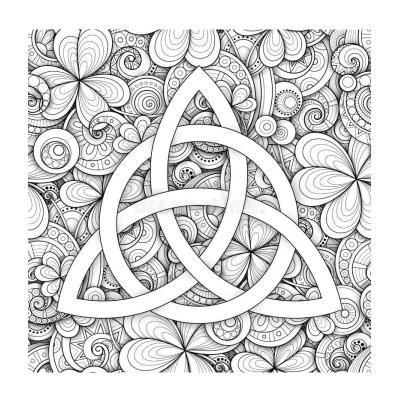
The Church of the Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II



September 7, 2025

What's Happening This Week:

Morning Prayer is held every weekday at 9:00 am on Facebook

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, September 7	11:00 am	Holy Eucharist –13 th Sunday After Pentecost Church *Undie Sunday: Bring newly bought underwear to	
	12:00 pm 4:00 pm	donate to Open Hearts Café! Refreshments Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Church Centennial Room
Monday, September, 8	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Tuesday, September 9	10:00-3:00 3:00 pm	Church Open Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Wednesday, September 10	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Thursday, September 11	10:00-3:00 12:15 pm	Church Open Healing Eucharist	Prayer Corner
Sunday, September 14	11:00 am 12:00 pm 4:00 pm	Holy Eucharist –14 th Sunday After Pented Refreshments Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Cost Church Church Centennial Room

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Gail Caruso, Intercessor

Thomas Lipscomb & Shreve Simpson, Lectors

David Otwell, Usher

Jeannie Welsh, Welcome Table & Refreshments

A Special THANK YOU to The Rev. Claudia Merritt for preaching & celebrating with us today while our Rectors are on sabbatical

WELCOME

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU ARE HERE!

We ask that you turn off or silence your Cell Phone during the service. Thank you!

OUR VIVID VISION

This was created in 2022 in collaboration with the Rectors, Wardens & Vestry and is intended to describe where we will be in 3 years.

The church is bursting with life. Outside the building, people are talking, resting, and enjoying the weather. Inside, people are coming and going – staff and volunteers connecting and welcoming. Families, students, working professionals, retirees and neighbors mingle with each other, finding resources they need: safety and support, education, and creative outlets. Visitors and members alike find a place to make a difference and share their gifts with each other. The smell of delicious food wafts through the air as the chefs prepare the community meal for the day. Visitors from all over the world are marveling at the beautiful interior of the sanctuary. Worshippers are laughing, singing, praising, and just enjoying being together. The delicate sounds of violin mingle with the robust organ and the echoes of voices. We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood.

CORE VALUES

INCLUSION/WELCOME

We believe that no one should feel left out or alone. We embrace our differences and respect each person within our community. This allows everyone to bring their unique and authentic gifts to further the mission of the church.

INNOVATION

We are not afraid of trying new things or changing when necessary. If things do not work out, we are open to re-evaluate, learn from our mistakes, and try again.

COLLABORATION

We listen to and support one another, working and evolving together. We build upon each other's strengths and lift up each other's gifts.

COMMUNITY MINDEDNESS

Church is not an individual endeavor, but a community experience. We believe that we cannot each succeed or be whole, unless everyone finds success and wholeness.

CULTURE

JOYFUL

We are hopeful, optimistic, and have fun together. Being part of this community gives us joy, and our joy spreads to others and makes us want to share joy with them.

FEARLESS

We are innovative, purposeful and adaptable. We believe that with God all things are possible and that with prayer and connection to God we will always have enough. We are not afraid of trying new things or of failing. We learn from our mistakes. We reach out to others drawing them in, not waiting for them to find us.

EMBRACING

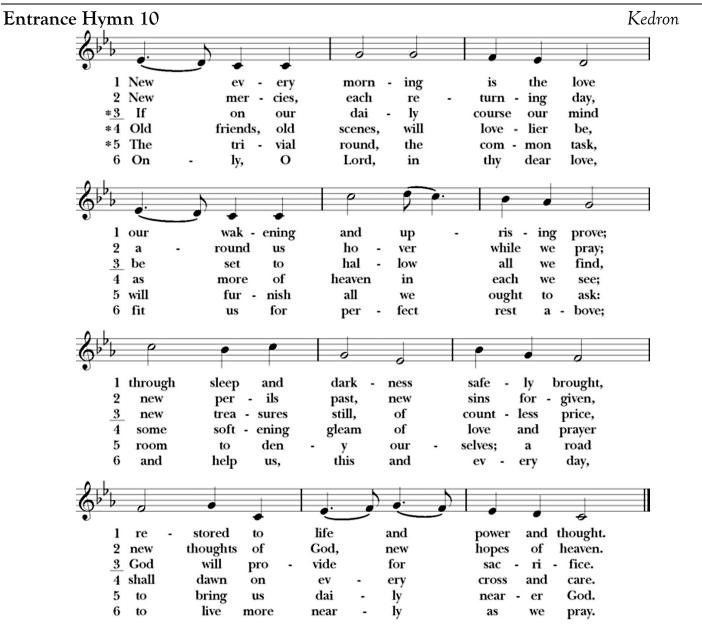
We love others, because God loves us. This means that we are accepting, welcoming, open, genuine, and empathetic. We speak the truth in love.

ENGAGED

Our connection to this organization is full of energy. We give without expectation of return. We continuously learn about the community and our neighbors and adapt our connections as needed. We all contribute our time, money and skills to make our community better.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

THE ENTRANCE RITE



Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen

Collect for Purity

Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria S-280 Robert Powell 1. Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord peace God, al - might - y Fa - ther, we God and wor - ship you, we King, give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus . 0 on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb God, 4. you take the sin of the world: have a - way mer cy on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the ceive you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most Christ, with the Ho High, Spi - rit, ly

Fa - ther.

men.

the

 God

glo - ry of

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the

proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 18:1-11

Thomas Lipscomb

Reader A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Silence.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17 Domine, probasti

The psalm is read responsively, <u>pausing at the asterisk</u>. Each side of the congregation takes a verse, starting with the pulpit/north side.

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; * you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places * and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, * but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before * and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; * it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; * you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; * your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, * while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; * they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! * how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; * to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Reader

A reading from Paul's letter to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Reader People The Word of the Lord.

Silence.

Thanks be to God.

strife a-mong us

re - call that



be

in

un -

our

known,

midst

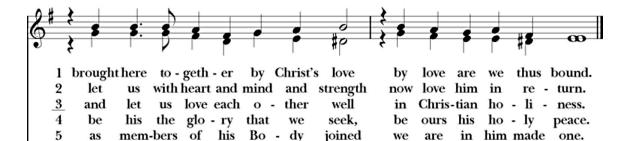
let

dwells God's

all

con - ten - tion cease;

be - got - ten Son;



6 Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God's Name; our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.

The Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Celebrant Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Celebrant

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Claudia Merritt

Silence may be kept.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

The Nicene Creed

All

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People, Form VI

Gail Caruso

Leader In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. (Silence)

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;
People For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, and Daniel, our Bishop; and for all bishops and

other ministers; We pray for our clergy, John and Rachel, who are on sabbatical,

and our congregation, who are finding renewal this summer together.

People For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially all who have

asked for our prayers Herb, David, Vicken, Barbara, Ioannis, JB, Carri, Joe, Sylvia, Osiris, Ebony, Iddin, Alima, Margaret, Katie, Ellie, Mona, Anrico, and

The Glenn family. (Silence)

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. (Silence)

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal

kingdom. (Silence)

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People Who put their trust in you.

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

All

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you!

Welcome, Parish Notices & Blessings

Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant

Unshakable and Holy God, we bring these gifts before you, not as mere offerings, but as acts of faith in your unshakable kingdom. Though the world around us trembles, we trust in your steadfast love, knowing that in Christ, we are welcomed, transformed, and sent forth to serve. Bless these gifts, that they may be used to build your justice and mercy, bringing hope to the broken and light to the weary. With grateful hearts, we offer ourselves alongside these gifts, that we may be signs of your grace in the world. **Amen**.

Offertory Anthem

Turn back, O man

Gustav Holst

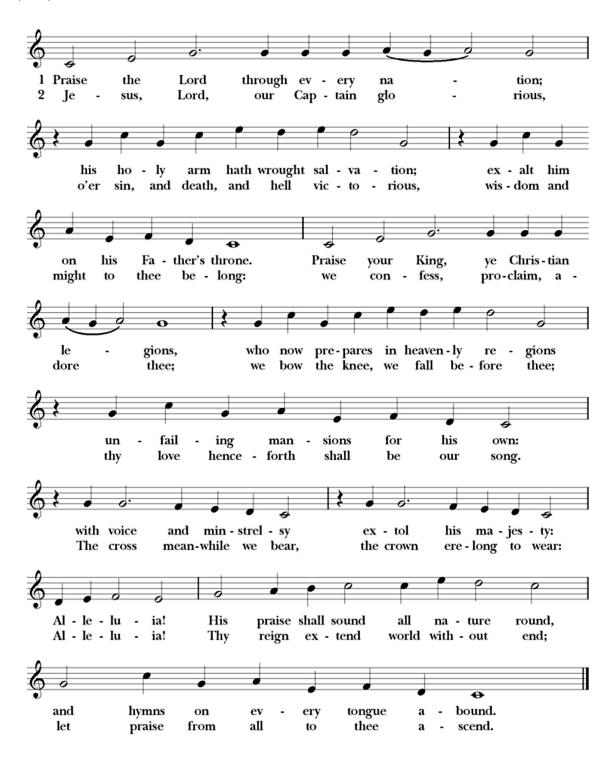
Turn back O Man, forswear thy foolish ways, Old now is Earth, and none may count her days, Yet thou, her child, whose head is crowned with flame, Still wilt not hear thine inner god proclaim "Turn back O Man, forswear thy foolish ways!"

Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise, Age after age their tragic empires rise. Built while they dream and in that dreaming weep. Would man but wake from out his haunted sleep, Earth might be fair and all men glad and wise. Earth shall be fair, and all her people one, Nor till that hour shall God's whole will be done. Now, even now, once more from earth to sky, Peals forth in joy man's old undaunted cry – "Earth shall be fair, and all her folk be one!"

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Offertory Hymn 485

Wachet auf



The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

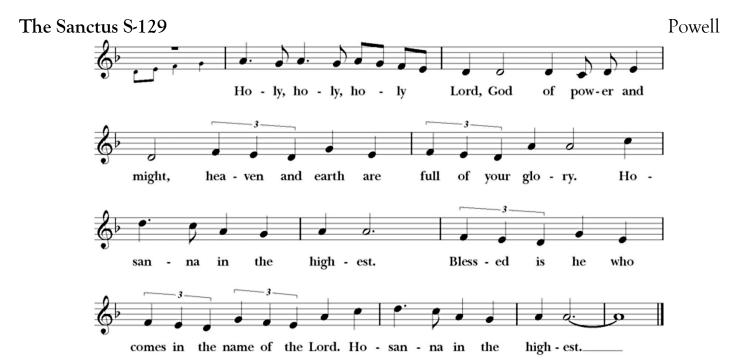
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Celebrant

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

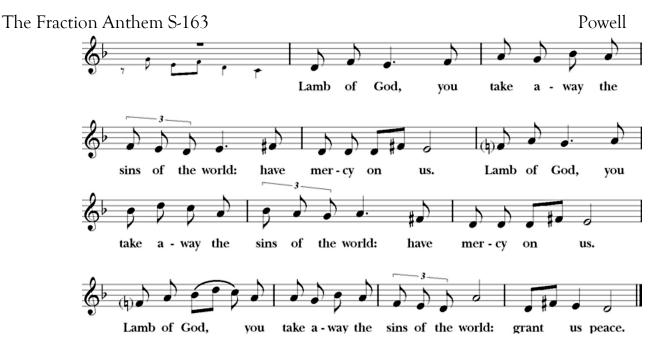
And now, as our Savior Jesus Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

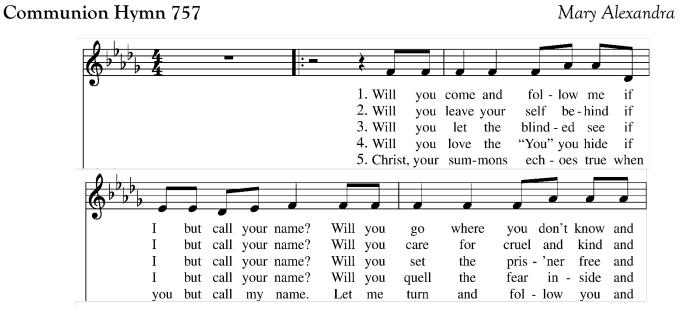
Silence is observed

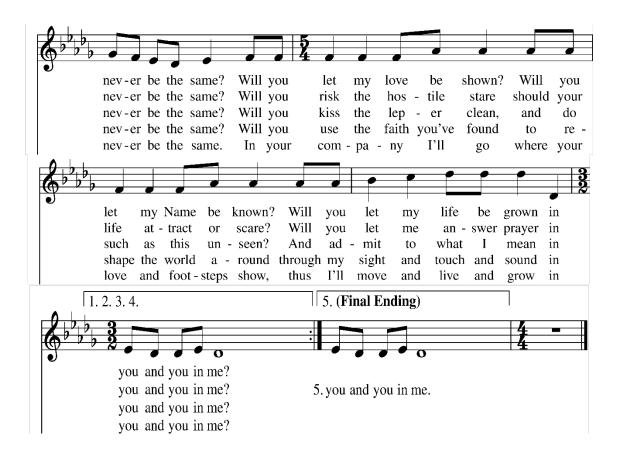


Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Distribution of Communion

If you wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the ushers and go to the altar rail to receive. You can receive bread and/or wine, depending on your preference. If you wish to receive the wine, you can retain your wafer and dip it in the cup or drink directly from the cup. If you need a gluten-free wafer or prefer a blessing, please let the priest know. We will bring communion to those who are more comfortable staying in their pew (please alert an usher).





Post Communion Prayer

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All

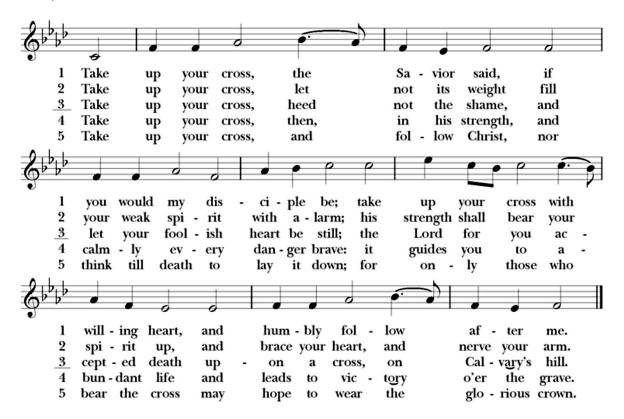
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Celebrant delivers the blessing.

People Amen.

Please rise in body or in spirit.



The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fugue in f minor

Johann Ludwig Krebs

Permission to reprint, broadcast, and/or stream the music in this service has been obtained from One License with license #A-735450

Healing Prayer – all who wish to receive prayers for healing for themselves, a loved one or even the world, are invited to john a member of the clergy and/or the healing team in the Prayer Corner (to the right of the altar area) after the service.

About this service...

Service: Everything you need for the service is in this bulletin. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask one of the ushers (who handed you this bulletin) or a neighbor in your pew.

Children are always welcome in our worship service and we love to hear their joyful sounds and see their wiggly ways! We have books for all ages and activity bags in the back for children who wish to stay with their families during the service. We also have the "Pew Pen" in the front of the church for those we need a little more space to move around

Restrooms are located at the front of the church. Walk down the left aisle toward the door with the EXIT sign. Go through the door and turn left. Men's room is straight ahead, women's to the right. If you prefer a gender-neutral bathroom, please ask our ushers to show you where this is.

Offering: Halfway through the service you will notice that we pass a plate around to collect the offering. The offerings we give help to support to work this church does, the people who work here, and our programs for the neighborhood. If you wish to help support our amazing programs, you can put something in the plate, text **CHT**



DONATE to 73256 or using the QR code to the right. You can also sign up to give regularly with REALM (www.htrit.org/give).

Communion: All who are baptized in any Christian tradition are welcome to join us for communion (all ages are welcome). If you prefer a blessing, please let one of the clergy know. We will share the bread and wine at the altar rail at the front of the church. Gluten free wafers are available. If you are unable to come to the front, or prefer to stay in your pew we will bring communion to you.



2025 Stewardship Campaign

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

When Mary, mother of Jesus, encounters the Divine and learns that she will bear a child, she proclaims, "Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!" In the coming weeks, you will be hearing from Vestry members, clergy, and parishioners about our Pledge Campaign this year with the theme of "Tell Out My Soul."

Each year, we are able to keep our doors open and church operational because of the generous pledges you make. Your pledge ensures that we can support all aspects of our church, whether it's our dynamic choir that deepens our worship and strengthens our connection to Christ, our food and clothing ministries with Open Hearts that serves 500+housing and food insecure guests every week, or paying for essential services like electricity, water, and gas.

Your faithful giving and stewardship of our church makes this possible. Thank you!

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, Rector

The Rev. John Gardner, Rector

Chiquita Anderson, Brett Oliver, Molly Hebert-Wilson, Therese Tiger, Welcome Coordinators

Benjamin Leiby, Organist-Choirmaster

Karen Majer, Director of Rentals & Events

Inaara Neal-Shiraz, Director of Development & Communications

Robyn Schnieders, Director of Administration & Operations

Jonah Shortall, Streaming Services

Demetrius Swinson, Assistant to the Director of Operations AKA Superman

Dr. Stephen Framil, Musician-in-Residence

Dr. John French, Organist-Choirmaster emeritus

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Hannah Bashore, Nathaniel Bear, Gail Caruso, Patricia Conrad, Stephanie DeMane, Will Dowling, Franny Geller, Andrew Gutknecht, Samual Keeler, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, John Miles, Mike O'Bryan, Aimee Pilgermayer, Eddie Rubeiz, Erica Rose Smith, and Julianna Smith

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Vestry

Brian Conroy, Phillip Duffy, Alyssa Force, Monica Heuer, Margaret Hughes, Simson Hui, Susan Leidy, Jeff McEldowney, James Otwell, Ali Shott, Daniel Tancredi, Karen Vannasdall

