



THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2024

Our re-creation in Holy Baptism recalls an image from the first of the Genesis creation parables, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both the gospel according to Mark and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus of Nazareth's baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on our Lord's mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Prelude

Pastorale

Arcangelo Corelli
(1653-1713)

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed-ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

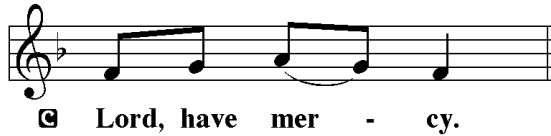
Apostolic Greeting

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

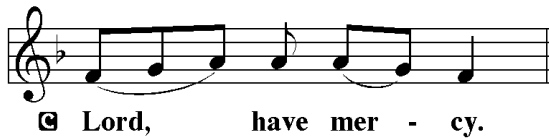
C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

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



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



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.



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



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



Hymn of Praise



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

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **II** Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

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

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **I** 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.

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

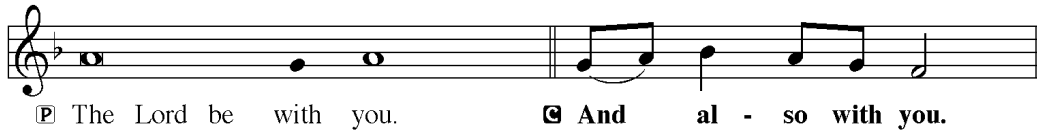
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. **II** For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

C 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: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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 - Genesis 1:1-5

Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the primeval darkness, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for any person living in the chaos and darkness of despair. God created and continues to create new life.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 29

(sung in unison)

The majesty of God is described in the likeness of a thunderstorm: the Lord is mighty over land and sea.

Ascribe to the ¹LORD, you gods,*
ascribe to the LORD glo- ¹ry and strength.
²Ascribe to the LORD the glory ¹due his name;*
worship the LORD in the beau- ¹ty of holiness.
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of ¹glory thunders;*
the LORD is upon the ¹mighty waters.
⁴The voice of the LORD is a ¹pow'rful voice;*
the voice of the LORD is a ¹voice of splendor.
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the ¹cedar trees;*
the LORD breaks the ce- ¹dars of Lebanon;
⁶he makes Lebanon skip ¹like a calf,*
and Mount Hermon like a ¹young wild ox.
⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD ¹shakes the wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilder- ¹ness of Kadesh.
⁸The voice of the LORD makes the ¹oak trees writhe*
and strips the ¹forests bare.
⁹And in the temple ¹of the LORD*
all are ¹crying, "Glory!"
¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- ¹bove the flood;*
the LORD sits enthroned as ¹king forevermore.
¹¹The LORD shall give strength ¹to his people;*
the LORD shall give his people the bless- ¹ing of peace.

Second Lesson - Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus. After Paul baptized them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and empowered them with gifts of the Spirit.

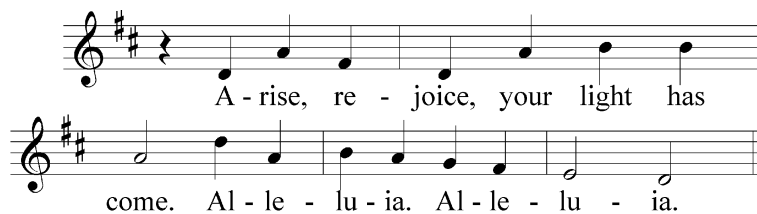
While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied — ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

(The congregation sings the refrain (R) as indicated.)



You are my beloved Son, I am well pleased with you. (R)

Holy Gospel - Mark 1:4-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.



The gospel according to Mark portrays the story of Jesus of Nazareth's baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



silence for reflection

Hymn

Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
 ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
 give your life for all, to give your life for all.
 per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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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: Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your Church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of Holy Baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace,

C: **receive our prayer.**

- A: Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Help us restore polluted rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace,
C: **receive our prayer.**
- A: Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace,
C: **receive our prayer.**
- A: Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Help us shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty, minister to those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers, and care for the sick and suffering. God of grace,
C: **receive our prayer.**
- A: Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus of Nazareth. God of grace,
C: **receive our prayer.**
- A: Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace,
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

Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

arr. G. F. Handel
(1685-1789)

*Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy thy praises render
Unto Him whose grace unbounded hath this wondrous banquet founded;
High o'er all the heavens He reigneth, yet to dwell with thee He deigneth.*

*Sun, who all my life dost brighten; Light, who dost my soul enlighten;
Joy, the best that any knoweth: Fount, whence all my being floweth:
At thy feet I cry, my Maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, thy glory, given.*

Offertory



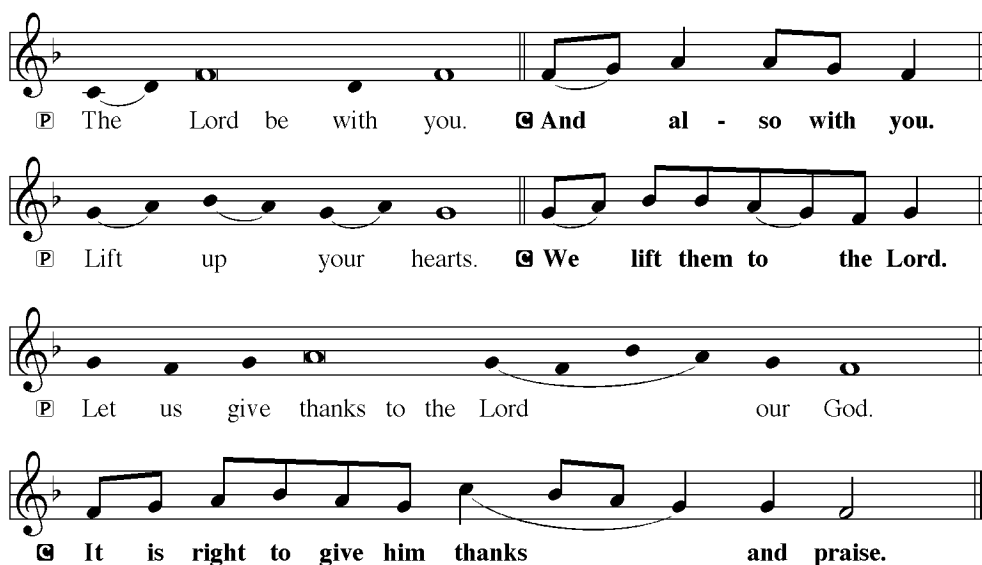
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

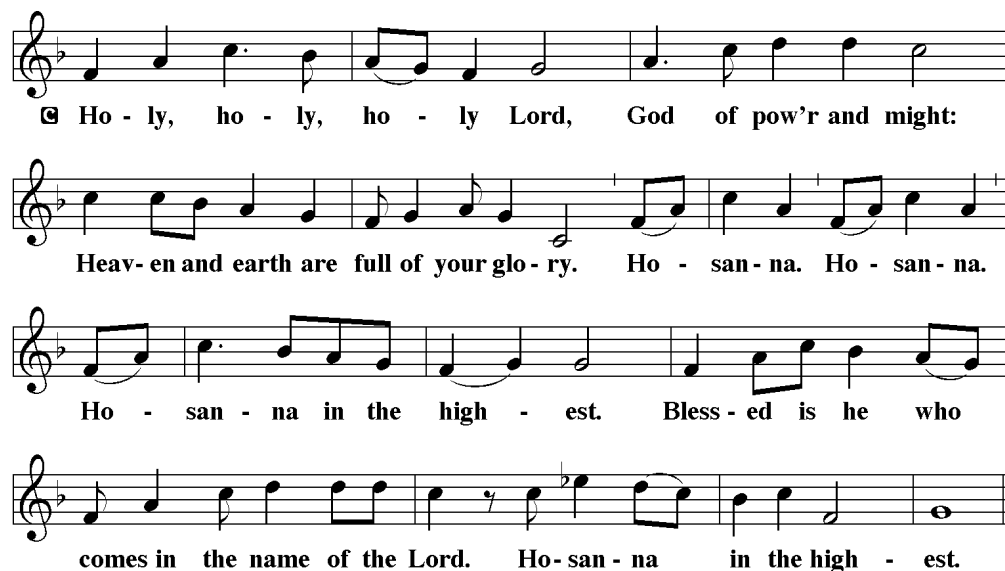
Great Thanksgiving



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.

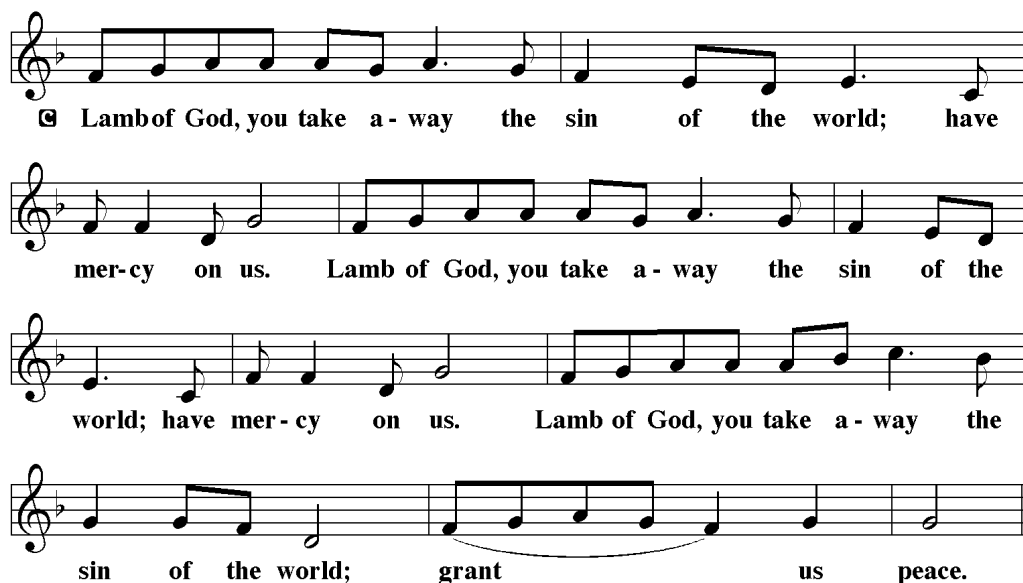
Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Hymn

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,
wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:
stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,
and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

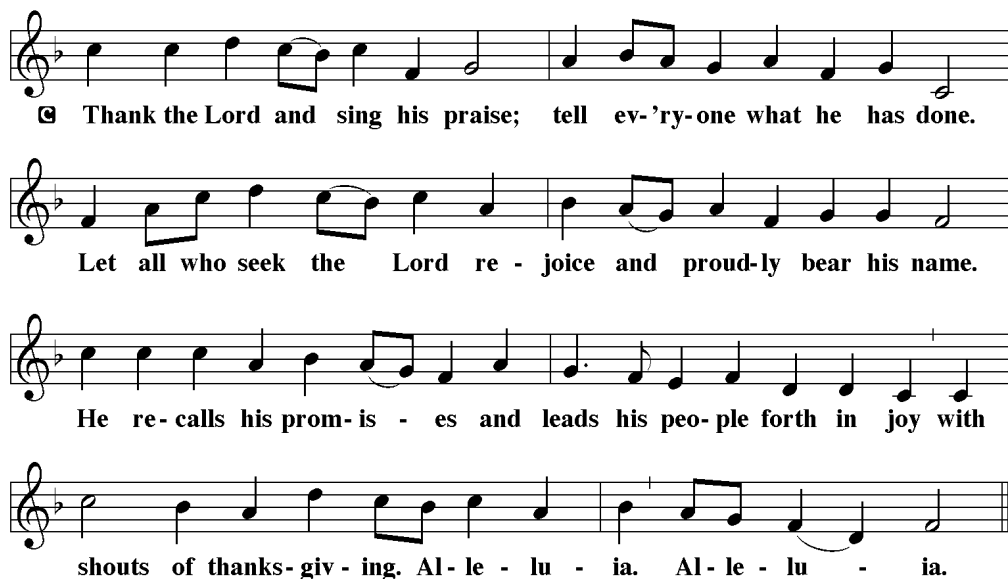
Text: George Croly, 1780–1860
Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841–189

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, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. 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 let there be light!
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

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

arr. C. Griffith Bratt
(1914-2014)



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Tonda and Paul Ulmer
in honor of Lauren and Austin Black's first wedding anniversary.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Nancy Trent
in memory of Lee F. Trent on his birthday.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|---|
| Sunday, January 7 | 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. | Soup Luncheon |
| | 1:00 p.m. | Altar Guild |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Holy Trinity Youth |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confirmation Class (grades six - eight) |
| Monday, January 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) |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Bible Study (via Zoom) - <i>Seeing the Bible as Your Story</i> |
| Tuesday, January 9 | 1:00 p.m. | Bible Study - <i>The Gospel of Mark</i> |
| | 5:40 p.m. | Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Table Talk - <i>Together By Grace: Introducing the Lutherans</i> |
| Wednesday, January 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, January 11 | 9:00 a.m. | Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Discussion Group - <i>Beyond Belief: A Marcus Borg Retrospective</i> |
| Friday, January 12 | 9:15 a.m. | Strength and Balance Exercise Class |
| | 9:50 a.m. | Chair Yoga Class |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Book Discussion Group - <i>Rebels, Despots, & Saints</i> |
| Next Sunday, January 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 and Home Communion with Livestream via YouTube |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Parish Nurse Education Series |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Holy Trinity Youth |
| | 6:00 p.m. | God In Film - <i>Gravity</i> |

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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: 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

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