



TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF STEPHENS CITY VIRGINIA

810 Fairfax Street
Stephens City, VA
Sunday Worship, 9:30AM
March 16, 2025

(540) 869-4019

Second Sunday in Lent



⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. - **Genesis 15: 5-6**

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: Marianne Wats, Reader: Sue Teal, Comm. Asst. David Reichert

Next week: Greeter: Mistie McPadalin, Reader: & Comm. Asst.: Suean Scheulen

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PRELUDE

If You But Trust In God To Guide You

Johann Kirnberger (1721-1783)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

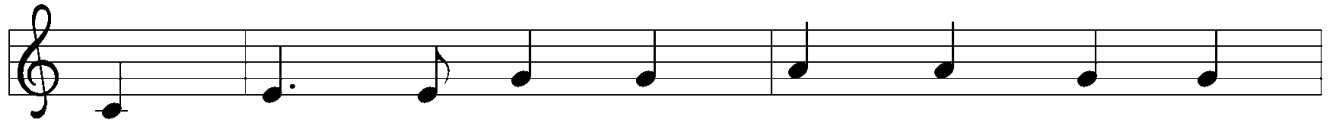
You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

(ELW 597)



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

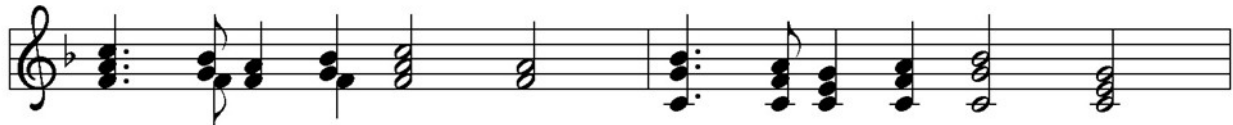
Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

GREETING

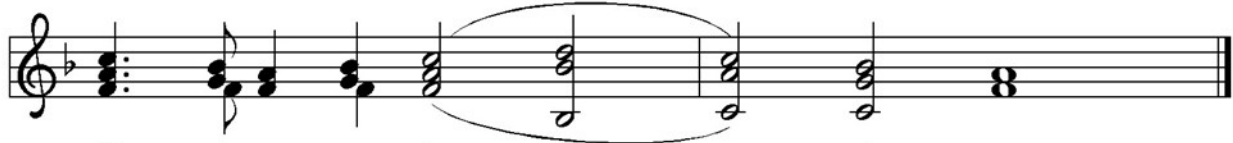
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

Refrain Bradley Ellingboe

In the day of trou - ble,
God will give me shel - ter.



¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to de- ¹ vour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- ¹ ble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart ¹ will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one ¹ thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the**

beauty of the LORD and to seek God ^l in the temple. R

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will ^l give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- ^l on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ^l who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music ^l to the LORD.

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, ^l when I call;
have mercy on me and ^l answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— ^l “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O LORD, ^l I will seek. R

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- ^l vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ^l my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my moth- ^l er forsake me,
the LORD will ^l take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your ^l way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of ^l my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will ^l of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses ^l breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness ^l of the LORD
in the land ^l of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD ^l and be strong.**

Take heart and wait ^l for the LORD! R

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

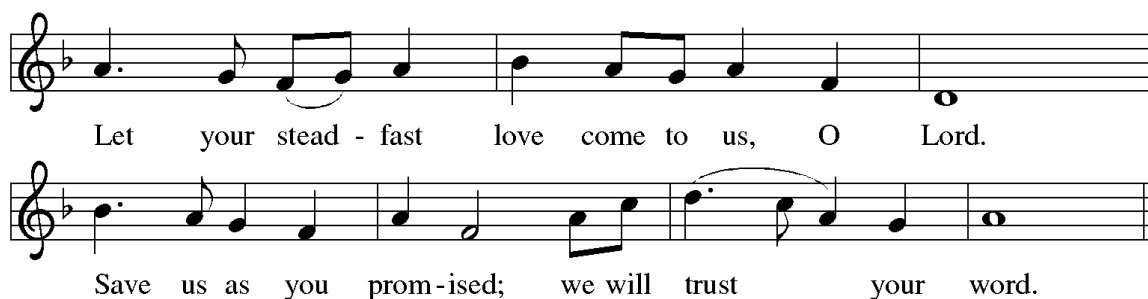
A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

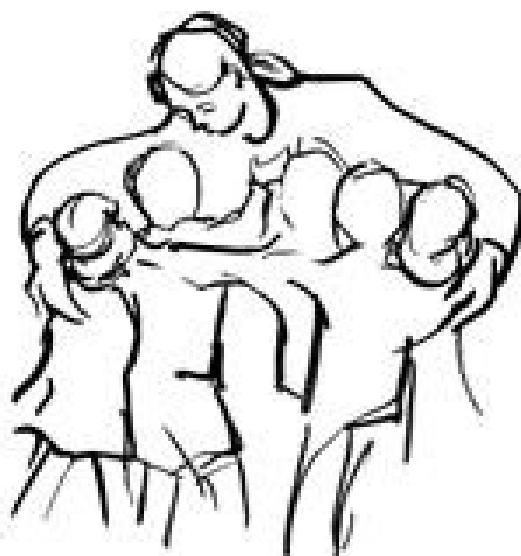
³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Larry Closter



HYMN OF THE DAY

Thy Holy Wings

(ELW 613)



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need (*especially*) especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



OFFERING *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Trinity Chime Choir

NOISY OFFERING – benefits the Family Promise of the Shenandoah Valley.

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

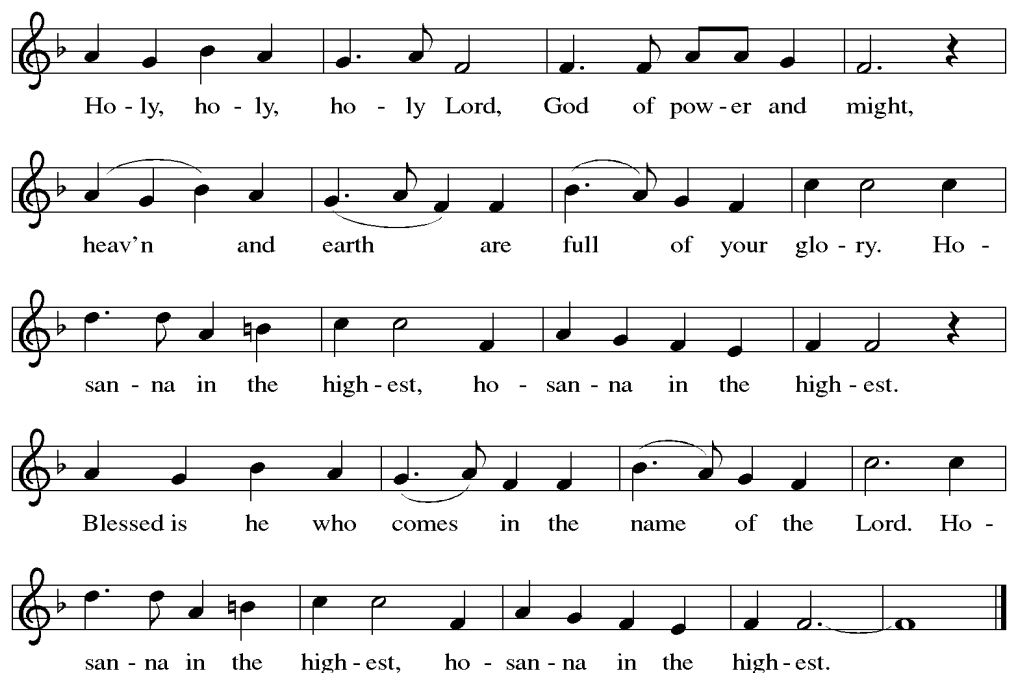
Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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



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, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed 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

(ELW p. 108)

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.

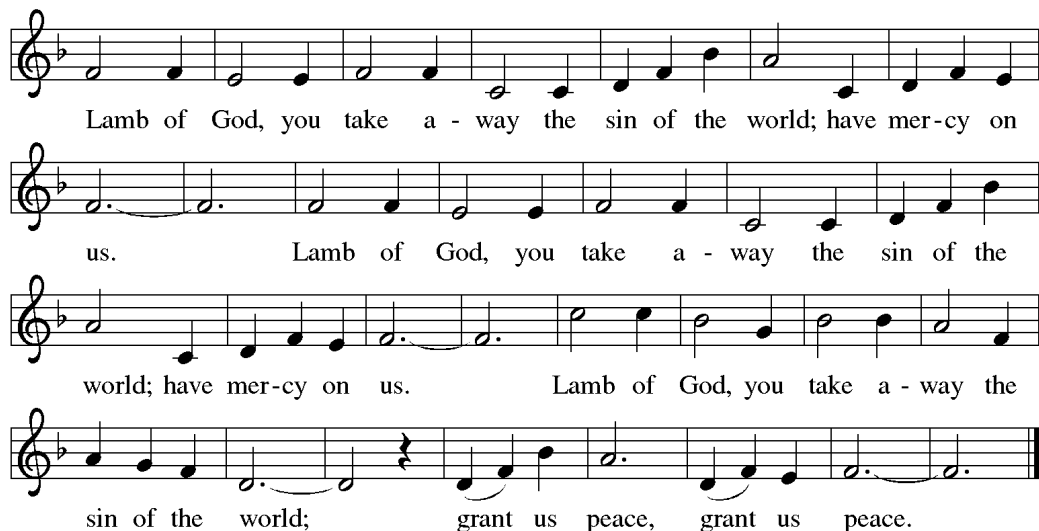
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

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: "All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread." 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

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

(ACS 977)



1 Look who gath - ers at Christ's ta - ble! Hear the sto - ries
2 Clouds of light sur - round the ta - ble; an - cient fol - low -
3 Their sad sto - ries are re - peat - ed in a thou - sand
4 Bring your joy and bring your sad - ness, and pre - pare to



that they bring. Some are weep - ing; some are laugh - ing;
ers ap - pear, saints con - fess - ing how they wres - tled
dif - f'rent ways, but they share one thing in com - mon:
be sur - prised by the host whose hands are wound - ed,



some have songs they want to sing. Oth - ers ask why they're in -
with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Pe - ter tells of his de -
they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has in -
who will o - pen wide your eyes when he bless - es bread and



vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con - verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.



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.

Stand

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

Generous Host,
 you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
 Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
 that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
 in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand: Kwake Yesu nasimama (ACS 1024)*

Refrain



Kwa - ke Ye - su na - si - ma - ma, ndi - ye
Here on Je - sus Christ I will stand. He's the



mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma. Ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la -
sol - id rock of my life. He's the sol - id rock of my



ma, ndi - ye mwam - ba ni sa - la - ma.
life. He's the sol - id rock of my life.



1 There's no oth - er place I can hide till the
2 It is not the work of my hands that has
3 When my days on this earth are done, and I



storm that rag - es sub - sides. My voice cries to God from the
washed a - way all my sins. I'm re - deemed, and all of my
stand at God's ho - ly throne, my heart will not have an - y



Refrain

flood, and I'm saved be - cause of his blood.
days, Je - sus Christ will be my heart's praise.
fear; in Christ's righ - teous - ness I am here.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Finale Johann Eberlin

(1702-1760)



Notes to the Congregation

🌸 Easter Flower Order Form 🌸

The **Altar Guild** invites you to help decorate our sanctuary with **beautiful tulips and hyacinths** for Easter! These flowers will add to our celebration and may be taken home after the Easter services. * Please see attached Page to remove for orders 😊

In the Know

- **Today the Noisy Offering** benefits the Family Promise of the Shenandoah Valley. *“Family Promise Northern Shenandoah Valley provides a way for congregations to work together to help families experiencing homelessness. Our program enables us to meet the basic needs of our families. Families with children make up the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population. Usually, over half of the guests served are children, and most of the children are under the age of six. Nationally, over 6,000 congregations participate in Family Promise Affiliates with literally thousands of volunteers who help families regain their independence.”*

Please visit <https://www.familypromisensv.org/> for more information .

Reminders

- **Please Take a free Lenten devotional (in the Narthex)**
- **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.

- **Wednesdays in Lent**

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

There is a signup 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 each of the Wednesdays. The dates are, 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!

- **Food pantry donation** request for March: canned peas.

Save the Date

- **April 13, Palm Sunday** worship with Palms
- **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

*If you'd like to be added to our weekly Trinity Times Newsletter, please fill out a welcome card (small basket on table in Narthex) leave your name and email and we'll be happy to add you.

Easter Flower Order Form

The Altar Guild invites you to help decorate our sanctuary with beautiful tulips and hyacinths for Easter! These flowers will add to our celebration and may be taken home after the Easter services.



Order Deadline: Sunday, March 23

💰 Cost: \$14.50 per plant

👉 How to Order:

1. Complete this form.
2. Attach payment (check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church).
3. Place in the offering box or mail it to the church office.

Your Order Details

🌿 Flowers Given By:



♥ In Honor Of:



In Memory Of:



☀️ How Many Would You Like?

- Tulips: _____
- Hyacinths: _____

Total Plants Ordered: _____

Total Amount Paid: \$ _____

(at \$14.50 per plant)



✨ Thank you for your support in making our Easter celebration beautiful!

"He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." – Matthew 28:6