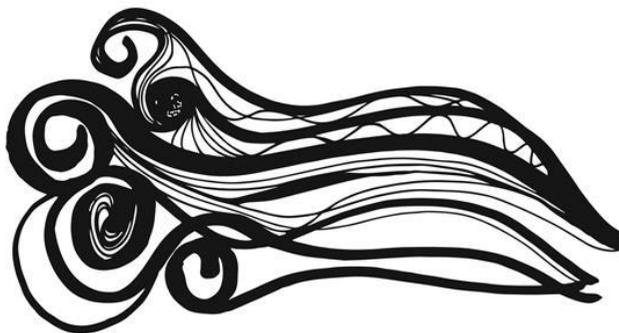


You're Welcome...



Lent 5: March 22, 2026



Holy Trinity Staff

Pastor: Rev. Mark Luscombe

Organist and Bell Choir Director: Debbie Fortna

Choir Director: Deb Olson

Administrative Assistant: Sue Johns

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY E.L.C.A.

167 EAST MAIN STREET EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE 717.733.4134 Web: www.holytrinityephrata.org

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM

†††

GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude: *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, arr. Jonathan A. Noel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C. Amen.

P. Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the

world: Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to

life: Gracious God,

C. have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P. God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

P. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C. Amen.

(please stand)

The Entrance Hymn: #886 OH, FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Apostolic Greeting

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

C. And also with you.

Kyrie:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

The Prayer of the Day

P. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death.

C. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(please be seated)

WORD

The First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹² Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130 (read responsively with the lector)

¹Out ¹of the depths I cry to ¹you, O LORD;

²**O LORD, ¹hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my ¹supplication.**

³If you were to keep watch ¹over sins, O LORD, ¹who could stand?

⁴**Yet with you ¹is forgiveness, in order that you ¹may be feared.**

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; ¹my soul waits; in your word ¹is my hope.

⁶**My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch ¹for the morning, more than**

those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel from | all their sins.

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L. The Word of the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God.**

The Lenten Sentence



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger,
and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Gospel Lesson: John 11:1-45

P. The Holy Gospel according to John.

C. Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus,

⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the

Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P. The Gospel of the Lord. C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(please be seated)

The Sermon: Rev. Mark Luscombe

[Silence for reflection follows the sermon.]

(please stand)

The Hymn of the Day: #666 WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

Apostle's 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

The Prayers

A. Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(Kneel)

(after each petition, please respond)

A. Hear us, O God. **C. Your mercy is great.**

P. Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C. Amen

P. The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C. And also with you!

MEAL

The Offering: *Savior, Your Dying Love*, arr. Lani Smith

(please stand)

The Offertory: "Create in Me..."



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.

The Offertory Prayer

A. O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C. your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

The Preface Dialogue: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface for Lent

P. "It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy.....join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Eucharistic Prayer

P. Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations. In the night in which he was handed over, 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. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C. Come, Holy Spirit.

P. With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C. Amen

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the
time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are
yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

The Fraction

P. Come to the table.

C. Where we feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Lamb of God

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. A - men.

(please be seated)

The Distribution

[All are invited to come to the table, for either the bread, wine and grape juice or a blessing. If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation of children at the table. We use a glass to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful].

#485 I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

#773 PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

#758 YOU ARE THE WAY

#491 COME, LET US EAT

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

The Blessing of Communicants

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

C. Amen

Post Communion Canticle

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,

That life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures Ev - er may your work e - rase;

Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,

Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, All my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

The Post Communion Prayer

P. God of our salvation,

C. we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Benediction

P. Receive the blessing of the Holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

C. Amen

The Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Live the good news.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: *The Clarion Call*, Lani Smith

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

ASSISTING MINISTERS

9:00 John Fuehrer

LECTOR

9:00 Ed Quirke

COUNCIL TEAM

9:00 Lisa Garrett, Bill Spitzer

ACOLYTES

9:00 Norm Wangman

AV Bob Eberly

Launder Linens: Patricia Fassnacht

Deliver Flowers: Judy Wechter

ALTAR GUILD

9:00 Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

USHERS

9:00 Ron & Carlene Kerschner,
David Kerschner, Rob Gilbert

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:

✠ The altar flowers are given by Terry & Joyce Gehman in remembrance of Joyce's father, Howard Hornberger Sr, who was born on this day in 1918.

Prayers of the People

Gay Weller – friend of Alice and Larry Hummer

Kathryn Sweigart – 99 Bethany Rd. Personal Care Rm. 113, Ephrata, PA 17522

Jake Hinkle – 4 No. Line Road, Stevens, PA 17578

Ken Fortna Jr. – Debbie’s brother

Julia Perella – Judy Williams great niece

Terry Gehman – 11 Pleasant Road, Gordonville, PA 17529

Janet Wiest – 1125 Marilyn Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522

Kathrin Baltz – 10 Windolph Ct. Lititz, PA 17543

Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522

Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert’s mom

All persons affected by war and violence

Victims of natural disasters

Shut-ins of the Parish

President Trump and leaders of this nation, leaders and policy makers of every nation

All outreach ministries serving those in need



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please get in touch with the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish a name to be included on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please get in touch with the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstances, making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna
Emmalyn Mulvenna
Janet Brunner
Andrew Campbell
Michael Spenrath
Tony Perella
Mike & Claudia Belden
Henry Perella
Peyton Harter

COL. Eric Bowers
Dan Wierbiki
Jacob Hinkle Jr.
Karen Woerner
Kim Harnish
Rick Gerhard
Wyatt Geisthweit
Les Doremus
Scott Hambleton

Jim Weik
Heidi White
Johnny White
Jacob Connelly
Sue & Denis Rowe
Crystal Perry
Hank & Pat Kajetzke
Terry Gehman
Jill Puleo

Brent Stever
Alan & family
Dori Hoch
Cindy Stahl
Martha Becker
Chris and Karen Payonk
Alysha Fassnacht
Melissa Hughes

John Surdich
Ava Berkosky
Amy Pasili
Theresa Cimino
Eric Mortorell
Duke & Bonnie Leeper
Sheldon Garman
Devin Collins

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.

Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityephrata.org), a tab on the menu bar called “Online Giving” will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.

