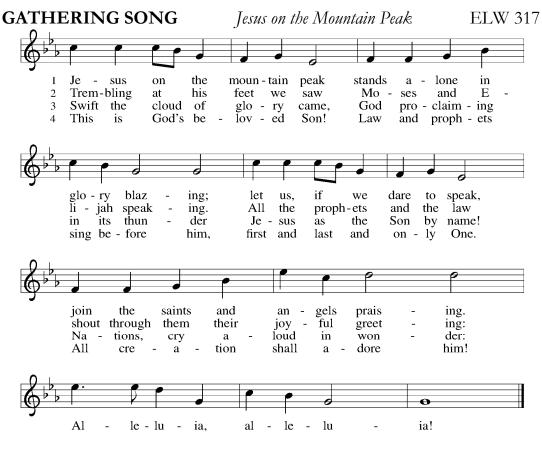
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**



RINITY LUTHERAN CHURC

OFFICE®TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG March 2, 2025 Transfiguration

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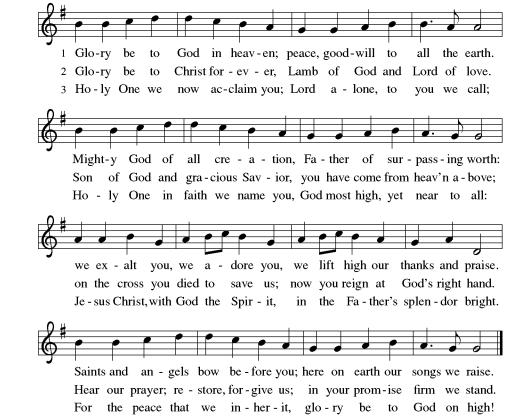
> 810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music: BETHOLD, Mark Sedio, b. 1954 Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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.

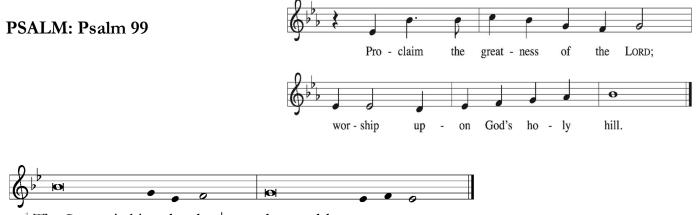
Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

Bill McPadalin

A reading from Exodus.

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



¹The LORD is king; let the [|] people tremble.

The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.

² The LORD, [|] great in Zion,

is high a- | bove all peoples.

³ Let them confess God's name, which is [|] great and awesome; God is the [|] Holy One.

⁴O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- [|] tablished equity; you have executed justice and righteous- [|] ness in Jacob. R

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be-⁺ fore God's footstool; God is the ⁺ Holy One.

⁶ Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your ¹ name, O LORD,

they called upon you, and you | answered them,

⁷ you spoke to them out of the pil- ¹ lar of cloud;

they kept your testimonies and the decree | that you gave them.

⁸ O LORD our God, you answered | them indeed;

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their | evil deeds.

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's ¹ holy hill;

for the LORD our God is the | Holy One. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

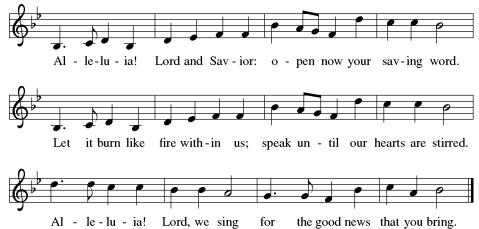
A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Reverend Larry Closter



Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace, hear our prayer.

We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, *(worshippers may add names silently or aloud.* God of grace, hear our prayer.

God of our past, present, and future, lead us into new beginnings, trusting in the promise of new life in Christ. Accompany congregations needing to close, and give courage to congregations starting new ministries. God of grace, **hear our prayer**.

Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Other prayers may be offered now.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

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



OFFERING

Music Paris Antiphoner, Text Fred P. Green

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.

Christ Is The World's Light

OFFERING PRESENTATION



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

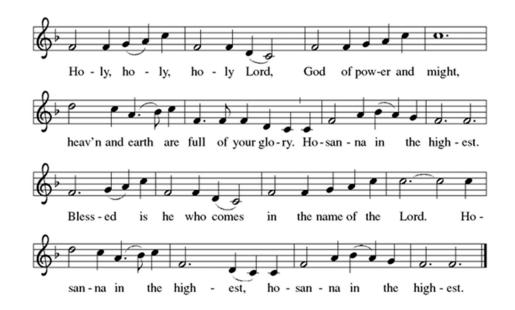
Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. 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: "Taste and see that the Lord is good..." Then you may partake.

COMMUNION SONG



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: JILL, David Cherwien, b. 1957 Text © 2001 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music © 2002 Augsburg Fortress.



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997 Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996 Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

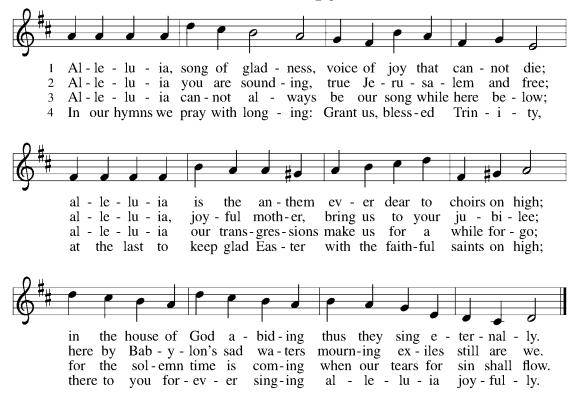
We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

Alleluia, Song of Gladness



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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Processional March

J. Konkel

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Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 893 4718 0792 Passcode: 173681 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: Maxine Rogers, Reader: Bill McPadalin, Comm. Asst. Mary Anderson Next week: Greeter & Comm. Asst.: Deb Wickboldt; Reader: Roger Wickboldt

***Reminder:** The Prayer Team has a beautiful table located at the entrance to the Sanctuary *(just inside the doorway to the right)*. Everyone is welcome to fill out a card and place prayer request in the box.

TRENDING @ TRINITY

This morning Trinity welcomes The Reverend Larry Closter as Interim Pastor. You're welcome to read his Biography on the last page

"Thanks to my Trinity church family for all their prayers, cards, phone calls, flowers and food following my thyroid surgery. You are very special to me. Thanks be to God! ~Martha"

Don't forget: the time changes at 2AM on Sunday, March 9, so set your clocks forward before going to bed on Saturday.

Please Take a free Lenten devotional (in the Narthex)



March 4th Tuesday, the Congregation Council Meeting will be at 6:30 in the Parish Hall

<u>March 5, Ash Wednesday</u> worship will be at 6:30PM. This service will include Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

Ash Wednesday and mid-week service Zoom info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640816205?pwd=XqBbXzAMwjbCUJ1xpAcKP8hnB4lpuT.1 Meeting ID: 836 4081 6205 Passcode: 837530 1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Wednesdays in Lent

Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30pm with worship at 6:30pm

There is a sign up sheet located on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall if you'd like to sign up to bring a crockpot of soup or bread. We are looking for only 2 people to sign up to bring soup and 1 person only to sign up to bring bread and butter each of the Wednesdays. The dates are: March 12, March 19, April 2 and April 9. Please note that on March 26 the Community Meal will take place in lieu of the Soup Supper. Thanks so much for considering helping with this ministry!

April 17, Maundy Thursday there will be a Christian Seder meal at 5:30PM followed by worship with stripping of the altar

April 18, Good Friday worship will be at 6:30PM

April 20, Easter Sunday 8:00 am a potluck breakfast casserole meal precedes Worship at 9:30AM

Food pantry donation request for March: canned peas. The black bin for donations is in the Narthex. Please remember to check expiration dates to be certain they are at least a year away, also 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)

Rev. Larry Closter

I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. The son of a steel worker and the second of five children. After high school I joined the Army and served three years as an infantry soldier in the 82nd Airborne Division. It was there that I felt the call to ordained ministry. Next was college at Point Loma University in San Diego where I met my wife, Laurie. This was followed by four years at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley CA with an internship year at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Juneau, AK.

After schooling I accepted a pastorate at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kearns, UT, a suburb of Salt Lake City (Kearns was/is 90-95% Mormon). I served there for five years. It was here that our two children, Ryan and Erin, were born. Following that assignment, I rejoined the Army as a chaplain serving a variety of units at various locations throughout the US and numerous short stays throughout the Middle East. I served in the first gulf war followed by five years in Germany. I returned to Utah serving as a chaplain for a chemical and biological unit in the desert where I took examines and qualified for advanced schooling. I attended Harvard Divinity School and received a Th.M. in world religions with an emphasis in Islamic studies in 1999.

I then taught religious studies at the Army Language Institute before 9/11. After that everything changed. I took a number of trips back to the Middle East before being assigned to a military intelligence unit in Japan. I retired from the military in 2002 but was immediately recalled to active duty in Washington DC where I spent a year writing and advising senior military leaders on Islamic issues and practices. Retiring for a second time from the Army I then worked as a civilian in military intelligence addressing Middle East Islamic issues first in the DC area for seven years and then for another seven years in Charlottesville, VA before retiring. During my civilian service time I frequently did pulpit supply on weekends.

Upon retiring from federal service my wife and I moved to Winchester VA to be close to our daughter and two grandchildren. I became a part-time interim pastor at Pleasant View Lutheran Church in Staunton, VA for two years. Following that assignment, I was called by the synod to serve at St. Mark in Quicksburg, VA and a year later added Faith Lutheran in Fort Valley, VA prior to my current position with Trinity Lutheran here in Stephens City, VA.

As an interim pastor I see my mission as one of providing stability and continuity to the congregation by leading worship, visiting the sick and shut-ins, and providing the full spectrum of pastoral care that is needed. My goal is to enable the congregation to be in (or remain in) a position to attract and call a pastor. You should be aware that as we worship and do ministry together it may mean trying new things and/or keeping a dialogue open on issues that are defining our church. From my brief introduction to a few of the people at Trinity I am anxious and excited to see and learn more about the ministry we can do together here.