# Seventh Sunday of Easter, Year C

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> 810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA Sunday Worship, 9:30AM (540) 869-4019 May 25, 2025



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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/">https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/</a>

This Weeks; Greeter: Marianne Watson. Lessons & Prayers Reader: Sue Teal. Communion Assistant: Hilda Painter.

Next Weeks; Greeters: Diann Dailey. Lessons & Prayers Reader, and Communion Assistant: Darla Wolf.

The Chancel Flowers this week are given by the LCW in loving memory of Anne Vermillion.

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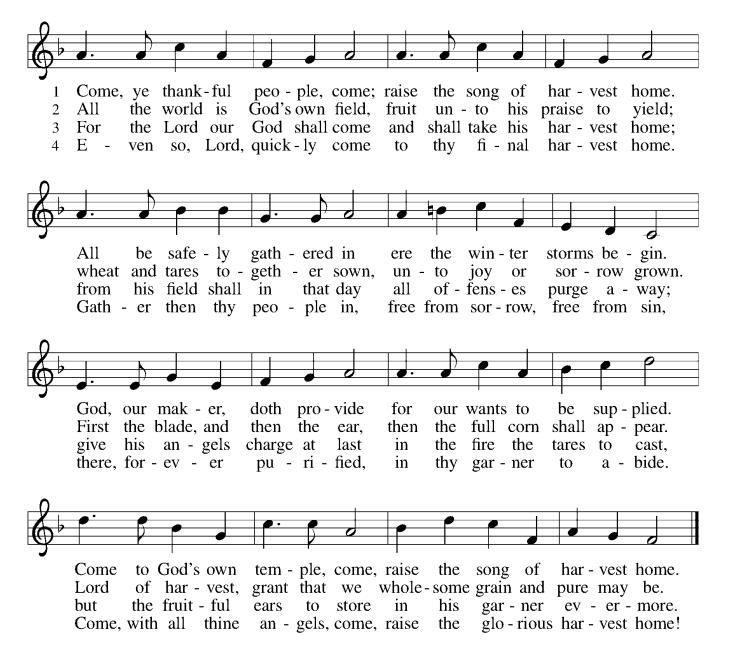
#### PRELUDE Please stand

# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin. Silence is kept for reflection. Merciful God, you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.** 

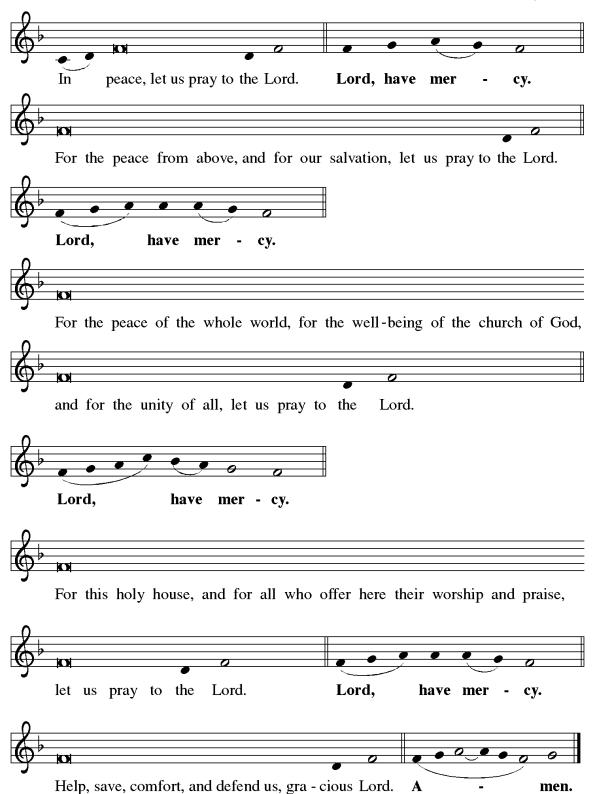


Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt. Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

#### GREETING

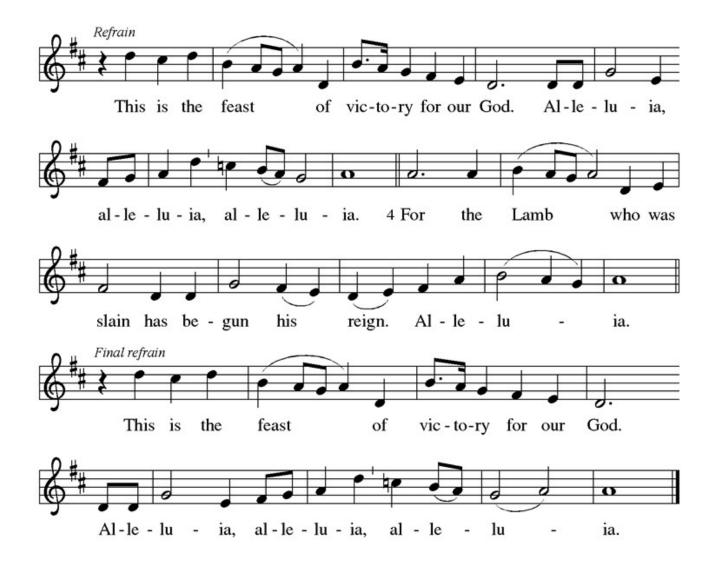
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



Continue  $\rightarrow$ 





# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

# Amen.

Please be seated

# FIRST READING: Acts 16:16-34

A reading from Acts.

<sup>16</sup> One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who

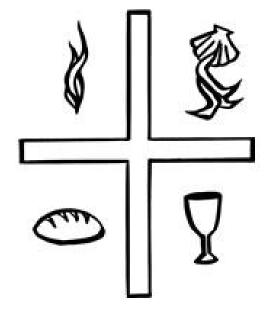
proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



**PSALM: Psalm 67** 



<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the <sup>|</sup> earth rejoice;

let the multitude of the <sup>1</sup> isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup>Clouds and darkness sur-<sup>1</sup> round the LORD,

righteousness and justice are the foundations <sup>1</sup> of God's throne.

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes be-<sup>1</sup> fore the LORD,

burning up enemies on <sup>1</sup> every side.

<sup>4</sup>Lightnings light <sup>1</sup> up the world;

the earth <sup>I</sup> sees and trembles.

<sup>5</sup>The mountains <sup>1</sup> melt like wax

before the Lord of <sup>1</sup> all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare your righteous- <sup>1</sup> ness, O LORD,

and all the peoples <sup>1</sup> see your glory.

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight <sup>1</sup> in false gods!

Bow down before the LORD, <sup>|</sup> all you gods.

<sup>8</sup>Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Ju-<sup>1</sup> dah rejoice,

because of your judg- I ments, O LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over <sup>1</sup> all the earth;

you are exalted far a-<sup>1</sup> bove all gods.

<sup>10</sup>You who love the <sup>|</sup> LORD, hate evil!

God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand <sup>1</sup> of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns <sup>|</sup> for the righteous,

and joy for the hon- <sup>|</sup> est of heart.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice in the <sup>1</sup> LORD, you righteous,

and give thanks to God's <sup>1</sup> holy name.

# SECOND READING: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>12</sup> "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>14</sup> Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

<sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup> The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

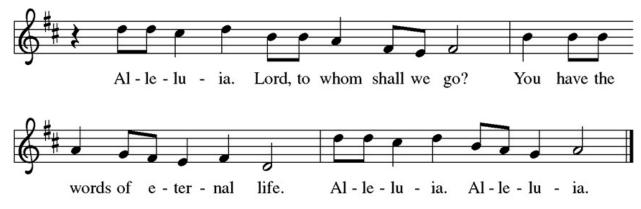
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

# Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 142)



# GOSPEL: John 17:20-26

The holy gospel according to John.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>20</sup> "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

**Rev. Larry Closter** 



Please stand



Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946 Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946 © 1977 Thankyou Music, admin. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Hosanna! Music

BIND US TOGETHER 6776 and refrain

#### 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**

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray. Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart especially Barb, Shirley, Louise, Stephen, Paul, Hadley, Nikki, Michael, Jeff, Monica, Lauren, Nancy (worshippers may add names silently or aloud). Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people (*VBS, camp, summer series or other programs may be named*). Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died (*especially Justin, martyr*), we look toward your coming again among us. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

# Amen.

# Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

# And also with you.

# Please be seated

# Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

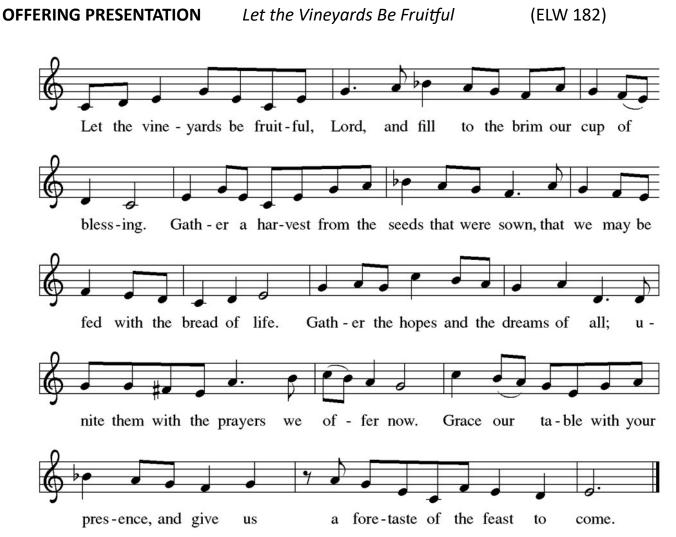
# OFFERING



What God Ordains, Is Right IndeedJohann Pachelbel (1653-1706)Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and<br/>have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity<br/>both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person,<br/>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.

# Please stand



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

# **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **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.

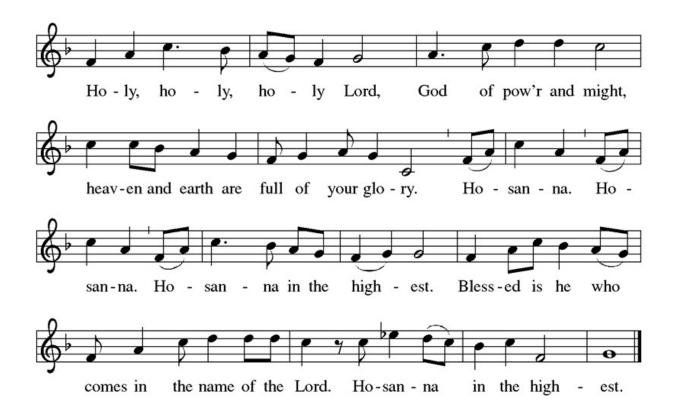


# PREFACE

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

# 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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

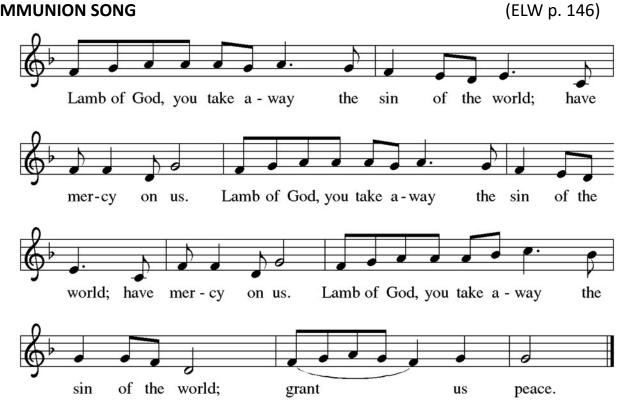
For those communing at home, have your package ready to open. The pastor will acknowledge your presence and request that you consume the elements at this time.

# Please be seated

# COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

For those who prefer not to partake of the wine there are cups filled with grape juice in the center of the communion tray.



#### **COMMUNION SONG**

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

This Is Christ's Body



Taxt: David Diarlin h 1094

# Please stand

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.** 

# Please be seated

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Please stand

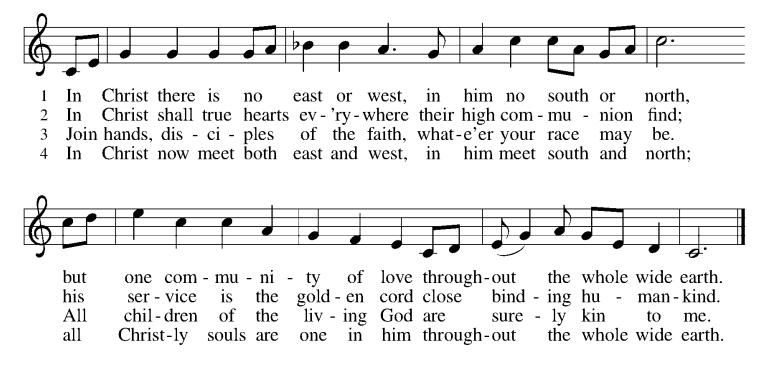
BLESSING The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ⊕ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

#### Amen.



In Christ There Is No East or West

(ELW 650)



Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

DISMISSAL Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

First Tone

S. Schever (1631-1712)

#### Last chance to RSVP by June 1st for:

The Ladies' Luncheon – Hosted by LCW & Sewing for the Savior

- All ladies of the congregation are invited!
  - Paladin Restaurant 181 Warrior Dr, Stephens City, VA
  - 🕛 Saturday, June 7 @ 12 Noon

Contact: Christine Cornwell: 540-869-2727 or Sue Scheulen: 540-247-4826

Help us celebrate Louise Poffenberger's 100th birthday! A special card box is in the Parish Hall (small table by the double doors) for anyone who would like to send birthday wishes. If you don't have a card, feel free to take one from the folder provided. More details about the celebration can be found in the Save the Date section.

# With Gratitude, We Welcome Our Guest Preacher

Please join us for worship Nesxt Sunday, June 8 at 9:30 AM for a special **Pentecost Service** led by **Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth**. We are grateful for her presence and ministry among us and look forward to her message as we celebrate the Spirit's movement in our lives and community.

# Summer Hymn Sing Returns in June!

Our joyful summer tradition begins again in June! Each Sunday service will begin with a **hymn** sing featuring your favorite selections.

Browse the ELW, With One Voice, and the Worship & Praise Songbook, then fill out a suggestion slip (located at the organ console) and drop it in the nearby basket. Ricky will review all submissions and do his best to include every request. Let's fill our summer mornings with the music that moves your spirit!

Please place used bulletins in the recycling basket located under the table in the Narthex entryway, where you picked them up.

# ~The Trinity Times~ Church & Community NEWS

# THIS WEEK AT TRINITY Here's what's happening at a glance:

# 📰 Sunday, June 1 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM

- Coffee Hour | Parish Hall All are welcome!
- Chime Choir Practice | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- Join us for an ongoing Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts (alternative date Friday
- the 30th, see below) | Parish Hall @11:00am.
- 🛅 Monday, June 2
- 📰 Tuesday, June 3
- 📰 Wednesday, June 4
- Pastor Closter will be on Vacation (4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)
- 📰 Thursday, June 5
- Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM | Contact: Ricky Gearhart, Music Director
- 📰 Friday, June 6
- D-Day

# 📰 Saturday, June 7

- Last CMSP Music Together (Spring Session - Week 9) | Upstairs Classroom

– Ladies Luncheon @ 12 PM Paladin Restaurant | Contact Christine Cornwell: 540-869-2727 or Sue Scheulen: 540-247-4826

# <u>👑 BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK</u>

Happy Birthday to:

- June 3 Mike Pyne, & Grace Kowis
  - June 4 Mark Greene
  - June 5 Bill McPadalin

(Did we miss your birthday? Contact the church office to update your info!)

# **Ongoing Announcements**

# • Prayer Team Table

Located just inside the sanctuary entrance. Submit a card with your prayer request, or contact **Mistie McPadalin** to add a name to the Prayers of Intercession.

Hospital Visitation
 Pastor Closter is registered with Valley Health for hospital visits. Due to HIPAA laws, the hospital cannot notify us when someone is admitted.
 To request a visit, contact the church office at 540-869-4019, or after hours, call Pastor Closter at 540-848-5325. You may also reach out to Mistie McPadalin or Martha Cooley.

June Food Pantry Donation Request: Spaghetti Sauce

Save the Date

# NEXT MONTH AT A GLANCE

<u>Mark your calendars – JUNE is here!</u> June Food Pantry Donation Request: Spaghetti Sauce

June 8 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM | Pentecost with Rev. Ingrid Chenoweth

June 10 – Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

– LCW (Lutheran Church Women) @ 11:30AM | Contact Deb Wickboldt

- Congregational Council Meeting @ 6:30 PM | Parish Hall

June 12 – Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM

June 13th- 15 – 2025 Virginia Synod Assembly

June 14 – Dementia Matters \ Dementia Friendly Blue Ridge (DFBR) information meeting @ 10AM-12PM Parish Hall | Contact Jayne Seymour ~ Certified Dementia Practitioner, Certified Dementia Trainer 540-535-9775

June 15 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM | Father's Day

– The Noisy offering will benefit the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Homeless Program

- Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

June 19 – Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM

June 20 – Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 10 AM | Parish Hall

- Happy 100th Birthday to Louise Poffenberger! 🎉

June 22 – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM- Celebration for Louise's 100th Birthday!

– Bible study and discussion of the book of Acts @ 11 AM | Parish Hall

June 24 – Sewing for the Savior @ 9:30 AM | Room 204

 $Continued \rightarrow$ 

<u>Young at Heart Dinner</u> " A Taste of Tuscany" @5:30pm Parish Hall | RSVP by June 15th to Maxine Rogers 540-869-2012 or Christine Cornwell 540-869-2727
24th - 30th Pastor Closter will be on Vacation **June 25** – Community Meal @ 5:30 PM | Parish Hall (Fried Chicken, Greens or Carrots, Baked Beans & Dessert)
Together in Prayer @ 7:00 PM **June 26** – Choir Rehearsal @ 5:45 PM **June 28** – Newtown History Center - Presentation on military uniforms of Frederick County VA soldiers of 1775 @ 10 AM- 12PM Parish Hall | Contact Byron C. Smith 540-869-7102 **June 29** – Sunday Service @ 9:30 AM with Rev. Heidi David- Young

# Stay in the Loop!

Want to receive our weekly Trinity Times Newsletter by email?

Fill out a welcome card (basket in the Narthex) with your name and email, and we'll add you to the list.

Prefer print? Pick up a copy **next to the name tag table in the Narthex**, or call the office to request a mailed version:

📞 540-869-4019 | 🕒 Tuesday–Friday, 8 AM–1 PM