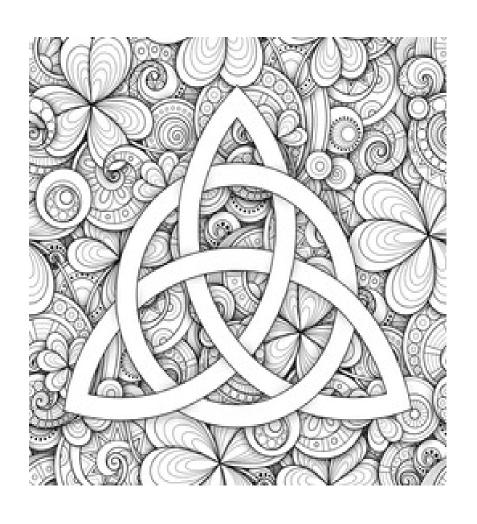
The Church of the Holy Trinity Rittenhouse Square

All Saints' Sunday

11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II



November 2, 2025

What's Happening This Week:

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

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sunday, November 2	4: 00 pm	n Holy Eucharist -All Saints' Sunday Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing All Souls' Evensong St. Peter	Church Centennial Room r's Church, Old City
Monday, November 3	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Tuesday, November 4	10:00-3:00 pm	Church Open Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Wednesday, November 5	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Thursday, November 6	10:00-3:00	Church Open n Healing Eucharist	Prayer Corner
Sunday, November 9	11:00 am	Adult Education – Exploring the Bible A Holy Eucharist–The 22 nd Sunday after A Sabbatical in Pictures! Luncheon Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Church Pentecost Church Parish House Centennial Room

Stewardship Letter from the Rectors! Turn to back of bulletin.

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Veronica Aplenc & Marshall McMain, Lectors
Sally Griffith, Intercessor
Ashley Del Bianco, Stewardship Speaker
Richard Spotts, Assisting Organist
David Otwell, Usher
Sally Griffith, Flowers
Jeannie Welsh, Welcome Table

Welcome! We are glad you are with us today.

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.

I. Prélude à l'introït: "Gaudeamus omnes in Domino"

II. Offertoire: "Justorum animæ"

III. Élévation: "Te gloriosus Apostolrum chorus"

IV. Communion: "Beati mondo corde"

V. Pièce terminale: "Choral"

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Please rise in body or spirit.







Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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-278 William Mathias



The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People Amen

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Daniel 7:1-3,15-18

Veronica Aplenc

Reader A reading from the Prophet Daniel.

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom for ever—for ever and ever."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence.

Psalm 149 Cantate Domino

The antiphon is sung once by the choir and then by all. The choir sings the verses, the congregation joining on the verses in bold. All sing the antiphon as indicated.



Chant: John Goss



¹ Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a | new | song; sing his praise in the conger- | gation | of the | faithful.

Antiphon

² Let Israel re- | joice in • his | Maker; let the children of Zion be | joyful | in their | King.

³ Let them praise his | Name • in the | dance; let them sing praise to | him with | timbrel • and | harp.

⁴ For the Lord takes | pleasure • in his | people and a- | dorns the | poor with | victory.

⁵ Let the faithful re- | joice in | triumph; let them be | joyful | on their | beds.

⁶ Let the praises of God be | in their | throat and a | two-edged | sword in • their | hand;

⁷ To wreak | vengeance • on the | nations and | punish- • ment | on the | peoples;

⁸ To bind their | kings in | chains and their | nobles • with | links of iron;

† To inflict on them the | judgment • de- | creed; this is glory for all his faithful | people. | Halle- | lujah!

Antiphon

The Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:11-23

Marshall McMain

Reader A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

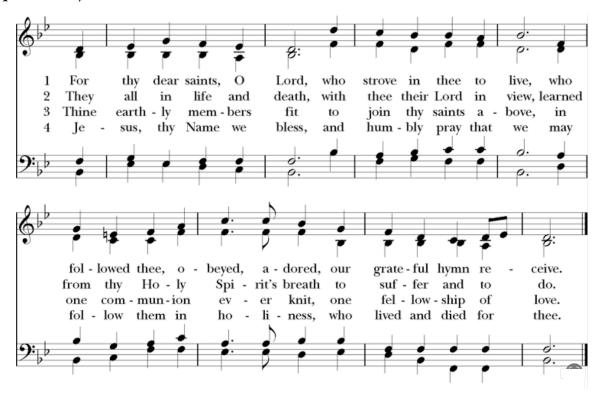
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence.

At the introduction to the hymn, please rise in body or spirit to sing



The Gospel: Luke 6:20-31

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ

Celebrant

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets." "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Silence may be kept.

Please rise in body or 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 IV

Sally Griffith

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Leader Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Leader Lord, in your mercy People Hear our prayer.

Leader Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its

resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve

Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially all who

have asked for our prayers: Tracy, Rita, Joe, Fernande, Cheryl, Jimmy, Debbie, Sydney, Shizawa, Ted, Diane, Glen, Dottie, Rosemary, Cynthia, Nicholas, Todd, Emily, Jessica, Veronica, George, Sonrisa, the Gwen and Gwen's Family, Hilda, Wanda, Sally, Sylvia, Lawrence, Ephemera, Chris, Dwana, Chelbie, Wendy, and Jan, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of

your salvation.

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

The Book of Remembrance

Presider We commend to your mercy all whom we have placed in your hands. The names

are read, then follows: Acknowledge, we pay, the sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming. Enfold them in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and in the glorious company of

the saints in light.

Presider Lord, in your mercy

People Hear our prayer.

Presider Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in

heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit,

and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We

have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Presider

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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Welcome, Parish Notices, and Blessings

Stewardship Speaker

Ashley Del Bianco

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Presider

Gracious God of every growing gift, you call forth saints not with perfection, but with purpose — to grow in faith, abound in love, and serve with steadfastness. Receive these offerings as signs of our gratitude, given by those you are shaping for good works in Christ. Use them to build up your church, to bless the world, and to honor those who have taught us to love more deeply. May our generosity today reflect your glory and strengthen us to walk ever more faithfully in your way. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen**. (II Thessalonians 1:14, 11-12)

Anthem

Lo, round the throne a glorious band

Henry G. Ley

of every tongue redeemed of God, arrayed in garments washed in blood. Hallelujah!

Through tribulation great they came: they bore the cross, despised the shame:

from all their labors now they rest, in God's eternal glory blest. Hallelujah!

They see their Saviour face to face, and sing the triumphs of his grace:

Him day and night, they ceaseless praise, to him the loud thanksgiving raise: Hallelujah!

Worthy the Lamb, for sinners slain, through endless years to live and reign:

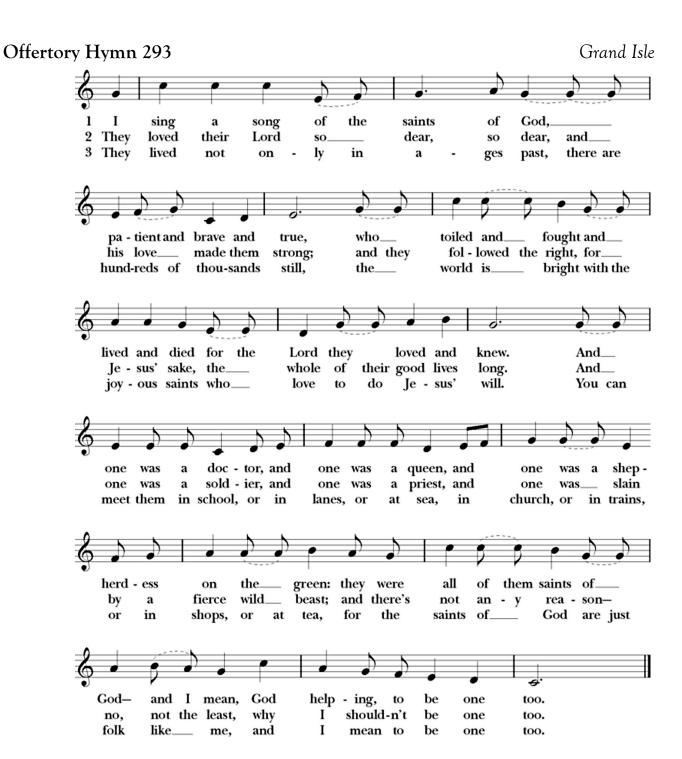
Thou has redeemed us by thy Blood, and made us kings and priests to God. Hallelujah!

O may we tread the sacred road that saints and holy martyrs trod:

Wage to the end the glorious strife, and win like them a crown of life. Hallelujah! Amen.

Lo, round the throne, a glorious band, the saints in countless myriads stand,

Please rise in body or spirit.



The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant May God 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 One who created us.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant God of all power, Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People Glory to you forever and ever.

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space,

galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island

home.

People

People By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us

with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you

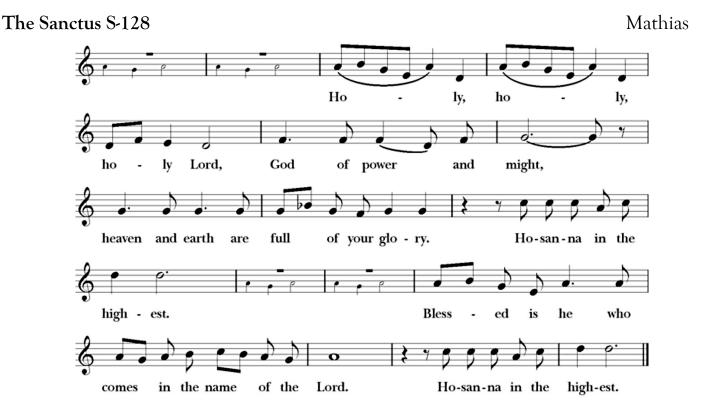
revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of Mary his mother, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom

and peace.

People By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to

you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



Celebrant

And so, Most Gracious God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant God of our kindred and their generation: God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Sarah, Rebecca, Hannah and Deborah; God and Father of our Savior Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve

People Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

the world in your Son's name.

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, O God, Most Merciful, though Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All AMEN.

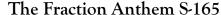
The Lord's Prayer

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

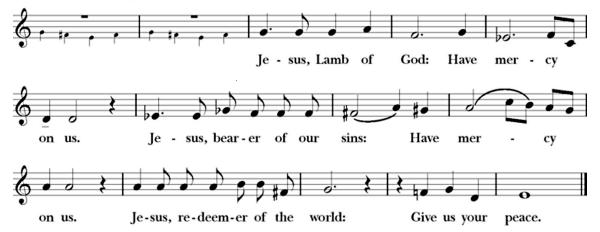
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is observed



Mathias



Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God - Holy Food for Holy People.

Distribution of Communion

If you wish to receive communion, please follow the directions of the ushers and proceed to the altar rail at the front of the church. If you are more comfortable remaining in your pew, we will bring communion to you (please alert and usher). If you prefer a gluten-free wafer or blessing, please let the priest know.

Communion Anthem

O quam gloriosum

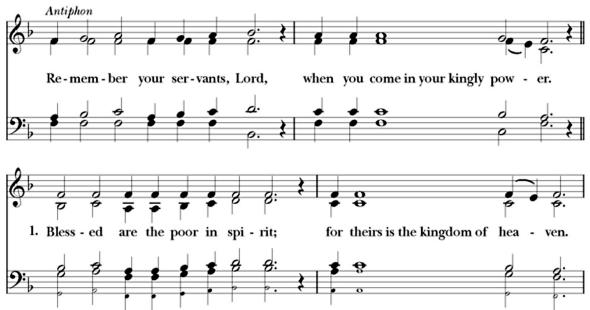
Tomas Luis de Victoria

O how glorious is the kingdom in which all the saints rejoice with Christ.

Clothed in white robes they follow the Lamb wheresoever he goes.

Communion Hymn 560

Beatitudes







The second bass part is optional.

Post Communion Prayer

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

Celebrant

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please rise in body or spirit.

Dismissal Hymn 556

Marion



*6 At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their Father's house, Jerusalem the blest.

Refrain

*7 Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude Fanfare Kenneth Leighton

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Healing Prayer – all who wish to receive prayers for healing for themselves, a loved one or even the world, are invited to join 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. You can also sign up to give weekly 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TONIGHT! Nov. 2, 5:00 p.m.

All Souls' Evensong at St. Peter's Church (313 Pine St.)

NEXT SUNDAY, Nov. 9

11:00 a.m.: Blessing of Pledges, Marking the End of the Stewardship Campaign.

12:45 p.m.: Join us for A Sabbatical in Pictures! We'll serve a light brunch and photo celebration in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 9 at 12:45 PM. We'll enjoy bagels, pancakes, fruit, and juice while hearing stories and seeing photos from our priests' sabbatical adventures. We'll also share highlights from all the great things our congregation did while they were away. Come for the food, stay for the stories, and help us celebrate being back together again!

Pledge Campaign Goal: \$250,000



Submit your pledges by Nov. 9

28 pledgers have pledged \$100,900. *Thank You So Much!*

As a church, we depend on the financial giving from parishioners. Our ability to keep our lights on is only possible because of you. When you pledge, you secure another year for our church to continue operating and offering our services and ministries to our community. Pledge online by scanning the QR code or visiting: onrealm.org/CHT/-/form/pledge/2026pledge



Remarks from Margaret Dowling, Stewardship Campaign

This morning I want to offer you three short inspirational thoughts. The first thought is that giving can be a financial gift, a gift of talent, or a gift of time. When my husband Will and I think about giving to CHT, we think in multiple dimensions. We think about treasure, talent, and time. We always make a financial pledge, and sometimes we give a little extra when we feel especially blessed. We give online through Realm, and it's super easy. We also think, though, how we can contribute to the CHT community in other ways.

When we first came to CHT, Will wasn't singing in the choir, and clearly now he is. When we first came to CHT, I wasn't reading or ushering or arranging flowers, but I'm doing all of those things now. Will is a good singer, that was an easy fit for him. But I wasn't skilled at reading, or ushering, or arranging flowers. I learned those skills from other CHT members. If you have an interest in giving your talents, and I know you all have talents, I would invite you to think about signing up for reading or ushering or arranging flowers or serving as an acolyte or cross bearer during services or preparing and serving food at the Open Hearts Café or helping to manage the clothing closet.

One thing that I love about CHT is that we have many people here who love to teach. If you're a young person or a young-at-heart person and you've always wanted to try

reading or flower arranging or you secretly think you'd look awfully good in one of those red robes, the CHT community has a mentor for you.

I want to talk for a minute about the gift of time. This gift is terribly underestimated by most churchgoers. What if I told you that simply by writing a greeting card, you could be the best thing that happened all day for a member of CHT who's ill or a shut-in or someone who lives alone and is celebrating a birthday. No special talent required. Just, "Hey Margaret, I saw it was your birthday on October 6. Happy Birthday from Will at the Church of the Holy Trinity." If CHT gave you the cards and the addresses and the stamps, would you be willing to make a gift of time? Maybe an hour a week? Can you think of other examples of gifts of time? If you have an idea, let the rectors or a vestry member know.

The second thing I'd like you to think about is that giving is a way to connect with other people. If we pass the peace to people in the pews, then we make acquaintances. Over time, some of these acquaintances become friends. I'm calling out to you Rashawn. But the way to really get to know people is to work alongside them. I remember the first time I met Marshall as part of a CHT team working for Habitat for Humanity. Working together, we had a chance to talk and laugh, and now we're friends. I've gotten to know Martha and David and Jared better, by ushering with them. And Sally and Gail and Emily through flower arranging. Even reading lessons or prayers, which you might think is more of a solitary activity, gives me a connection with the other readers. I can compliment Frank. Great job today, Frank! I can compliment Veronica and Thomas on their excellent reading. Or I can tease Jeannie about assigning me yet another lesson from Paul. Giving time and talent at CHT builds connections and that builds community and friendships.

Finally, I want you to think about the concept of giving as both a sacrifice and a sacrament. Did you know that communion is both a sacrifice and a sacrament? Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice to save us from our sins. His sacrifice was an expression of God's love for all humanity. And communion allows us to commemorate that sacrifice and also be blessed in return. That is the sacrament part, a physical sign of a spiritual blessing.

Giving can also be a sacrament as well as a sacrifice. I have a confession to make. I am not a morning person. On Sunday mornings, when I have usher duty or I'm reading the first lesson, it is truly a sacrifice to be up, dressed, and at church before 11:00 a.m. But as Will reminds me, setting my alarm for 8:30 is really not the same thing as crucifixion. Then, when I arrive on time and see all of you wonderful people and do my bit to support our worship service, I'm happy because that small sacrifice allows me to demonstrate in a tangible way my love for God and my love for you. That joy is the blessing, the sacrament. Sacrifice is highly personal. You and I each have to decide as individuals what sacrifice we can offer. Is it treasure, talent, time, or some combination of these things? The good news is that regardless of what we decide, the sacrament is the same. It's the joy of giving, receiving God's love, and expressing our love for our neighbors in this church and our broader community.

Stewardship Letter From the Rectors

Dear Friends,

Mary's song is one of joy overflowing into action — praise that cannot help but be shared. As we reflect on this season of stewardship, we find ourselves echoing Mary's words. Our souls truly magnify the Lord when we see what God is doing among us here at Holy Trinity.

Together, we have cultivated a community that is vibrant with life and love. You can feel it — in the laughter and music that fill our worship, in the compassion that overflows into our neighborhood, in the courage with which we proclaim the good news of God's love in a world that too often hears only bad news. You can see it in the friendships that have deepened, the prayers that have been offered, and the faith that continues to grow.

Returning from Sabbatical, we have felt a renewed energy and joy in this place. The Spirit is moving among you — in the ways you care for one another, serve others, and keep this community strong and connected. It is a privilege to witness and to be part of it. As we look toward the coming year, we sense that God is calling us to build on this beautiful foundation — to widen our circle of care, to draw more people into this community of faith and love, to magnify the Lord with even greater joy and generosity. To do that, we will need everyone's help.

We ask you to prayerfully consider how you can support Holy Trinity in the coming year:

- Through your financial gifts. Our ministry depends on your direct giving. Your generosity makes worship, outreach, pastoral care, and all our shared ministries possible.
- Through your invitation. Extend the joy you experience here to others. Invite your friends, neighbors, and colleagues to come and see what God is doing in this place.

Every gift, every invitation, every act of service magnifies the Lord. Together, we make God's love visible in the world.

We cannot be Holy Trinity without you. Thank you for all the ways you give, pray, and serve. Join us again this year as we rejoice in God our Savior and build together for the future God is calling us toward.

With gratitude and hope,

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner & The Rev. John Gardner, Rectors