

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Rittenhouse Square

The Fifth Sunday *after* The Epiphany

11:00 am
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



February 8, 2026

What's Happening This Week:

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, February 8	✚ 9:30 am	Adult Education Class	Narthex
	✚ 11:00 am	Holy Eucharist-5 th Sunday After the Epiphany	Church
	♥ 4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Monday, February 9	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Tuesday, February 10	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
	♥ 3:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room
Wednesday, February 11	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
Thursday, February 12	10:00-3:00	Church Open	
	✚ 12:15 pm	Healing Eucharist Service	Prayer Corner
	✚ 1:15 pm	Centering Prayer	Meet in Prayer Corner
Friday, February 13	🎵 7:30 pm	Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Concert	Church
Sunday, February 15	✚ 9:30 am	Adult Education Class	Narthex
	✚ 11:00 am	Holy Eucharist-Last Sunday After the Epiphany	Church
	🎵 2:30 pm	Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia Concert	Church
	♥ 4:00 pm	Open Hearts Café Meal/Clothing	Centennial Room

TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

Shreve Simpson & Joshua Karstendick, *Lectors*

Andy Gutknecht, *Intercessor*

Brian Conroy, *Usher*

Jack Baranoski, *Streaming*

Thomas, Robert, and Henry Lipscomb, *Acolyte Team*

Peg Mertz, *Welcome Table*

Richard Spotts, *Assisting Organist*

Prelude *Purification Beatæ Mariæ Virginis (L'Orgue Mystique)* Charles Tournemire

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>I. <i>Prélude à l'introït: "Suscepimus, Deus" [We wait for thy loving-kindness]</i></p> <p>II. <i>Offertoire: "Diffusa est gratia" [Full of grace are thy lips]</i></p> | <p>III. <i>Élévation: "Cum inducerent puerum Jesum" [And when his parents brought in the Child Jesus]</i></p> <p>IV. <i>Communion: "Responsum accepit Simeon" [It was revealed unto Simeon by the Holy Spirit]</i></p> <p>V. <i>Pièce terminale: "Diptyque"</i></p> |
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THE ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn 381

Tony-Botel



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy speak - ing
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as night and
 3 Thy strong word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with thine own
 4 God the Fa - ther, Light - Cre - a - tor, to thee laud and



it was done; for cre - at - ed light we thank thee,
 deep as death, broke the light of thy sal - va - tion,
 ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward glo - ry,
 hon - or be; to thee, Light of Light be - got - ten,



while thine or - dered sea - sons run: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 and our lives our hopes con - fess: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly; Ho - ly Spi - rit, Light - Re -



lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 veal - er, glo - ry, glo - ry be to thee; mor - tals, an - gels,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 now and ev - er praise the Ho - ly Tri - ni - ty.

The Alleluias in stanzas 1-3 may be sung antiphonally.

Opening Acclamation

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

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

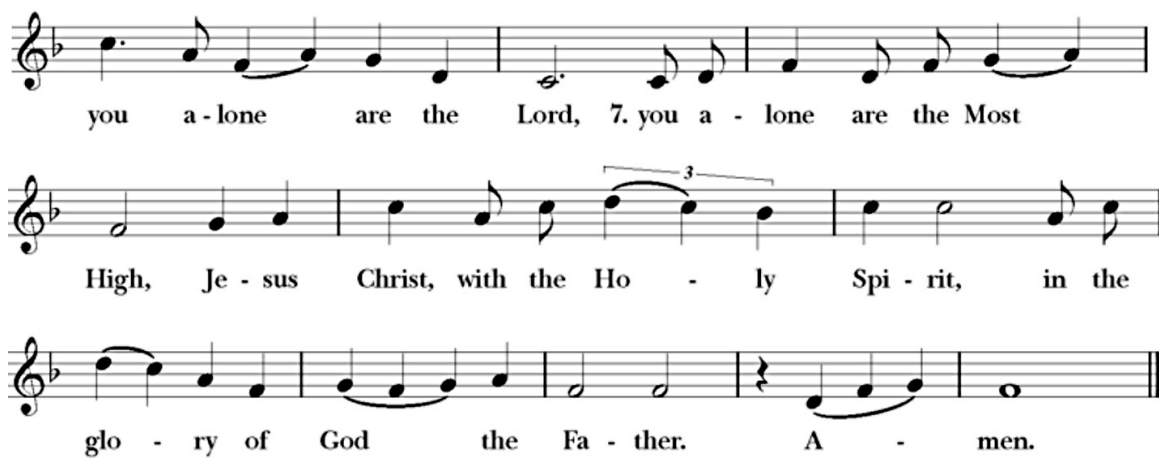
Collect for Purity

Presider 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.**

Gloria S-280

Robert Powell

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



Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9a, 9b-12

Shreve Simpson

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

Psalm 112:1-9 *Beatus vir*

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.



Chant: C. Hubert H. Parry



- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the | Lord *
and have great de- | light in | his com- | mandments!
- ² Their descendants will be | mighty • in the | land; *
the generation of the | upright | will be | blessed.

- ³ Wealth and riches will | be in • their | house, *
and their | righteousness • will | last for | ever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the | darkness • for the | upright; *
the righteous are | merciful • and | full of • com- | passion.

Antiphon

- ⁵ It is good for them to be | generous • in | lending *
and to | manage • their af- | fairs with | justice.
- ⁶ For they will | never • be | shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in | ever- | lasting • re- | membrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil | rumors; *
their heart is right; they | put their | trust in • the | Lord.
- ⁸ Their heart is established and | will not | shrink, *
until they see their de- | sire up- | on their | enemies.
- †⁹ They have given | freely • to the | poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will | hold up • their | head with | honor.

Antiphon

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Joshua Karstendick

Reader A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Silence.

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

Sequence Hymn Voices Found 98

Canonbury

1 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the
 3 O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the

liv - ing ech - oes of thy tone; as thou has sought, so
 wand - ering and the wav - ering feet; O feed me, Lord, that
 pre - cious things thou dost im - part; and wing my words, that

let me seek thy err - ing child - ren lost and lone.
 I may feed thy hun - gry ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of many a heart.

The Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner

After a period of silence, 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 III

Andy Gutknecht

Leader God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on Charlie, Pamela, Gail, Jay, Laurie, Liz, Bobbie, Gabriel, Coco, Sally, Wanda, Jessica, Tracy, Sonrisa, Maria, Sarah, Sylvia, Bernadette, LaToya, Arianna, Ronald, Chad, Barb, Brandy, Kristin, Lureen, Luca, Dawn, Jimmie, and Cheryl and all those who suffer from any grief or trouble.
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader Give to all the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom**

Presider O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for 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.**

As we prepare to move to the Holy Communion, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with your neighbor.

Welcome, Parish Notices & Celebration Blessings

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Presider Liberating God, You call us to a fast not of silence, but of service; not of hiding, but of healing. You ask that our worship be more than words, that our offerings be more than ritual. Receive these gifts as signs of our willingness to share bread with the hungry, to break chains of injustice, to repair what is broken. May our generosity reflect your mercy and our living mirror your love. Use us and these gifts, so that light might rise in the darkness and hope take root where despair has reigned. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen. (*Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)*)

Anthem

Eternal God

Richard Shephard

*Eternal God, the light of the minds that know you;
Eternal God, the joy of the hearts that love you;
Eternal God, the strength of the wills that love you.*

*Grant us so to know you, that we may truly trust you.
Grant us so to love you, that we may freely serve you.
To the glory of your holy name.
Amen.*

All rise in body or in spirit

1 Lord of all be - ing, throned a - far, thy glo - ry
 2 Sun of our life, thy quick - ening ray sheds on our
 3 Lord of all life, be - low, a - bove, whose light is
 4 Grant us thy truth to make us free, and kin - dling

flames from sun and star; cen - ter and soul of
 path the glow of day; star of our hope, thy
 truth, whose warmth is love, be - fore thy ev - er -
 hearts that burn for thee, till all thy liv - ing

ev - every sphere, yet to each lov - ing heart how near!
 soft - ened light cheers the long watch - es of the night.
 blaz - ing throne we ask no lus - ter of our own.
 al - tars claim one ho - ly light, one heaven - ly flame.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant *People*
 The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
 It is right to give him 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. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

Sanctus S-129

Robert Powell

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven 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.

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 *A period of silence is kept.*

Fraction Anthem *Christ our Passover*

Robert Powell

[org.]

Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed ____ for

5
us. There - fore let ____ us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia. ____

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Please be seated.

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).

Communion Hymn LEVAS 160

1. This lit - tle light of mine,— I'm goin' - a let it shine,—

this lit - tle light of mine,— I'm goin' - a let it shine,—

this lit - tle light of mine,— I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine).

2. Everywhere I go... 3. All through the night...

Words: Traditional. Music: Negro Spiritual; adapt. William Farley Smith (b. 1941). Adapt. Copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Reprinted from *The United Methodist Hymnal* by permission.

Please rise in body or in spirit

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.

Blessing

Celebrant The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son, Jesus Christ; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and always. Amen.

Dismissal Hymn 497

Wie schön leuchtet

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn-ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right-eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voices:
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.

Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it
A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Six Antiennes pour le Temps de Noël: Lumen ad revelation* Marcel Dupré

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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** 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.

Notes About Today's Prelude and Postlude

From Assisting Organist, Rich Spotts

Today's Gospel from Saint Matthew exhorts humanity to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works." The idea of "light" was first presented to us this past week on February second with the Feast of Candlemas, which cites the "Nunc dimittis" where it references Christ as "the Light to lighten the gentiles." Therefore, since we are within the octave of Candlemas, today's prelude and postlude will expand upon this theme.

The fortieth day after Christmas is the Feast of Candlemas, also known as the Presentation of Christ in the Temple or the Purification of Mary. Like All Saints in November, Candlemas is a cross-quarter feast marking the halfway point between seasons (winter and spring). Ceremonially, it is known for the blessing and lighting of candles in recognition of the text for the day, "a light to lighten the Gentiles" (hence the feast's name).

According to ancient Jewish custom, forty days after giving birth, new mothers would present themselves at the Temple in Jerusalem to be ritually purified. In the New Testament account found in the Gospel of Saint Luke, Mary, Joseph, and the Christchild are recorded following this custom, offering two turtle doves as a sacrifice. There, the Holy Family happened upon the prophet Simeon, who, in a vision, was told "that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ." Upon seeing Jesus, according to tradition, Simeon, in his ecstasy, recited what has become known as the "Nunc dimittis", a canticle which is now sung at Evensong and Compline services to this day: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word For mine eyes have seen thy salvation: which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel."

Today's prelude is the Candlemas Suite from "L'Orgue Mystique" by the French composer Charles Tournemire (1870-1939). The liturgical propers for the day vividly recount and celebrate this prophetic moment: The Prélude à l'introït: "We wait for thy loving-kindness, O God: in the midst of thy temple." (Psalm xlvij/xlvij); the Offertoire: "Full of grace are thy lips: because God hath blessed thee for ever, and world without end." (Psalm xlv/xlv); the Élévation: "And when his parents brought in the Child Jesus, then Simeon took him up in his arms, and blest God, saying, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." (Saint Luke ij); and the Communion: "It was revealed unto Simeon by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Anointed." (Saint Luke ij).

The final movement of this suite—"Diptyque"—is a tone poem based upon the Gospel account. In the beginning, one hears the aged Simeon at vigil in the Temple. As he hobbles through the Temple precincts (depicted through a rhythmic pattern in the organist's feet), Simeon happens upon the Christchild and offers his acclamation. The "hobbling theme"

returns—this time ornamented with a soaring flute conveying Simeon’s sense of elation—as the work draws to a serene conclusion.

Today’s postlude is “Lumen ad revelationem” from the “Six Antiennes pour le Temps de Noël” by Marcel Dupré (1886–1971). Published in 1952, this collection of six pieces is derived from Vesper antiphons sung within the Christmas liturgical cycle, beginning with Advent and continuing through Candlemas. Liturgically, “Lumen ad revelationem” [A light to lighten the Gentiles, said he, and the glory of thy people Israel. (Saint Luke ij)] is both a Psalm Antiphon for Vespers and Lauds as well as the Nunc dimittis Antiphon for the distribution of candles during the Mass of the day. This toccata rendering by Dupré is the finalé of his Christmas Suite.

Rich Spotts Will Perform Entirety of *L’Orgue Mystique*

Listen to the Single Longest Piece of Music for the Organ!

Richard Spotts will perform the entirety of Charles Tournemire’s *L’Orgue Mystique* every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday night of Lent at 7:30 pm at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill. From Feb. 23 through March 31, come listen to Rich perform this nearly 15-hour, 253 movement long piece split over 17 evenings, with each performance lasting about 45 minutes. It is free to attend, donations kindly accepted. To learn more, visit richspotts.com and go to the “Events” tab.

The Complete *L’Orgue Mystique* by Charles Tournemire

Saint Paul’s Church Chestnut Hill,
Philadelphia PA

Lent 2026

Mon / Tue / Wed – 7:30pm

February 23, 24, 25

March 2, 3, 4

March 9, 10, 11

March 16, 17, 18

March 23, 24, 25

March 30, 31



Upcoming Events

TODAY, February 8, after Sunday Service
Ministry Fair

TOMORROW, February 9, 7:00 p.m.
Center City Election Debate

February 17, 6:00 p.m.
Shrove Tuesday

February 18, 12:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Services

February 22, 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday in Lent Service

February 25, 12:15 p.m.
Lenten Music Meditation

March 4
12:15 p.m.: Lenten Music Meditation
6:00 p.m.: Choral Evensong

March 11, 12:15 p.m.
Lenten Music Meditation

March 14, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Men's Spring Suit Sale benefitting Open Hearts

March 18, 12:15 p.m.
Lenten Music Meditation

March 25, 12:15 p.m.
Lenten Music Meditation

The Church of the Holy Trinity - Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Rachel Wenner Gardner, *Rector*

The Rev. John Gardner, *Rector*

Benjamin Leiby, *Organist-Choirmaster*

Robyn Schnieders, *Director of Operations & Outreach*

Inaara Neal-Shiraz, *Director of Development & Communications*

Karen Majer, *Rentals & Events Manager*

Demetrius Swinson, *Operations Coordinator AKA Superman*

Shawn “Shiz” Futch & Mike Whitney, *Operations Support*

Victoria Alfred-Lerew & Chiquita Anderson *Welcome Coordinators*

Jack Baranoski, Boyden Gardner, & Jonah Shortall, *Streaming Services*

Dr. Stephen Framil, *Musician-in-Residence*

Dr. John French, *Organist-Choirmaster emeritus*

The Choir of Holy Trinity

Aimee Pilgermayer, Gail Caruso, Stephanie Demane, Franny Geller, Hannah Bashore, Erica Rose Smith, Patricia Conrad, Maiya Williams, Justine Hansen, Eddie Rubeiz, Samuel Evans, Samuel Keeler, Andrew D. Gutknecht, Thomas Kneeland, Alex Mathews, William Dowling, John Miles

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

**THE CHURCH OF
THE HOLY TRINITY**
RITTENHOUSE SQUARE



A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS

Breaking Our Record! Historic Pledge Campaign

We raised the most we've ever pledged as a church in the last 10 years. With the help of 57 pledgers, we reached nearly \$255,200 in pledges. We'll be celebrating our success at the Annual Meeting on April 19;

Living into Our Vivid Vision

Four years ago, we wrote our Vivid Vision. We had envisioned, "The church is bursting with life ... We are more than just a place on the Square. We are an integral part of the neighborhood." Since 2022 we have become the very institution we had once hoped to be.

Lay Ministers

During the 2025 summer sabbatical, our congregation rose to the call of leading our church. We had parishioners reading sermons, setting up the altar, joining to be ushers and acolytes, volunteering at Open Hearts Cafe, and even opening up their homes for fellowship. Lay ministers not only helped the congregation survive, they were critical in helping the church thrive!

Open Doors, Open Hearts

Serving our neighbors! Our food and clothing ministries serve over 500 Philadelphians a week, many of whom experience housing and food insecurities. We open our doors Monday through Thursday. Everyone can stop by and enjoy a warm cup of coffee or tea, a snack, and find refuge in our sanctuary. Twice a week, we offer warm, nutritional meals to our Open Hearts guests. Along with serving meals, volunteers offer our guests urgent clothing items, such as winter coats, hoodies/sweaters, pants, socks, gloves, and shoes, to stay warm during these freezing temperatures.

10-Year Anniversary

September 27 will mark 10 years of Rachel and John serving as the rectors of the Church of the Holy Trinity! During the past 10 years, we have grown as a parish, worshiping together, living out our faith in action, expanding our food and clothing ministries, and serving our community. Stay tuned for more information about a celebration in the fall!

Prayer List

We ask you to pray for all those on our prayer list.

Please pray for their healing, protection, and peace that is beyond words.

Charlie, Pamela, Gail, Jay, Laurie, Liz, Bobbie, Gabriel, Coco, Sally, Wanda, Jessica, Tracy, Sonrisa, Maria, Sarah, Sylvia, Bernadette, LaToya, Arianna, Ronald, Chad, Barb, Brandy, Kristin, Lureen, Luca, Dawn, Jimmie, and Chery

✦ Holy Week & Easter ✦

March 29-April 5

March 29, 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday service

April 2, 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday service

April 3, 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday service

April 4

9:00 a.m.: Holy Saturday service

10:00 a.m.: Decorate Church for Easter

8:00 p.m.: Easter Vigil service

April 5, 11:00 a.m.

Easter Day service

Easter Egg Hunt After Service

April 19, 12:15 p.m.

Annual Meeting!