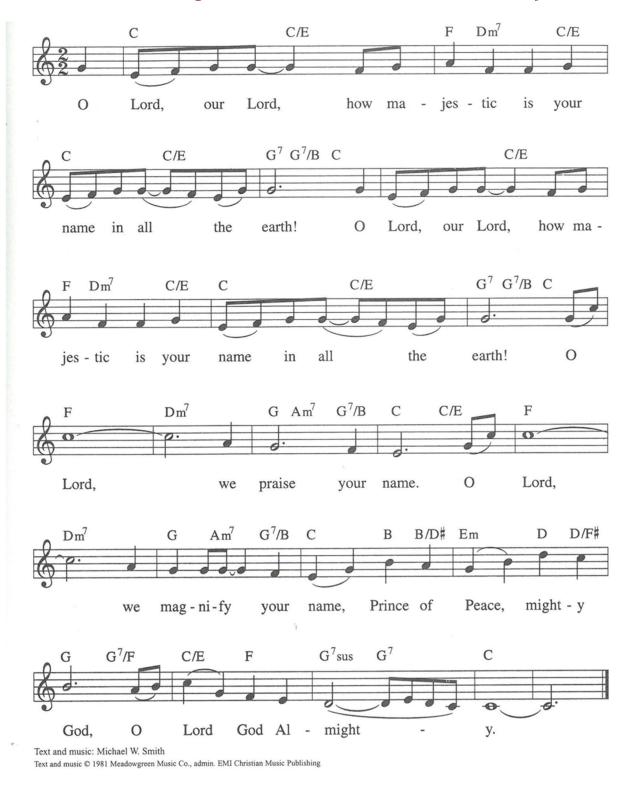
God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 sing twice

How Majestic Is Your Name



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from Isaiah.

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

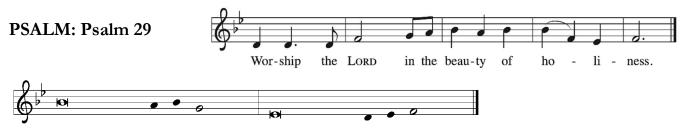
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;

the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

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



¹Ascribe to the [|] LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;

worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow-[|] erful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the [|] cedar trees; the LORD breaks the ce- [|] dars of Lebanon;

⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

⁷The voice [|] of the LORD bursts forth in [|] lightning flashes. Sue Teal

⁸The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the [|] forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are [|] crying, "Glory!"

- ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
 - the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength [|] to your people; give them, O LORD, the bless- [|] ings of peace. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-17

A reading from Romans.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

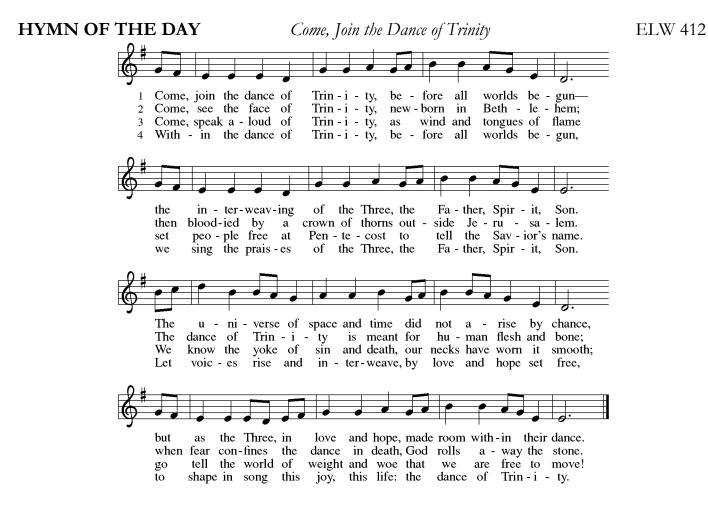
¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden



Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune Text © 2001 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CREED

- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We come before the triune God to pray for our communities, ourselves, and our world.

Abba God, you have brought us into your family, claiming us as beloved children. Bless your family of faith with gifts of cooperation and graciousness. Increase our hospitality toward all expressions of faith and teach us to honor our shared humanity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your love and power burst forth in the flashes of lightning, the dance of the wind, and the deeply rooted trees of the forest. Help us as we work to sustain fragile and interconnected ecosystems, that they flourish for generations to come. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Give your blessing of peace to the nations. Shelter all who risk life and livelihood to protect others from violence, conflict, and injustice. On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have lost their lives in war and conflict. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

You are a God of love and not of condemnation. Quiet the hearts of all who struggle with shame, regret, or questions of self-worth. Teach us to forgive ourselves and one another. Restore wholeness to all who seek hope and healing in any way especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Barb, Hadley, Bobby, and others we name now *(worshippers may add names silently or aloud)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

Strengthen bonds between parents, children, and families of all varieties. We pray especially for adoptive and foster families, multi-generational households, and blended families. Grant gifts of nurture and patience to all caregivers. Merciful God, **receive our prayer**.

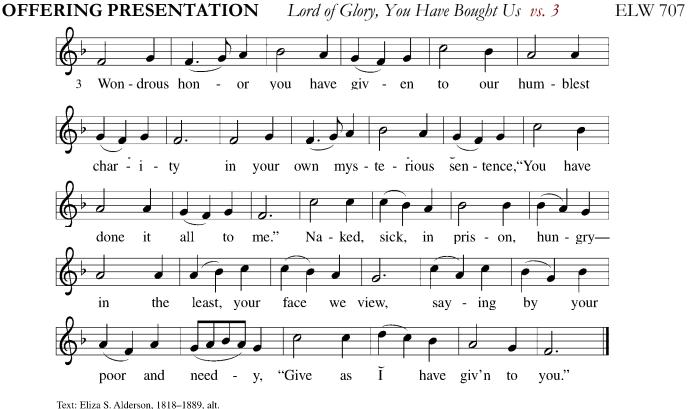
Other prayers may be offered now.

Receive our prayers, O God, and come quickly to our aid, through the power of the Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING Nicaea Var. 4 Piet Post 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.



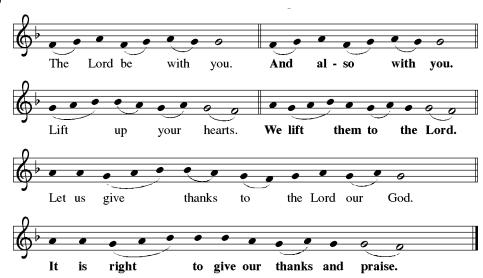
Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt. Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

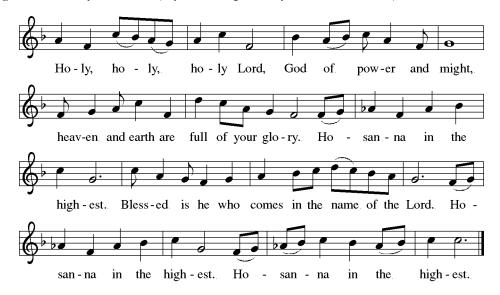
Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,... 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



Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413 Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936 Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1995 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.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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



DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Nicaea Finale

Piet Post

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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: Tom & Nan Righter, Reader: Sue Teal; Comm. Asst.: Daivd Reichert Next week: Greeters: Reader: Bill McPadalin; Comm. Asst.: Barry Hockenberry

TRENDING @ TRINITY

The church office will be closed tomorrow in recognition of Memorial Day.

Last chance! Beginning next Sunday, worship will begin with a sing along of hymns suggested by you. Instead of the booklets used in the past few years, you are asked to browse through the *ELW*, *With One Voice* and *Worship and Praise Songbook*. If you find one or more hymns you'd like to sing this summer, there are suggestion slips on the organ console for you to *write down the hymnal and hymn number*. There is also a basket for you to place the completed slips into. Ricky will go through all the suggestions, and we'll do our very best to include every one.

The May Community meal will be held on the 29th. Menu is lasagna, garlic bread, salad, and dessert. Check the bulletin board in the parish hall for ways you can participate. Financial contributions are always welcome as well.

Food pantry donation request for May: canned green beans. (June will be spaghetti sauce.) 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 Narthex.

Special request.

Recently Kim Begnaud had the opportunity to visit Micah House in Fredericksburg VA.

Kim asked the person in charge if there was any way a church way over in Stephens City could be of help. She said we were the first church to ask if we needed anything. They are in need of men's new boxers, boxer briefs. Sizes needed are small, medium, large, Xlarge, XX large.

Donations of these items will be taken through the month of June. Kim will take them to the Micah House. There will be a special bin in the Narthex for your donations. PLEASE do NOT put these Micah House donations in the canned food donation bin.

Micah House history:

Downtown Fredericksburg congregations have been involved with the community's homeless population since the late 1980s, when they opened their church buildings as shelter space and provided meals to those in need. As that original initiative evolved, however, many people who lived chronically on the street found themselves ineligible due to unmedicated mental illnesses, disabilities, criminal backgrounds and other barriers. With no other place to access shelter and support, they found themselves literally sleeping on the street and they turned to the local churches for help.

Congregations initially responded through the development of various ministries in their individual churches. But after a community effort to help the original shelter find a permanent location in 2005, the downtown churches coalesced around a new vision for assisting those whose needs were not being met.

Doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God, as things the Lord requires of us (Micah 6:8), became the foundational values for forming the collaborative effort that the churches would eventually call Micah Ecumenical Ministries. To this day, nine downtown congregations (including Christ Lutheran) claim part of their missional identity in Micah, working together to cultivate community and care for neighbors. As recognition that the body of Christ can always do more together than it can ever do apart, the clergy of these churches guide the organization and nominate members from their churches to the board of directors.

The Serving Boldly Award, created by the Virginia Synod (ELCA) Council in October 2020, is given to lay leaders who embody and demonstrate a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ in their congregation and/or community. Nominations were received from Virginia Synod congregations around Virginia and the Synod is pleased to recognize Trinity's Kim Begnaud as one of 4 award winners for 2024. This award showcases Kim's contribution of time, talent, and resources to promote education, the environment, social justice, regionalism, health and public safety, the arts and culture or the economy within the walls of this congregation and the broader community as an example of "the church without walls" – that others may follow your light. Trinity is delighted that Kim has received this well-deserved recognition for the work she does within and without the walls of the church to feed those in need in our community and to promote Trinity wherever she goes. In addition to the food drives, food basket giveaways and Angel Tree, her organization of craft fairs promotes the church in the community and benefits the community service and general budget lines of Trinity. The Synod award ceremony will be held Friday June 14, at 7PM during Power in the Spirit at Roanoke College. Congratulations Kim.

Calendar

Choir on summer break Farm Market in parking lot each Sat. morning

4-6:30PM Congregation Council
11-5:30PM Young at Heart Banquet (banquet prep- no sewing or LCW)
17-21-9AM-12PM, Community Music School camp
25-9:30PM Sewing for the Savior, followed by lunch with LCW
26-5:30PM Community Meal (fried chicken, baked beans, greens/carrots, dessert)

Birthdays

3- Grace Kowis, Mike Pyne
4-Mark Green
5-Bill McPadalin
11-Michael Lambert
15-Deb Crawford
16-Marianne Watson
20-Louise Poffenberger – 99 years old
21-Kate & Cole Crawford, Hilda Painter
26-Diann Dailey
30-Odie Whittington

