



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 8, 2026

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through Holy Baptism, we are sent into the world to shine with the light of the Christ.

Prelude

Air

Florence Price
(1887-1953)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be God – Father, ♫ Son, and Holy Spirit – who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers in this community.

silence for reflection

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have lived only for the present, without regard for generations to come. We have sought the realms of this world, rather than your promised reign of justice and peace. Have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: How blessed are those whose sins are forgiven. In the mercy of almighty God, I announce to you the entire forgiveness of your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the ♫ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Entrance Hymn

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,

2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;

3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ - teous - ness, a - rise, tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
joy - less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer - cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near;
till they in - ward light im - part,
more and more thy - self dis - play,
Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
shin-ing to the per - fect day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

(sung in unison)

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise



1. Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
2. Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3. Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

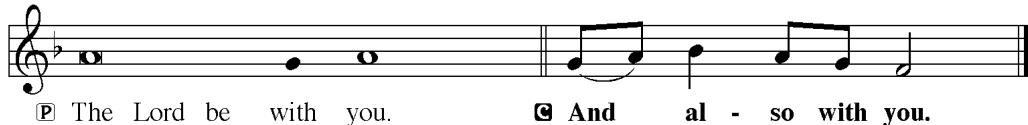


we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

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. ²Yet 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. ³"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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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? ⁶Is 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? ⁷Is 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? ⁸Then 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. ⁹Then 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, ¹⁰if 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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²Your 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 112:1-9

(sung in unison)

Blessed are those who are right with the Lord, who are just and generous to those in need.

**Hallelujah! Happy are they who ¹fear the LORD*
and have great delight in ¹his commandments!
²Their descendants will be mighty ¹in the land;*
the generation of the upright ¹will be blessed.
³Wealth and riches will be ¹in their house,***

and their righteousness will last forever.
 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;*
 the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending*
 and to manage their affairs with justice.
 6 For they will never be shaken;*
 the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
 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 desire upon their enemies.
 9 They have given freely to the poor;*
 and their righteousness stands fast forever;
 they will hold up their head with honor.

Second Lesson - 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet 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. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, 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" — ¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For 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. ¹²Now 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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

Al - le - lu - ia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel - Matthew 5:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus of Nazareth encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.



Jesus said: ¹³"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. ¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In 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. ¹⁷Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For 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. ¹⁹Therefore, 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. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT. Bernadette Farrell

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The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Your Church, O God, does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of the Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Help us restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness, as we guard honeybees, elephants, great whales, and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Stir up within us gifts to help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of the Christ. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, giving thanks that we are also embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering

Offertory Anthem

Blow Ye the Trumpet, Blow

Thomas Clark
(1775-1859)

*Blow ye the trumpet, blow; The gladly solemn sound;
Let all the nations know, To earth's remotest bound:
The year of jubilee is come: Return, ye ransomed sinners, home.*

*Extol the Lamb of God, The all-atonning Lamb;
Redemption through his blood Throughout the world proclaim:
The year of jubilee is come: Return, ye ransomed sinners, home.*

*The gospel trumpet hear, The news of heavenly grace;
And, saved from earth, appear Before your Savior's face:
The year of jubilee is come: Return, ye ransomed sinners, home.*

(text: Charles Wesley)

Offertory

Unison



*Blow ye the trumpet, blow; The gladly solemn sound;
Let all the nations know, To earth's remotest bound:
The year of jubilee is come: Return, ye ransomed sinners, home.*

*Extol the Lamb of God, The all-atonning Lamb;
Redemption through his blood Throughout the world proclaim:
The year of jubilee is come: Return, ye ransomed sinners, home.*

*The gospel trumpet hear, The news of heavenly grace;
And, saved from earth, appear Before your Savior's face:
The year of jubilee is come: Return, ye ransomed sinners, home.*



Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God our provider,
 C: **you have not fed us with bread alone but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bounty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

(P) The Lord be with you. (C) And also with you.
 (P) Lift up your hearts. (C) We lift them to the Lord.
 (P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 (C) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface and Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.
 Heav-en and earth are full, full
 of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

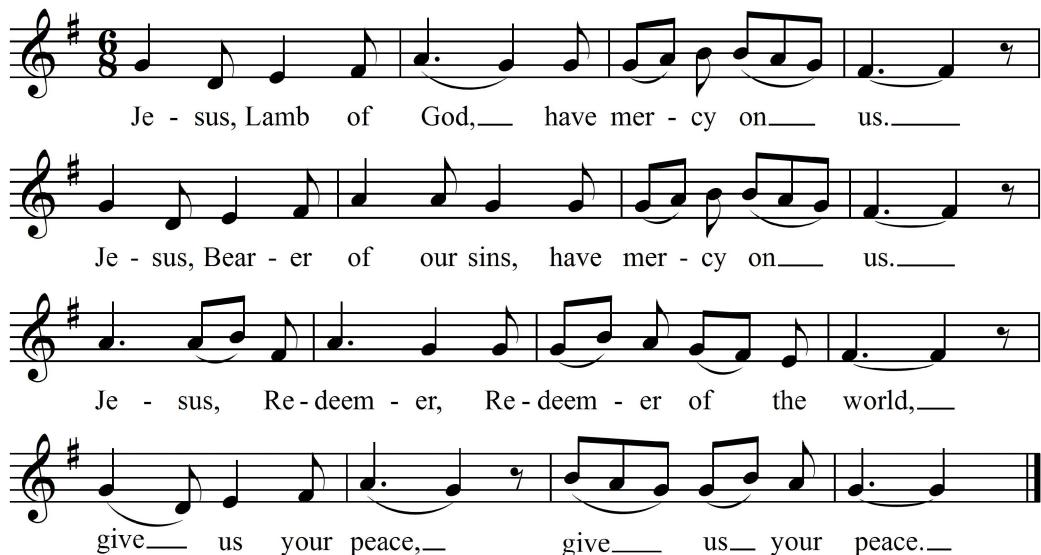
Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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, forever and ever. Amen**

Communion with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Hymns

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Worked your mercy's perfect deed;
We, your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart;
Consecrating to your purpose
Ev'ry gift which you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
By your Spirit send you power
To our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to ardent service,
Your abundant life to share.

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

1 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er dwell-ing in the ho-liest realms of light;
 2 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er liv-ing as the church's ver-y life;
 3 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er work-ing through the church's min-is-try;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er brood-ing o'er a world of gloom and night;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er striv-ing through us in a cease-less strife;
 quick'-ning, strength'-ning, and ab-solv-ing, set-ting cap-tive sin-ners free;

Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er rais-ing those of earth to thrones on high;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er form-ing in the church the mind of Christ;
 Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er bind-ing age to age and soul to soul

liv-ing, life-im-part-ing Spir-it, you we praise and mag-ni-fy.
 you we praise with end-less wor-ship for your gifts and fruits un-priced.
 in com-mu-nion nev-er end-ing, you we wor-ship and ex-tol.

Text: Timothy Rees, 1874–1939, alt.

Music: IN BABILON, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn

Come with us, O bless-ed Je-sus, with us ev-er-more to be.

And, in leav-ing now thine al-tar, let us nev-er-more leave thee!

Let thy bright ce-les-tial cho-rus nev-er cease the heav'n-ly strain;

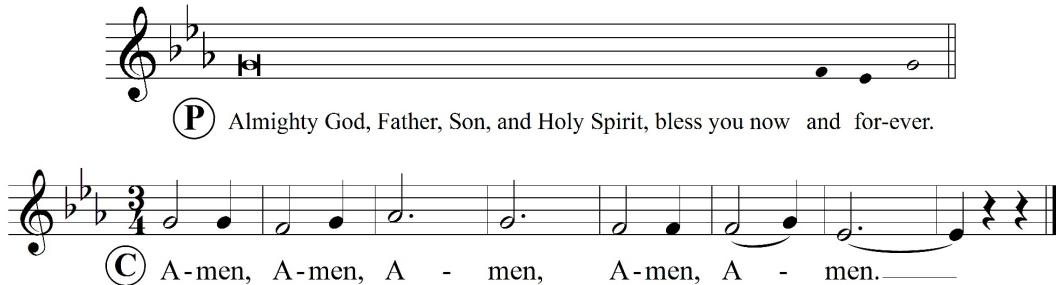
but in us, thy lov-ing chil-dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit, strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Benediction



(P) Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for-ever.

(C) A-men, A-men, A - men, A-men, A - men.

Hymn

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might! Bound-less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man-kind lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

God, Whose Almighty Word

arr. J. William Greene



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ida Proco in memory of her parents, Wilmer and Margaret Reinford, and her parents-in-law, David and Dorothy Proco.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, February 8	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m. Holy Trinity Youth (all ages) 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion 11:30 a.m. <i>Souper Bowl</i> Luncheon 2:00 p.m. Parish Nurse Education Series
Monday, February 9	9:00 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 7:00 p.m. Connecting with God (via Zoom) - <i>Know God - Know Self</i>
Tuesday, February 10	9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) 5:40 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Church Council
Wednesday, February 11	10:00 a.m. Women's Sewing Group 12:10 p.m. Service of Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Children's Ministry 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 12	11:00 a.m. Discussion Group - <i>Living the Questions</i>
Friday, February 13	7:00 a.m. Breakfast Series - <i>The Bible With and Without Jesus</i> 8:00 a.m. Matins 9:00 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 11:00 a.m. Book Discussion Group - <i>The Four Vision Quests of Jesus</i>
Saturday, February 14	10:00 a.m. Altar Guild
Sunday, February 15	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube 11:30 a.m. Mardi Gras Jazz Brunch 4:30 p.m. Mission Trip Youth 5:00 p.m. Thomas Mass 6:00 p.m. Third Sunday Program

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

President: Deb Serio

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

Organist-Chairmaster: J. William Greene

Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson

Susan H. Williams

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington