



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. However, the baptized know how to live in the "meantimes." The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in Word and Sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right."

Prelude

When Peace, like a River

arr. Craig Phillips
(b. 1961)

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

When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - ate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O, my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

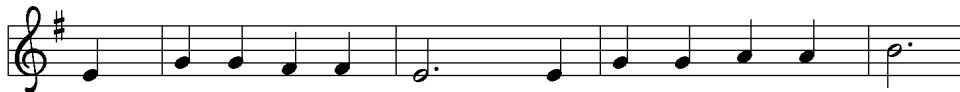
Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

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:

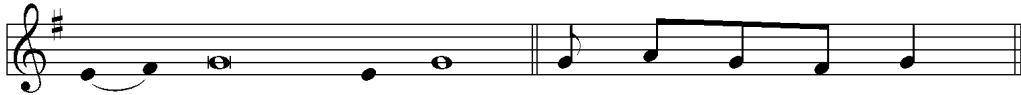


we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



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



☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: **O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that the day of the Lord is coming. On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who fear God.

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

(sung in unison)

This is a song of thanksgiving and praise to the victorious Lord who has made divine righteousness known and shown faithfulness to the people of God.

¹Sing to the LORD | a new song,
for he has done | marvelous things.
²With his right hand and his | holy arm
has he won for him- | self the victory.
³The LORD has made | known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.
⁴He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
⁵Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.
⁶Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.
⁷With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
⁸Let the sea make a noise and all | that is in it,
the lands and those who | dwell therein.
⁹Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to | judge the earth.

**¹⁰In righteousness shall he | judge the world
and the peo- | ples with equity.**

Second Lesson - 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The apostle warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

⁶Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Luke 21:5-19

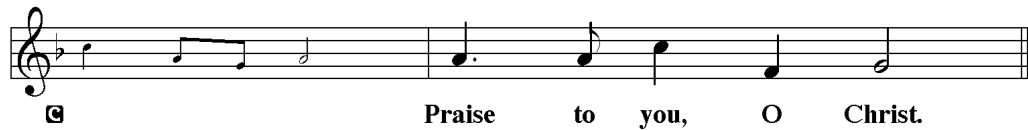
P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.



The gospel writer's presentation of Jesus of Nazareth's teaching about the last days emphasizes the necessity for responsible behavior in the interim. Followers of Jesus the Christ will draw strength from their relationship to God and shall be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” ⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. ⁹When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. ¹²But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.

Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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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:** God of roots and branches, defend your Church as she proclaims the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.
- C:** **Your mercy is great.**
- A:** God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Help us restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations that provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.
- C:** **Your mercy is great.**
- A:** God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.
- C:** **Your mercy is great.**
- A:** God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in people who are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Help us care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Hear us, O God.
- C:** **Your mercy is great.**
- A:** God of new song, we lift our voices to sing your praise. Energize us for compassionate service, and encourage us to build an equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.
- C:** **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

Spirit Truth, Pure Light of Love

Robert J. Powell
(1932-2025)

*Spirit truth, pure light of love,
Guiding light of God above;
Make your beacon ours;
Inspire us to shine so all may know
The radiance of the Spirit's own revealing power.*

*Spirit wind, sweet song of love,
Stirring song of God above,
Make your music ours;
Excite us to sing so all may know
The anthem of the Spirit's own resounding power.*

*Spirit fire, fierce breath of love,
Blazing breath of God above,
Make your passion ours;
Impel us to live so all may know
The fervor of the Spirit's own resplendent power.*

Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a -

way from your pres-ence: and take not your Ho-ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to

me the joy of your sal - va - tion:

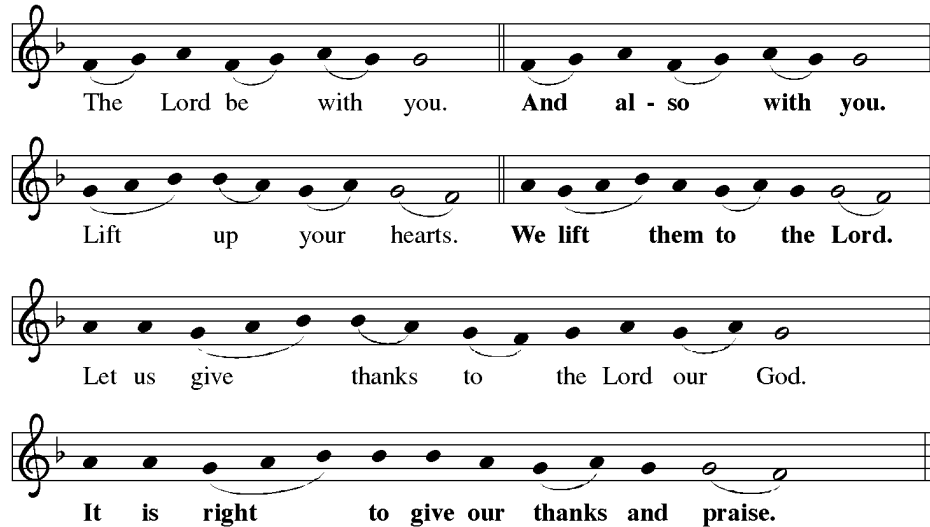
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer and Consecration of Pledges

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

ALL: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. We consecrate to your glory these our pledges of time, talents, and treasure – our gifts of love and generosity. We pray that you receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

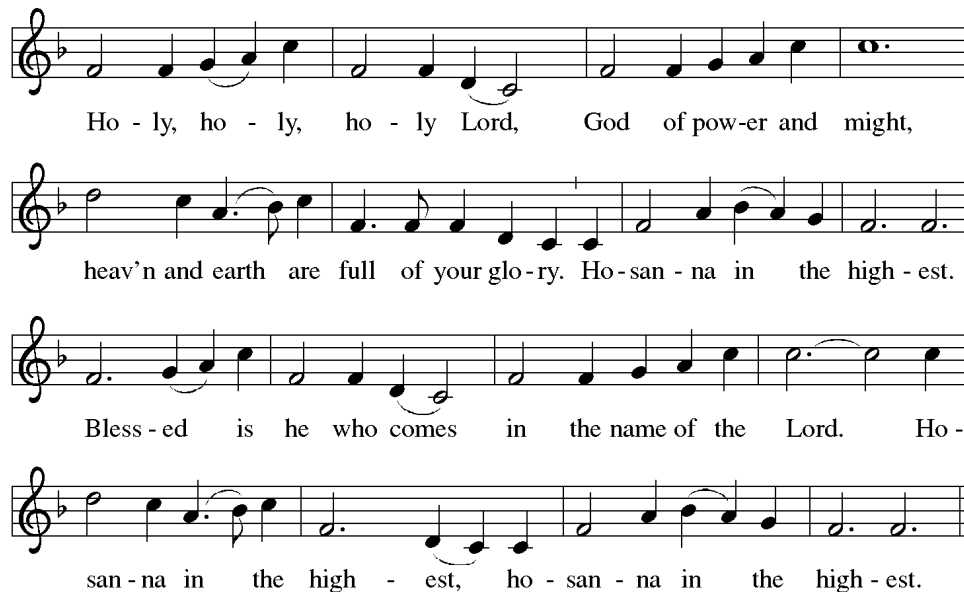
Great Thanksgiving



Proper Preface

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymns

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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go



1 O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my flick-'ring torch to
 3 O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from



thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain and
 thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and



in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

Text: George Matheson, 1842–1906, alt.
 Music: ST. MARGARET, Albert L. Peace, 1844–1912

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

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

***Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
 the people of God from his dwelling take leave.***

***The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
 the fruits of this service in all who believe.***

***The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,
 shall blossom in action for God and for all.***

***His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us
 to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.***

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus the Christ, our servant Lord.

C: **Amen**

Benediction



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

Hymn

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



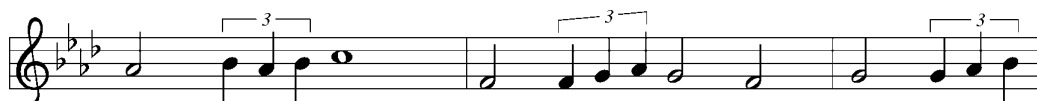
goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
come the great a - wak - ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

arr. Edward L. Good
(b. 1961)



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Carrie Wisman
in memory of Paul Wisman.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Karen & Eric Kenny
in memory of Randall Fischer.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, November 16	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
	11:45 a.m.	Intermediate and Junior Youth (grades three - eight)
	4:30 p.m.	Mission Trip Youth
	5:00 p.m.	Thomas Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Third Sunday Program
Monday, November 17	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, November 18	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Wednesday, November 19	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	5:30 p.m.	Wednesday Children's Ministry (age three - grade five)
	7:00 p.m.	Head Usher Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 20	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	11:00 a.m.	Sermon Discussion Group
Friday, November 21	7:00 a.m.	Breakfast Series - <i>The Bible With and Without Jesus</i>
	8:00 a.m.	Matins (Morning Prayer)
	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>Miracles and Wonders</i>
Saturday, November 22	6:00 p.m.	Youth Depart for <i>Lost & Found</i> Synod Retreat
	10:00 a.m.	Harvest Food Festival (until 12:00 p.m.)
Sunday, November 23	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
	12:00 p.m.	Youth Return from <i>Lost & Found</i> Synod Retreat

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

Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity

*President: Eric R. Kenny
Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff*

*Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
Susan H. Williams
Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington*