

# You're Welcome...



**Lent 2: March 1, 2026**



## **Holy Trinity Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Mark Luscombe

Organist and Bell Choir Director: Debbie Fortna

Choir Director: Deb Olson

Administrative Assistant: Sue Johns

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

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# The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM

†††

GATHERING

## Announcements

**Prelude:** *God So Loved the World*, arr. Lani Smith

## 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: #335 JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

## 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.

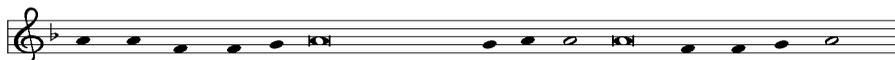
## Kyrie:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



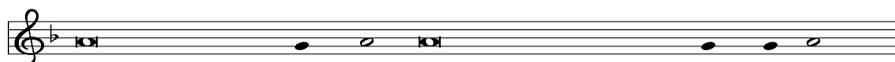
Lord, have mer - cy.



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. O God, our leader and guide,

**C. in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children.**

**Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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 Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

L. The Word of the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 121 (read responsively with the lector)

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills; from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD, the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day, nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**

**from this time forth for- | evermore.**

### The Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

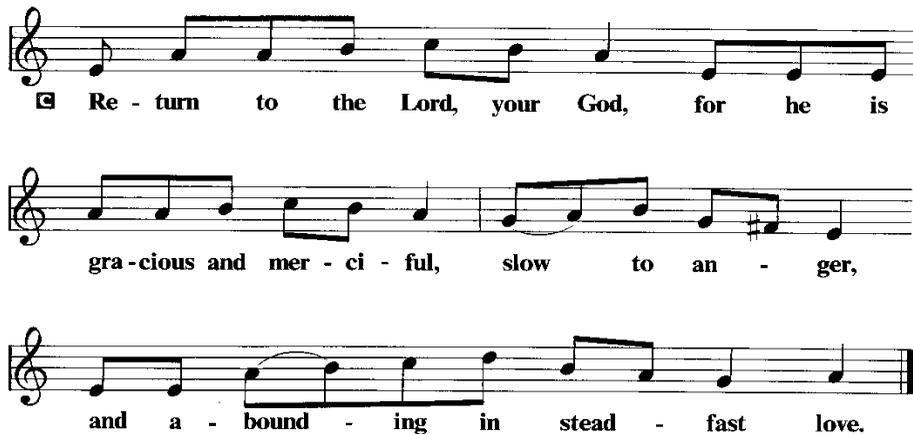
<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")--in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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 3:1-17

P. The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I

tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through 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:** #660 LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

**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:** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*, 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].*

#666 WHAT A WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

#451 WE ARE BAPTIZED IN CHRIST JESUS

#803 WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

#471 LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

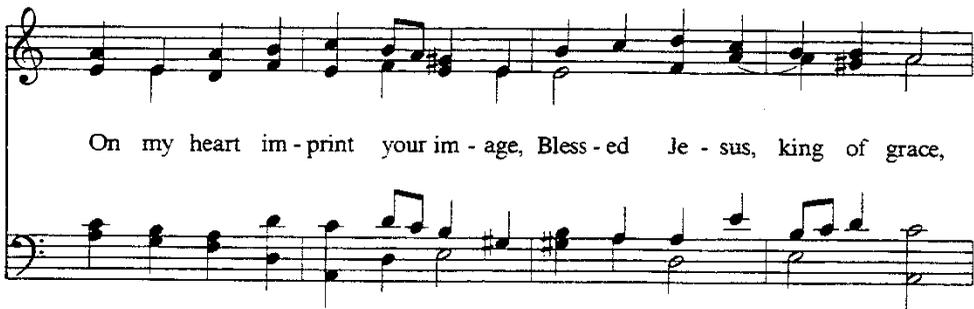
## COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

### The Blessing of Communicants

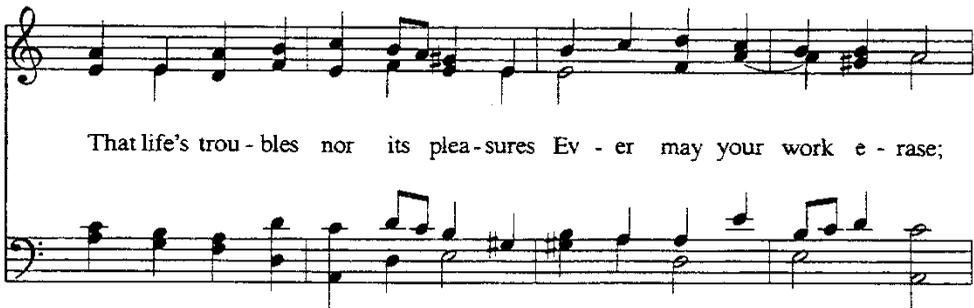
P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen

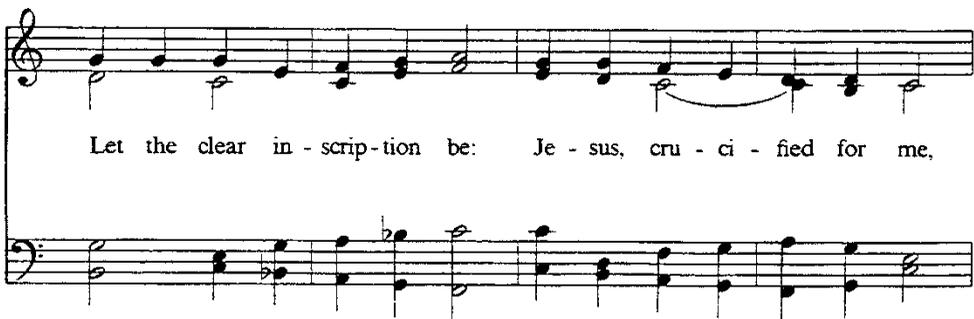
## Post Communion Canticle



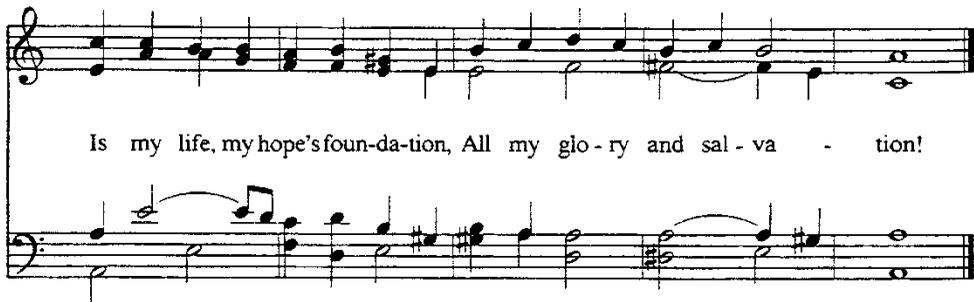
On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



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:** *Andante Maestoso*, Arcangelo Corelli

## OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

### **ASSISTING MINISTERS**

9:00 Ed Quirke

### **LECTOR**

9:00 John Fuehrer

### **COUNCIL TEAM**

9:00 John Fuehrer, Barry Kreider

### **ACOLYTES**

9:00 CH: Dylan Lynn

### **AV**

**Launder Linens:** Patrice Mull

**Deliver Flowers:** Winnie Gerlach

### **ALTAR GUILD**

9:00 Denise Shirker, Ann & Bob Snader

### **USHERS**

9:00 Allen Nace, John Weiss, Adam Doughty,

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

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✠ To the glory of God.

## Prayers of the People

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

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

Rick Woerner – 280 Boomerang Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522

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 Spennath

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

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**Make Your Regular Offering Electronically**

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://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.

