

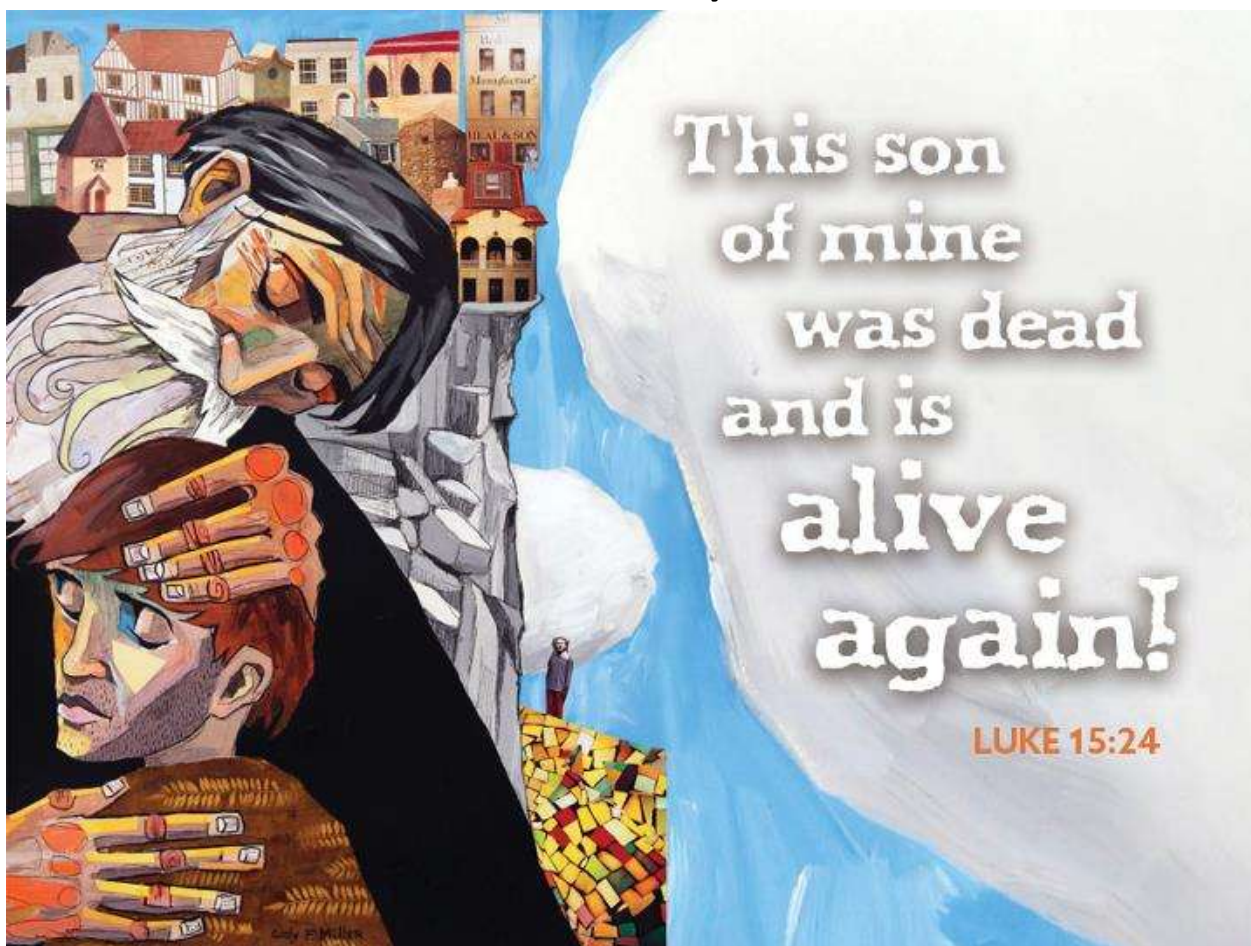
TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF STEPHENS CITY VIRGINIA

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

(540) 869-4019

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent



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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: Marianne Watson, Reader: Barry Hockenberry, Comm. Asst. Carole Pfisterer

Next week: Greeter: & Comm. Asst.: Deb Wickboldt Reader: Hilda Painter

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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

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

(ELW 807)



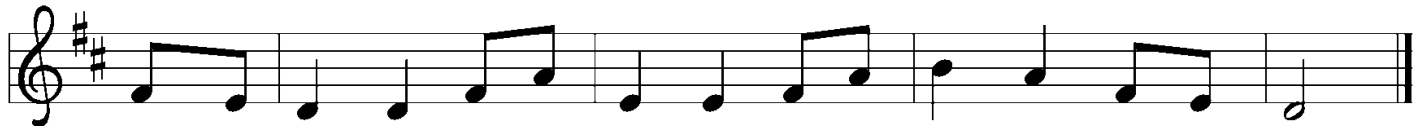
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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 - lei - son.
Chris - te e - lei - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through 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: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

9 The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32



Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.



- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions [|] are forgiven,
and whose sin is [|] put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- [|] putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there [|] is no guile! R**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- [|] ered away,
because of my groaning [|] all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me [|] day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the [|] heat of summer.**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- [|] ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt [|] of
my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in [|] time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they [|] shall not reach them. R**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve [|] me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts [|] of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that [|] you should go;
I will guide you [|] with my eye.**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no [|] understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will [|] not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations [|] of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust [|] in the Lord.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice [|] in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are [|] true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and

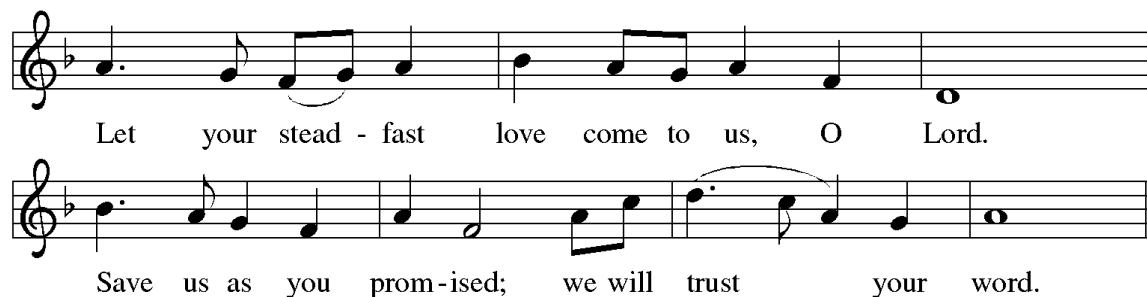
entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lenten Acclamation (Farlee)



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

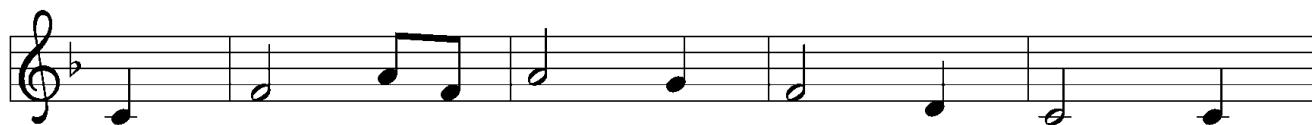
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

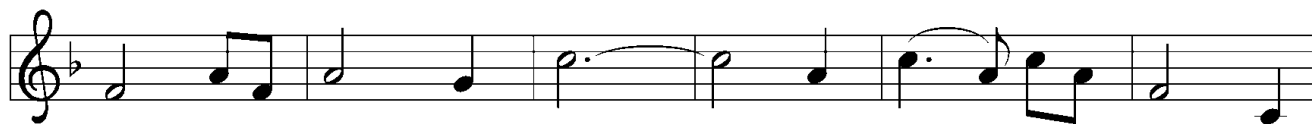
SERMON

Rev. Larry Closter





1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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.

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Juanita, Monica (**worshippers may add names silently or aloud**). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (especially). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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 JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE
TRINITY CHIME CHOIR

ARRANGED- FRANCES CALLAHAN

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)

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.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

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.

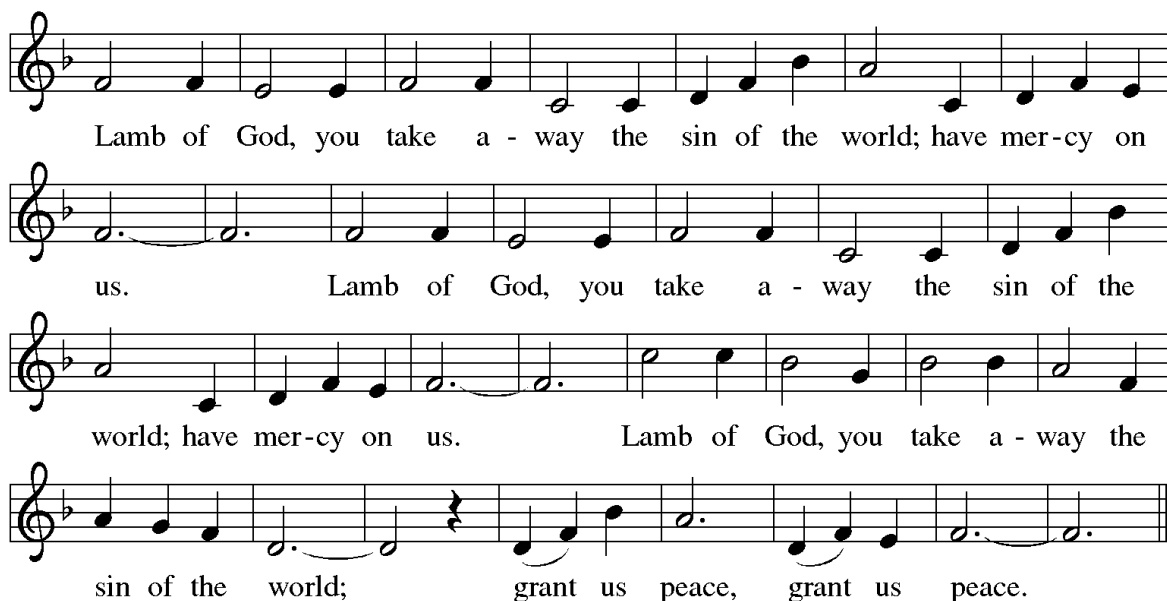
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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

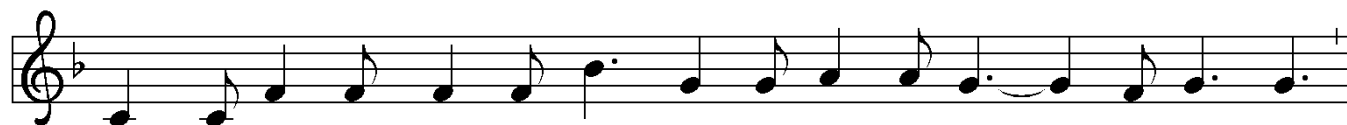


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

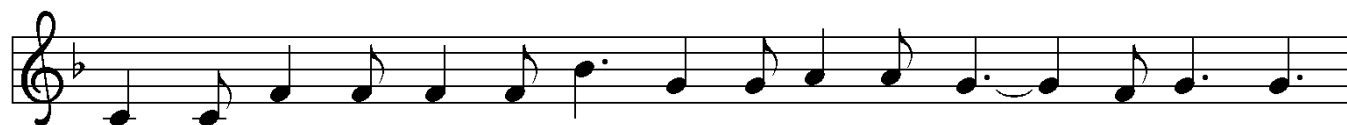
SONGS DURING COMMUNION

Now the Silence

(ELW 460)



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

(ELW 763)



1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Fugue

Abraham Kerckhoven (1627-1702)



Notes to the Congregation

Note from Pastor Closter:

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bible Study survey!
Your input is greatly appreciated.

Our Study will Begin -Sunday, April 27th, I will be holding a brief informational meeting after the service to share details about the upcoming study dates and times. I look forward to seeing you there!

Special Thanks

As I settle into my role here at Trinity, I just want to take a moment to say thank you. Your kindness, support, and willingness to help have made my first few months a joy. Whether it's answering my questions, offering a warm smile, or sharing a bit of Trinity's history, I truly appreciate each of you. It's a blessing to be part of such a welcoming and faithful community. I look forward to continuing this journey together!

With gratitude,
Jodie Broccolo

Reminders

-
- ♦ **Following Today's service**, please **RSVP** for the Maundy Thursday Worship & Christian Seder Meal (April 17th) by signing up with the designated person holding a clipboard. Your RSVP is essential, as the meal is an integral part of the service.
 - ♦ **Tuesday, April 1**
Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30pm | Parish Hall
 - ♦ **Wednesday, April 2**
5:30 PM – Soup Supper
6:30 PM - Lent Worship Service
 - ♦ **Thursday, April 3**
Weekly Choir Rehearsal @ 5:30
 - ♦ **Friday, April 4**
Set up for Easter Craft Bazaar @5pm-7pm
 - ♦ **Saturday, April 5**
Easter Craft Bazaar @ 9am -3 pm

♦ **Notes from the LCW**

- 🍰 LCW Bake Sale – April 5th (9 AM - 3 PM)

Calling all bakers! The Lutheran Church Women are hosting a bake sale alongside the Easter Craft Bazaar.

Drop off baked goods: Friday, April 4th (8 AM - 3 PM) or Saturday, April 5th at 8:30 AM

~ Proceeds will support LCW projects. Thank you for your generosity!

- The LCW invites all ladies to a special Tea Party on

Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 2 PM in the Parish Hall.

Come dressed in your favorite hat and join us for a relaxing afternoon filled with tea and fellowship! **RSVP by April 15:** Sue Scheulen - 540-247-4826 | susanscheulen@yahoo.com

OR Mistie McPadalin - 540-660-0567 | wjmcp3@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

- ♦ **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. Also, if you would like to add to the Prayers of Intercession please contact Mistie McPadalin.
- ♦ **HOSPITAL VISITATION**- Pastor Closter is registered clergy for Valley Heath he visits patients in the hospital when we are aware that someone has been admitted and sees this as important pastoral care. Because of HIPPA, the hospital does not contact the church to let us know when a parishioner is a patient. If you want him to visit, please contact the church office at 540-869-4019, or after hours, please call the pastor 540-848-5325 or send an email. You may also reach out to our prayer team contact, Mistie McPadalin or Matha Cooley.
- ♦ **Food pantry donation** request for April: canned Corn.
- ♦ **Happy Birthday this week:**
Jensen King- March 31st
Jacob Carroll- April 5th

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

For More Info

*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.