



THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

January 25, 2026

In the days after the Epiphany of Our Lord, we commemorate not only Paul's seeing the light but his saintly effort thereafter at being the light. Having our eyes opened by the Spirit of God in Holy Baptism, having been enlightened by the word read and proclaimed in worship, and having regained our strength in the Lord's Supper, we, too, are converted—turned again to follow in God's way.

Prelude

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

arr. Camil Van Hulse
(1897-1988)

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

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -

ser - aphys, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!

“Al - le - lu - ia!” Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
 “Al - le - lu - ia!” Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
 Al - le - lu - ia!” Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
 Al - le - lu - ia!” To God the Fa - ther, God the

pow’rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:

“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!” Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623

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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.

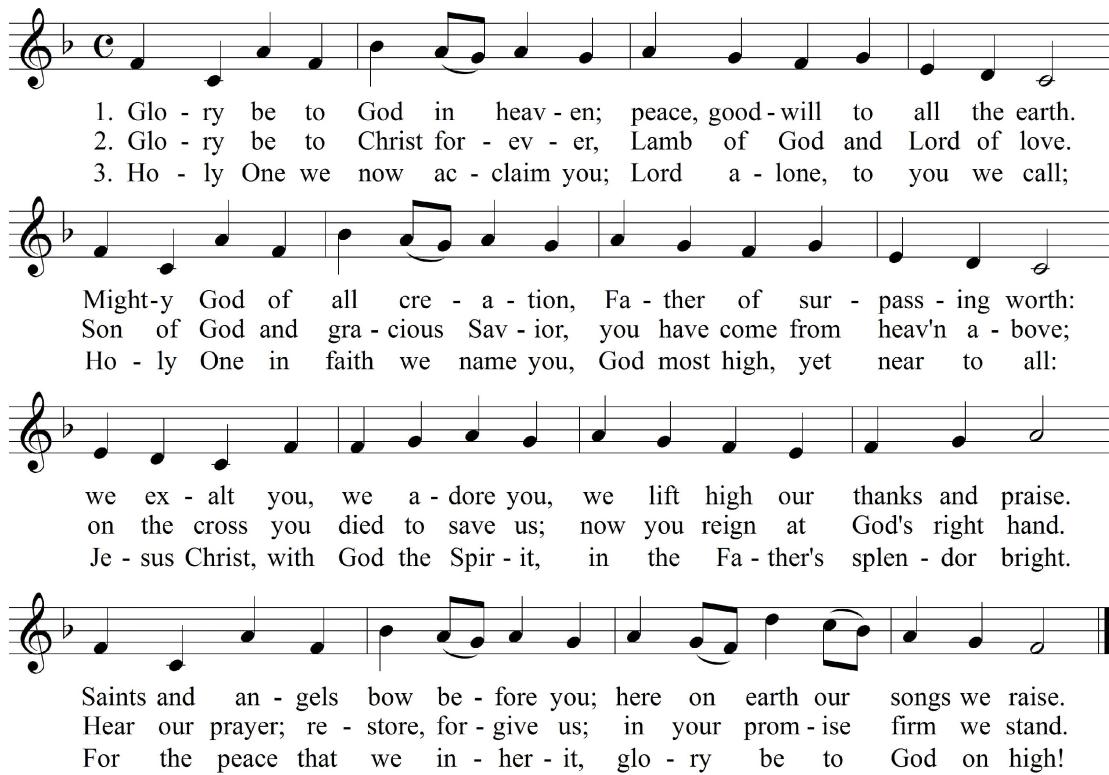
C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

(sung in unison)

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
 mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have
 mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise



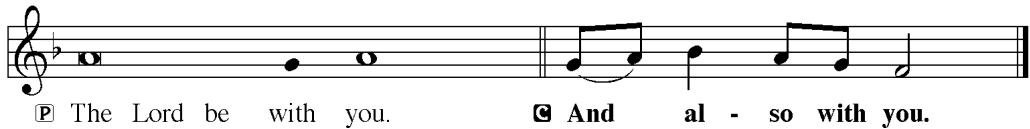
1. Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
2. Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3. Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

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



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

P: Let us pray.

ALL: O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of 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 - Acts 9:1-22

Three times the book of Acts describes Paul's conversion. This telling, coming between Philip with the Ethiopian and Cornelius's conversion, sets the stage for extending the gospel to the Gentiles.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.



¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?” ²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

(sung in unison)

This psalm is a prayer for God's graciousness and saving power, and a bidding of praise for the Lord's justice and bounty.

¹May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.
²Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health a- mong all nations.
³Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.
⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
⁶The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
⁷May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Second Lesson - Galatians 1:11-24

Here Paul himself tells of the prologue to his becoming the great apostle to the Gentiles.

He admits his former blindness, seeing the contrast as an avenue for the greater glory of God.

Paul writes: ¹¹I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin, ¹²for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

¹³You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. ¹⁴I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. ¹⁵But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the gentiles, I did not confer with any human, ¹⁷nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterward I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days, ¹⁹but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! ²¹Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, ²²and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³they only heard it said, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴And they glorified God because of me.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse

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

Holy Gospel - Luke 21:10-19

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The third gospel contains several short apocalyptic passages, which helped to encourage readers who, in the decades after the resurrection, were experiencing persecution for their faith. Paul had found himself on both sides of such persecution.

¹⁰Jesus said to the disciples, “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.

¹²“But 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 siblings, 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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

By All Your Saints in Warfare
The Conversion of St. Paul

1 By all your saints in war - fare, for all your saints at rest,
2 All praise for light from heav - en and for the voice of awe,
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son

your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blest!
all praise for glo - rious vi - sions the per - se - cu - tor saw.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,

For you have won the battle that they might wear the crown;
 O Lord, for Paul's conversion we bless your name to-day;
 till all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
 and now they shine in glory reflected from your throne.
 come, light-en all our darkness, and guide us on our way.
 as - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823–1913, alt.
 Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

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: Grant humility to your Church, O God, that we honor the testimonies of those who seem unlikely witnesses to your work. Remove from us all prejudice, opening us to wisdom that challenges and extends more widely the Church's ministry. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Bless the earth and bring forth its increase. Rescue lands from famine and disease. Help us send aid to places rebuilding after earthquakes and storms, and support the work of scientists, conservationists, and all who seek to preserve the goodness of creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Nation rises against nation, O God, even as we pray for your peace. Bring an end to international conflicts and religious persecution. Help us ensure fair and equitable treatment in courts of law. Give integrity to legislators and those who enforce the law. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Show us the depths of your mercy through the work of caregivers, advocates, and health care workers. Give strength and patience to those who accompany others through times of illness, uncertainty, or pain. Help us bring your saving health to those in need. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We thank you for gifts of food, water, and nourishment. Bless farmers and restaurant workers, bakers and grocery store workers, food pantry volunteers and family members who cook daily meals. Encourage us to share food with those who are hungry, that they regain their strength. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: We praise you for the saints, especially Paul, and for all who have been transformed by your love and power. Lead us by their endurance and example. 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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Carson Cooman
(b. 1982)

*O Love that will not let me go, I rest my tired soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller, be.*

*O Light that follows me all my way, I give my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer, be.*

*O Joy that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain, that morn shall tearless be!*

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 our provider,

C: **you have not fed us with bread alone but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bounty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The lyrics are as follows:

(P) The Lord be with you. (C) And also with you.

(P) Lift up your hearts. (C) We lift them to the Lord.

(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(C) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface and Sanctus

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in G clef, B-flat key signature, and common time. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might.

Heav-en and earth are full, full

of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -

san - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

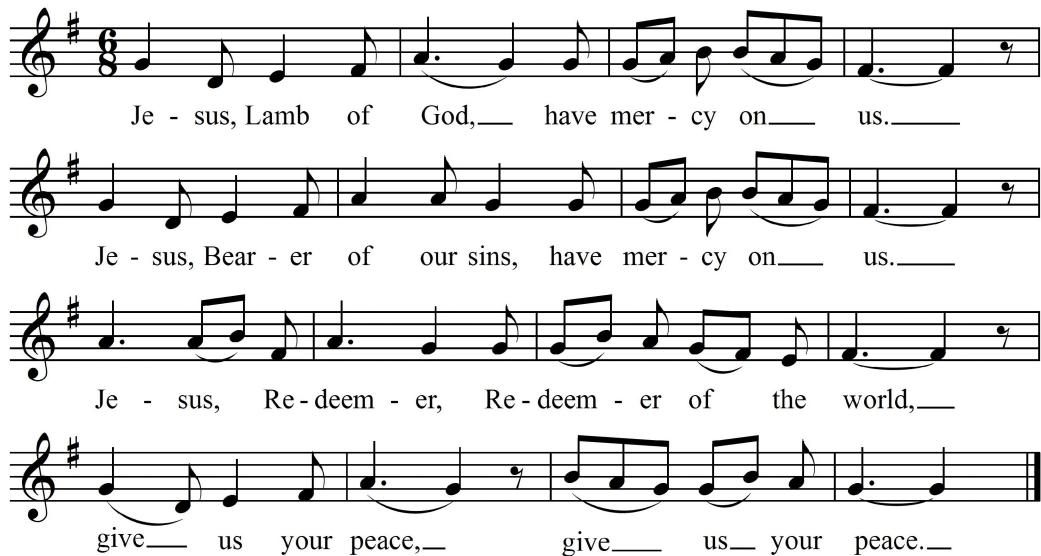
Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

**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



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re - deem - er of the world,

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Hymns

For the Bread Which You Have Broken



- 1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
- 4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.
Music: OMNI DIE. *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631
Text © Robert F. Jefferys Jr.

Now Thank We All Our God

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voice - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,
 who won - drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,
 who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;
 with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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

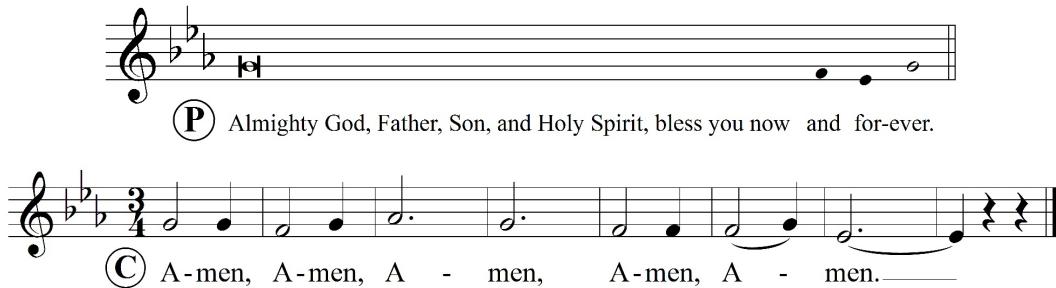
Come with us, O bless-ed Je-sus, with us ev - er - more to be.
 And, in leav - ing now thine al-tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!
 Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho-rus nev - er cease the heav'n-ly strain;
 but in us, thy lov - ing chil-dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: **O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit, strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Benediction

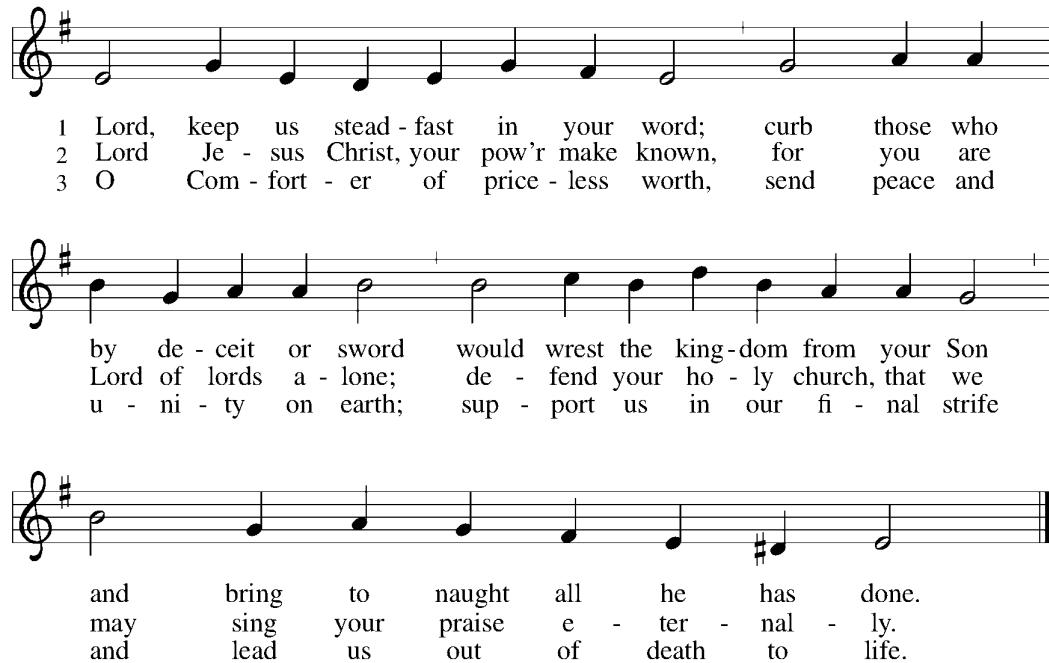


(P) Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for-ever.

(C) A-men, A-men, A - men, A-men, A - men.

Hymn

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

arr. Dieterich Buxtehude



The candles are given to the glory of God by Sherri and Jeff Fleck
in honor of Kim, Ian, and Matt's birthdays.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, January 25	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 1:00 p.m. Pastor's Information Class 4:00 p.m. Epiphany Procession Service (at St. John's Episcopal Church) 5:00 p.m. Senior Youth (grades nine-twelve) 6:00 p.m. International Dinner
Monday, January 26	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, January 27	5:40 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, January 28	12:10 p.m. Service of Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, January 29	9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) 11:00 a.m. Discussion Group - <i>Living the Questions</i>
Friday, January 30	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> 5:15 p.m. Holy Trinity Dinner & Holy Communion at Westminster Canterbury
Sunday, February 1	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 4:00 p.m. Organ Recital; Bill Greene, organist 4:00 p.m. Junior Youth (grades six - eight) 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)

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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: Deb Serio

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts

Organist-Chairmaster: J. William Greene

Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:

Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson

Susan H. Williams

Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Sextons: Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington