



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

Today is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus of Nazareth is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and comes to us in the waters of Holy Baptism. Each week, he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

Prelude

Praeludium in D Minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Easter Acclamation & Apostolic Greeting

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

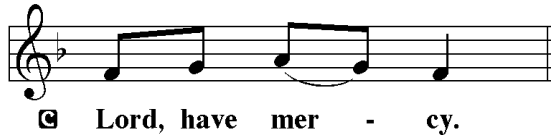
C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

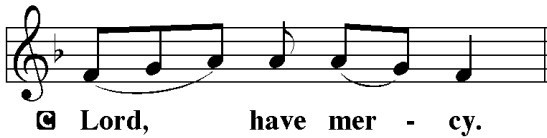
C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

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



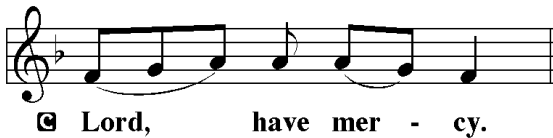
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.

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

al-le-lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia. ☐ 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. ☐ 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. ☐ 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

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

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, 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 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out upon God's people. This new community is founded on the teachings of the apostles and sustained in the breaking of the bread.

⁴²The baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

(sung in unison)

The Lord is shepherd and guide. God is present in the time of danger and is generous and merciful.

The LORD¹ is my shepherd;*
I shall not¹ be in want.
²**He makes me lie down¹ in green pastures***
and leads me be-¹side still waters.
³**He re-¹vives my soul***
and guides me along right pathways¹ for his name's sake.
⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall¹ fear no evil;***
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they¹ comfort me.
⁵**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who¹ trouble me;***
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is¹ running over.

**‘Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ^l of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the ^l LORD forever.**

Second Lesson - 1 Peter 2:19–25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here, Jesus the Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly in the midst of adversity.

¹⁹It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²²"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

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

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

Holy Gospel - John 10:1-10

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

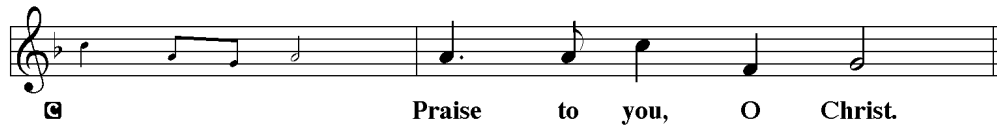
Jesus of Nazareth uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Good shepherds bring people to life through the Christ, but those who avoid him are dangerous to the flock.

Jesus said: "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

Hymn of the Day

The Lord's My Shepherd



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed in pres - ence of my foes;
5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: Psalter, Edinburgh, 1650

Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, J. L. Macbeth Bain, c. 1840-1925

Apostles' 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: Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your Church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Help us bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured. Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are cared for and honored. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, into your eternal presence. 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


Loving Shepherd

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

*Loving shepherd, comfort and guide us, Keep us in thy tender care.
And in thy mercy stay beside us, Safely thy lambs now gather,
Bring us in faith together, And thy pastures now prepare.*

*And when I walk with darkness around me, Thou art near and I will fear no ill.
So with thy love and kindness surround me, Goodness and mercy bringing,
From living water springing, Lord of Love grant me thy comfort still.*

Offertory



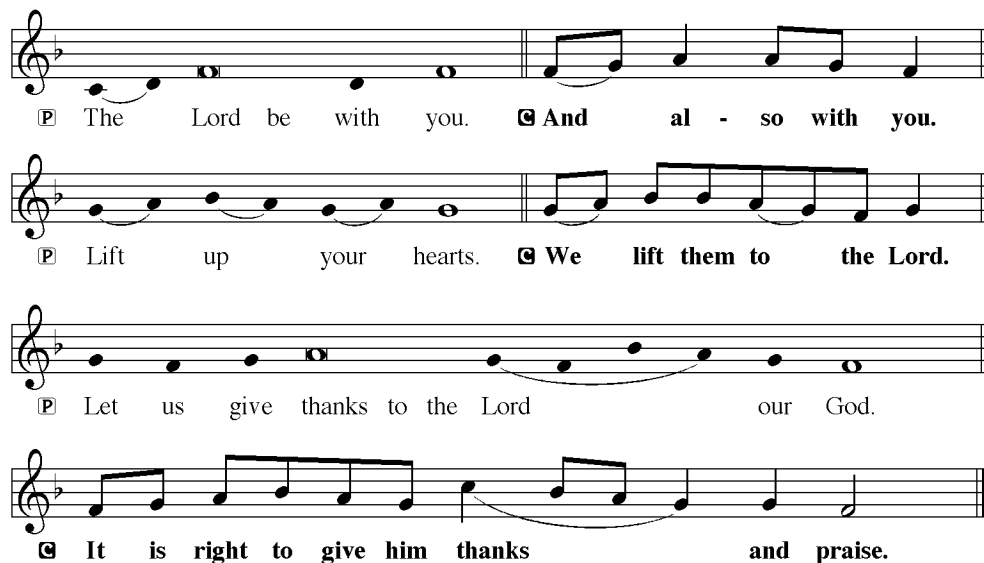
Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

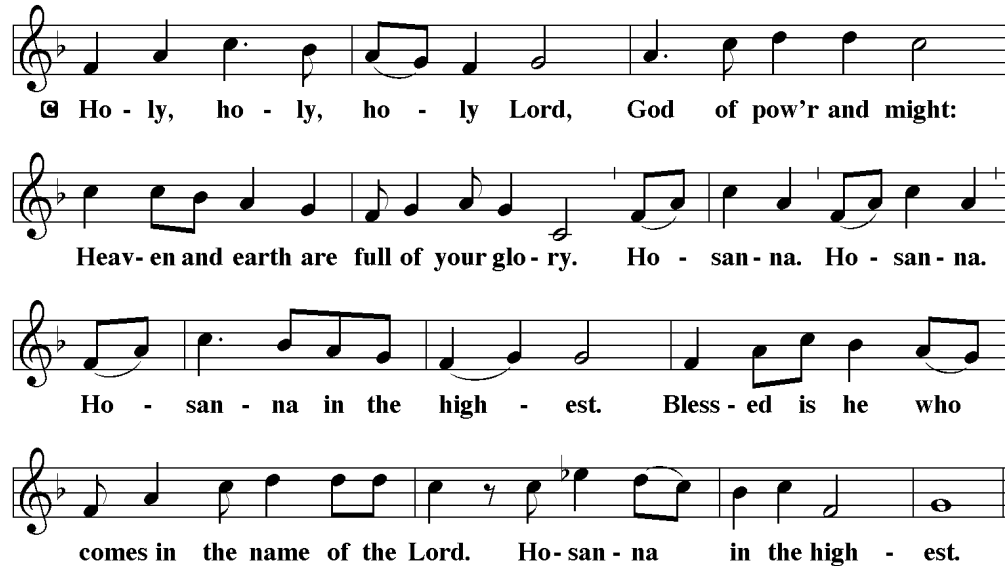
Great Thanksgiving



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



C 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.

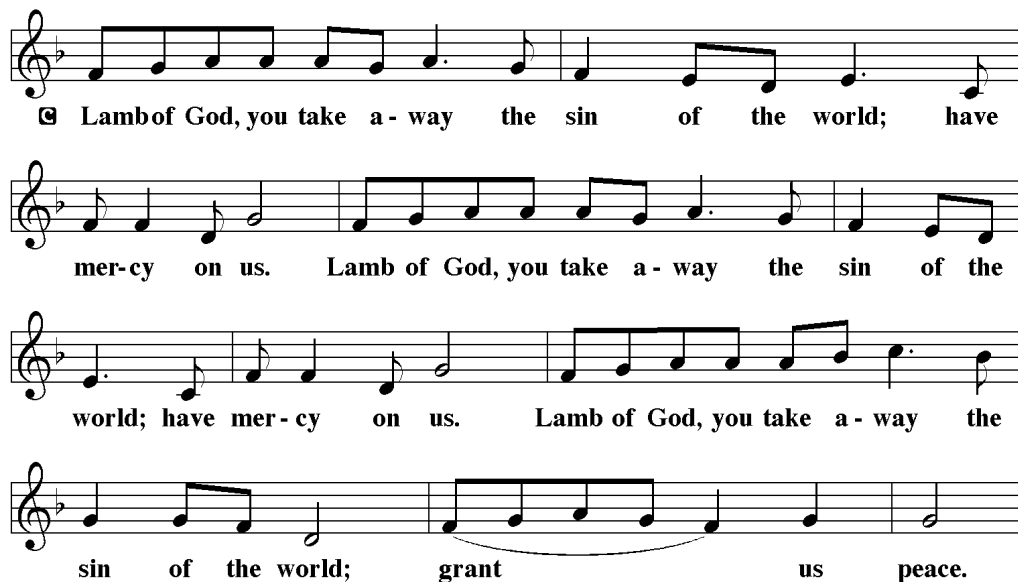
Eucharistic Prayer

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



C 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.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Now the Silence

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed

Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come

Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing

Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion

Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing

Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny

Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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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

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praeludium in F Major

Johann Pachelbel



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Sally and Jeff Schneider
in honor of Sally's aunt, Betty Peters, on her 104th birthday.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Ann Mitchell
in memory of her father, E. Wayland Mitchell, Sr.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, April 26	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
Monday, April 27	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Tuesday, April 28	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, April 29	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 30	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, May 1	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
Saturday, May 2	10:00 a.m.	Altar Guild
Sunday, May 3	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
	2:00 p.m.	Pastor's Information Class
	5:00 p.m.	Senior Youth (grades nine - twelve)
	6:00 p.m.	Nibblin' & Sippin'

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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**

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Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
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