



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 19, 2023

The Samaritan woman in today's gospel asks Jesus of Nazareth for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal — offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Prelude

Nettleton

arr. Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1927)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

(The confession is led from the baptismal font as a reminder that repentance is a return to baptism.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

silence for reflection

P: God of steadfast love,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from your ways. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to forgive those who have sinned against us. Have mercy on us, create in us new hearts, and restore to us the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

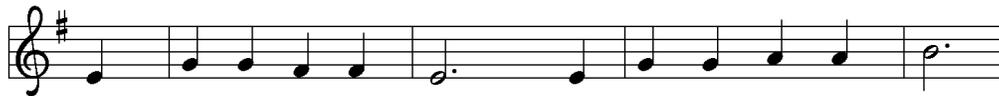
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Apostolic Greeting

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



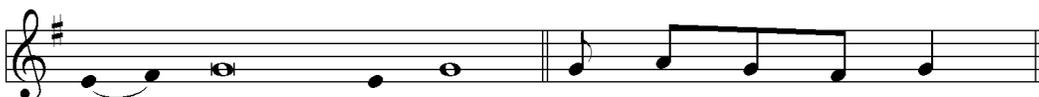
- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



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!

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent because of the penitential nature of the season.)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



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

P: Let us pray.

ALL: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - 1 Samuel 16:1–13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the youngest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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.

²He makes me lie down¹ in green pastures*

and leads me be-¹side still waters.

³He re-¹vives my soul*

and guides me along right pathways¹ for his name's sake.

⁴Though 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.

⁵You 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.

⁶Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days¹ of my life,*

and I will dwell in the house of the¹ LORD forever.

Second Lesson - Ephesians 5:8–14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light — ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse



Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life. (R)

Holy Gospel - John 9:1-41

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



Jesus of Nazareth heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they



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: Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in Holy Baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation and care for all that you have made, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Powerful God, in days of old you anointed kings and established rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials today. Inspire them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with your love and give us a hunger for justice. Help us sustain the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. 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

Your Hands, O Lord, in Days of Old

Carson Cooman
(b. 1982)

Your hands, O Lord, in days of old were strong to heal and save; they triumphed over pain and death, o'er darkness and the grave. To you they went, the blind, the mute, the palsied, and the lame, the leper set apart and shunned, the sick and those in shame.

And then your touch brought life and health, gave speech and strength and sight; and youth renewed, with health restored, claimed you, the Lord of light. And so, O Lord, be near to bless, almighty now as then, in every street, in every home, in every troubled friend.

O be our mighty healer still, O Lord of life and death; restore and strengthen, soothe and bless with your almighty breath. On hands that work and eyes that see, your healing wisdom pour, that whole and sick and weak and strong may praise you evermore.

Offertory

Unison

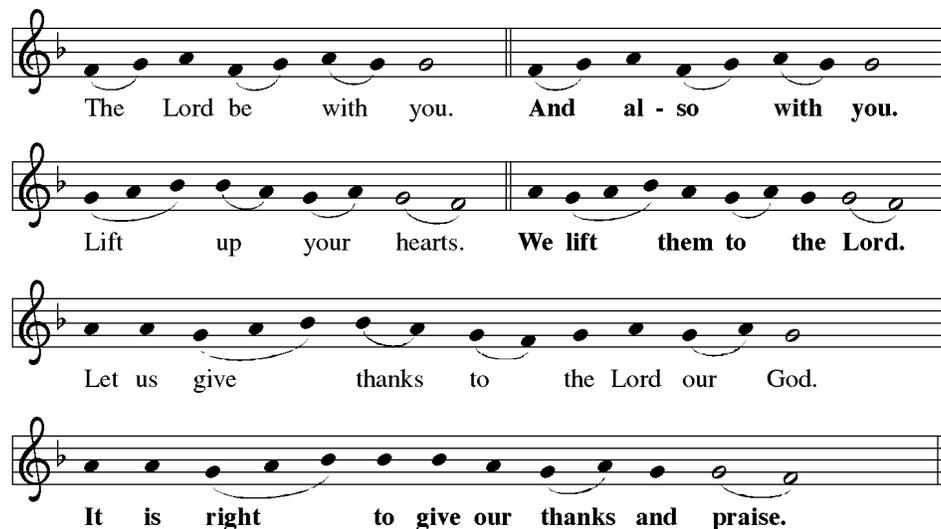
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of all creation,

C: all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

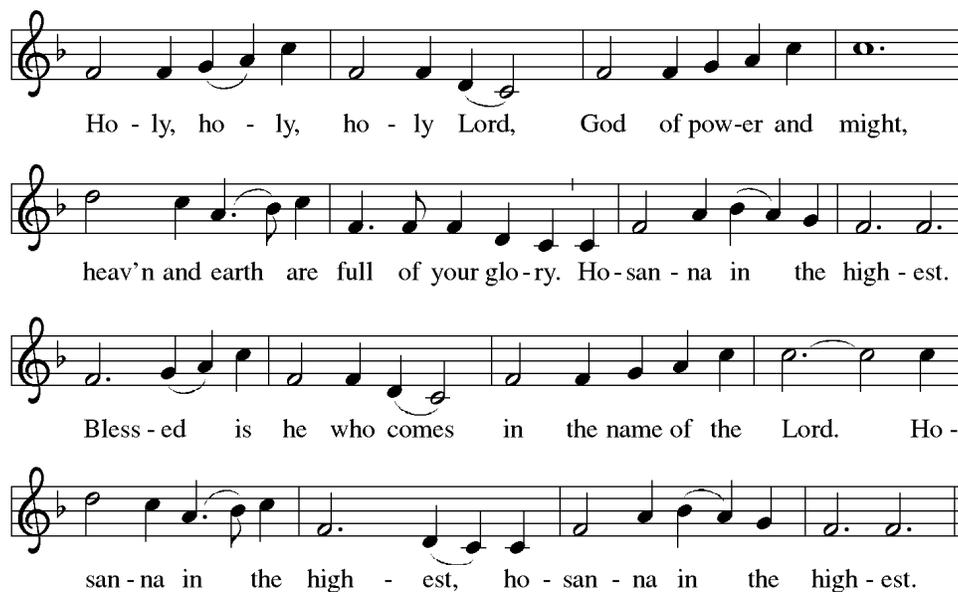
Great Thanksgiving



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 our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer



☩ Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a- gainst us.
 Save us from the time of tri - al and de- liv - er us from e - vil.
 For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are
 yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

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

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True

1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on
 2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers
 3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -
 4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on
 5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,
 those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -
 lost in er - ror's maze. En - light - en those whose se - cret
 way the child - ish fears of those who trem - ble to ex -
 oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed
 ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.
 minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
 press the faith their se - cret hearts con - fess.
 sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.
 praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite
 Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesang-Buch*, Nürnberg, 1676

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Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - ered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

***On my heart imprint your image,
 Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
 That life's troubles nor its pleasures
 Ever may your work erase;***

**Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
All my glory and salvation!**

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

Benediction



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

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Jesu, meines Lebens Leben
(*Christ, the Life of All the Living*, Hymn 97)

arr. J. William Greene



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
by Carol and Ken Barclay
in honor of their wedding anniversary.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Carol and Gus Espinosa
in memory of Lou Emsley's birthday.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY		
Sunday, March 19	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
	4:30 p.m.	Holy Trinity Youth
	5:00 p.m.	Thomas Mass
Monday, March 20		Flea Market Set-up Begins
	9:15 a.m.	Strength & Balance Exercise Class
	9:50 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	6:00 p.m.	Kids' Haven Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (via Zoom) - <i>The Extraordinary Women Who Shaped Our Faith</i>
Tuesday, March 21	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study - <i>James</i>
	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Table Talk - <i>By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism</i>
Wednesday, March 22	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Vespers
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 23	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
Friday, March 24	9:15 a.m.	Strength & Balance Exercise Class
	9:50 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>This Hebrew Lord</i>
Saturday, March 25	7:00 a.m.	Flea Market (until noon)
	7:00 a.m.	Holy Trinity Youth
Sunday, March 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
	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
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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