



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 7, 2024

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we explore the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel according to John. Today, we gather with the disciples on the evening of the resurrection, and the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas, we ask for a sign, and our Lord offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. We are transformed from frightened individuals into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing with others.

Prelude

O Sons and Daughters of the King

(Hymn 139)

arr. Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to-day: Christ has burst his pris-on,
3 Now the queen of sea-sons, bright with the day of splen-dor,
4 For to-day a-mong the twelve Christ ap-peared, be-stow-ing
5 Al-le-lu-ia! Now we cry to our King im-mor-tal,



God has brought his Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris-en;
with the roy-al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren-der;
his deep peace, which ev-er-more pass-es hu-man know-ing.
who, tri-um-phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por-tal.



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit-ter yoke Ja-cob's sons and daugh-ters,
all the win-ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly-ing
comes to glad-den faith-ful hearts which with true af-fec-tion
Neith-er could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por-tal,
Come, you faith-ful, raise the strain of tri-um-phant glad-ness!



led them with un-moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa-ters.
from his light, to whom is giv'n laud and praise un-dy-ing.
wel-come in un-wea-ried strain Je-sus' res-ur-rec-tion!
nor the watch-ers, nor the seal, hold him as a mor-tal.
God has brought his Is-ra-el in-to joy from sad-ness!

Easter Acclamation & Apostolic Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



☒ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☒ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



☒ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



☒ Lord, have mer - cy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

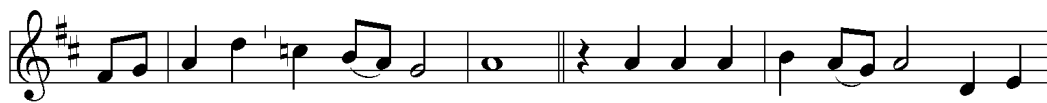


☒ A - men

Hymn of Praise



☒ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

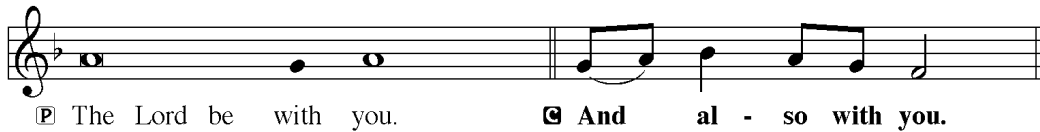
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ② Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ① Sing with all the peo- ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless- ing, hon- or, glo- ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. ② For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



P: Let us pray.

ALL: Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Acts 4:32–35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, the early Christ-following community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

(sung in unison)

The psalmist sings a prayer for unity.

**Oh, how good and pleas- | ant it is,*
when brethren live togeth- | er in unity!**

**²It is like fine oil up- | on the head*
that runs down up- | on the beard,**

**³upon the | beard of Aaron,*
and runs down upon the collar | of his robe.**

**⁴It is like the | dew of Hermon*
that falls upon the | hills of Zion.**

**⁵For there the LORD has or- | dained the blessing:*
life for- | evermore.**

Second Lesson - 1 John 1:1—2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Jesus of Nazareth's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

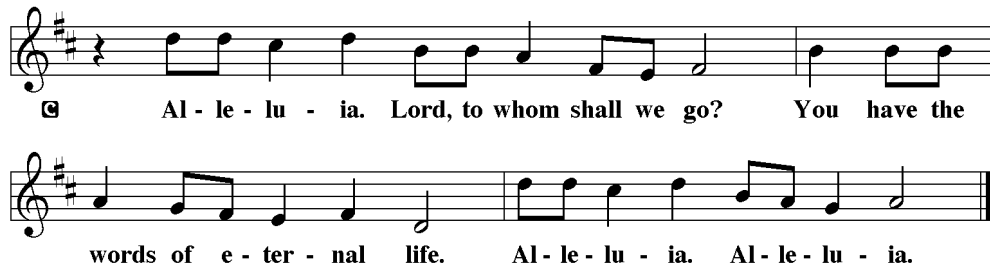
We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us — ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have

fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - John 20:19-31

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.



The risen Christ appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. However, one of their number is missing and Thomas' pragmatic realism prompts another visit from the risen Lord.



¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."



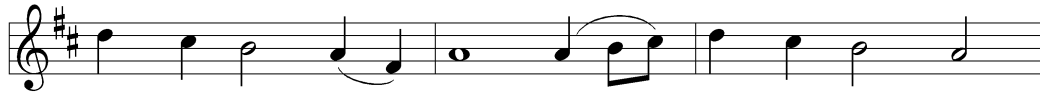
³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



*silence for reflection*Hymn of the Day**We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight**

1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and
 4 That, when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.
 Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816

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 cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

- A: Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Help us nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who are suffering or in pain, as you work through us to be your hands and feet to minister to their needs. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, administrators and other staff, and faithful lay servants who facilitated Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,
C: hear our prayer.
- A: Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you. Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,
C: hear 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

Doubting Thomas

arr. Mark Schweizer

O sons and daughters, let us sing!
 The King of heaven, the glorious King,
 O'er death and hell rose triumphing. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 When Thomas first the tidings heard,
 How they had seen the risen Lord,
 He doubted the disciple's word. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 My pierced side, O Thomas, see;
 My hands, my feet, I show to thee;
 Not faithless but believing be. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "Thou art my Lord and God," he cried. Alleluia! Alleluia!
 How blest are they who have not seen,
 And yet whose faith hath constant been,
 For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia! Alleluia!

(text: Jean Tisserand, fifteenth century, trans. John Mason Neale)

Offertory



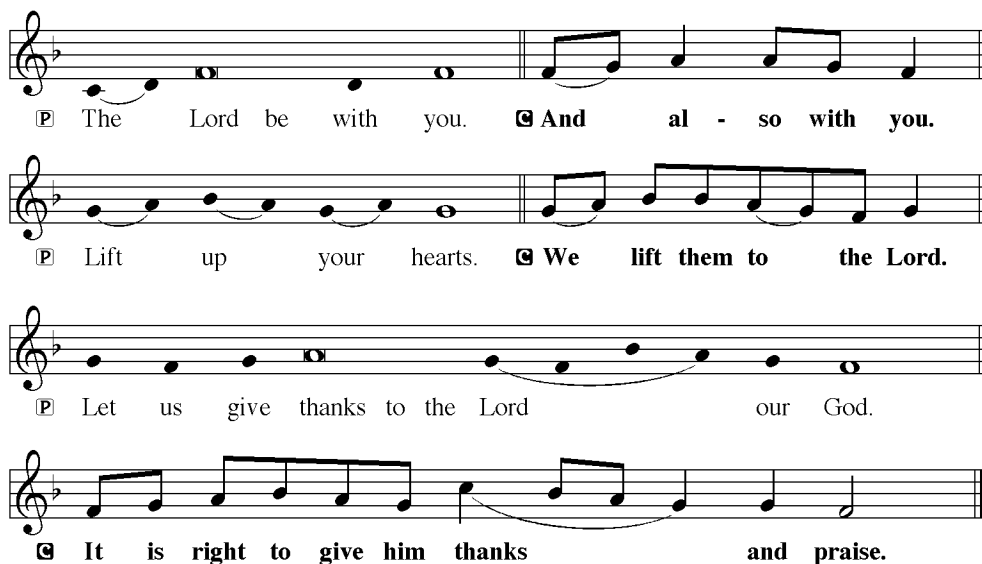
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

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. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Hymns

Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes



1 Peace, to soothe our bit - ter woes, God in Christ on us be - stows;
2 Peace with - in the church still dwells in our wel - comes and fare - wells;



Je - sus bought our peace with God with his ho - ly, pre - cious blood;
and through God's bap - tis - mal pow'r peace sur - rounds our dy - ing hour.



peace in him for sin - ners found is the gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
Peace be with you, full and free, now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1943, alt.
Music: FRED TIL BOD, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

Come, Let Us Eat

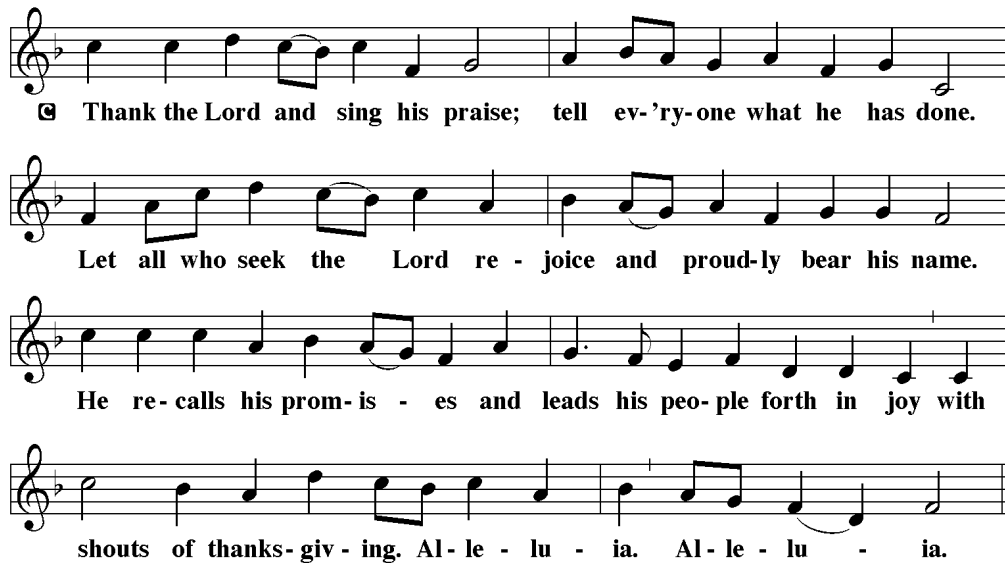
- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
Our Lord's body let us take together.
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
- 3 In his presence now we meet and rest,
In his presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
In the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930. st. 4, alt.;
tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Tune: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925

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 Canticle



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with

shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.
Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen


Benediction



☞ Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. ☞ A - men

Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Serve the risen Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

O Sons and Daughters of the King

arr. Healey Willan
(1880-1968)



The altar flowers and the candles are given to the glory of God
by Mae Derrick
in honor of Carrie Wisman's ninety-sixth birthday.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, April 7	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School for all ages 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube 5:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Youth (at La Carreta on Langhorne Road) 6:00 p.m. Nibblin' and Sippin'
Monday, April 8	9:15 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:50 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study & Dinner (Youth House)
Tuesday, April 9	5:40 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Church Council
Wednesday, April 10	10:00 a.m. Women's Sewing Group 12:10 p.m. Service of Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 11	9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, April 12	9:15 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:50 a.m. Chair Yoga Class
Sunday, April 14	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion 4:00 p.m. Organ Recital 5:00 p.m. Holy Trinity Youth

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

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene

Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson

Susan H. Williams

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

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