



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 1, 2026

Who are the blessed ones of God? For the prophet Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For the Apostle Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus of Nazareth, they are the poor, mourners, the meek, those who hunger for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. In Holy Baptism, we are given our blessed identity and calling to this countercultural way of living and serving.

Prelude

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

arr. J. William Greene

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

Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

(tune: Marion)

1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith
all strangers far and near:

Refrain

We praise you, Christ!
Your cross has made us one!

2 Oh, praise persistent truth
that opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch
the prejudice that blinds: *Refrain*

3 Oh, praise inclusive love,
encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth,
to social rank or place: *Refrain*

4 Oh, praise the word of faith
that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ,
our rock and cornerstone: *Refrain*

5 Oh, praise the tide of grace
that laps at ev'ry shore
with visions of a world at peace,
no longer bled by war: *Refrain*

6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*

7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Text from *New Hymns for the Lectionary* © 1984 Oxford University Press, Inc.

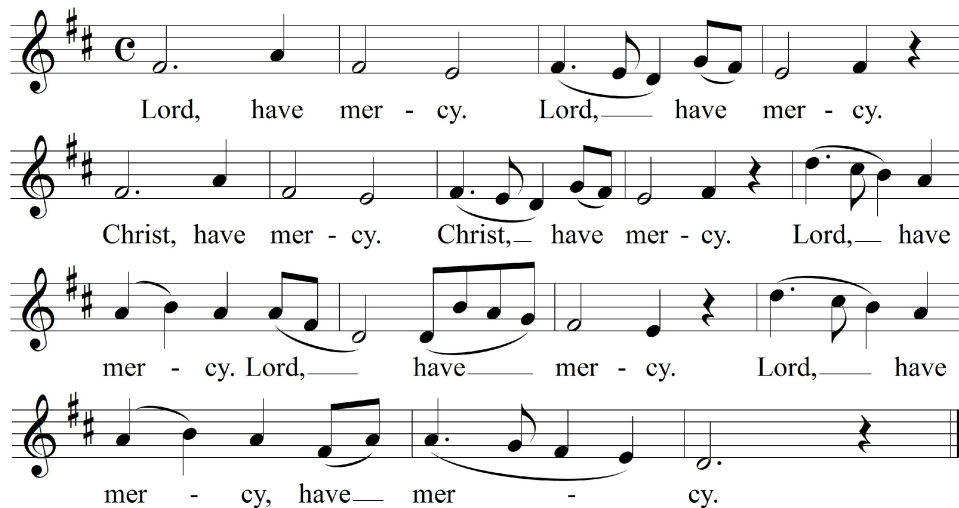
Apostolic Greeting

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, have mer - cy.

Hymn of Praise



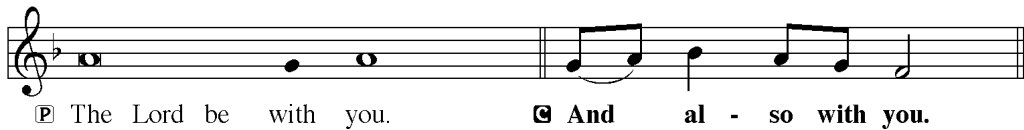
1. Glo - ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good - will to all the earth.
2. Glo - ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3. Ho - ly One we now ac - claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

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: Let us pray.

ALL: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has "wearied" Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather, God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³"O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 115

(sung in unison)

This psalm describes the virtues of one who is worthy to worship the Lord.

¹**Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle? Who may abide upon your | holy hill?**
²**Whoever leads a blameless life and does | what is right, who speaks the truth | from his heart,**
³**there is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil | to his friend;**
he does not heap contempt up- | on his neighbor.
⁴**In his sight the wicked | is rejected, but he honors those who | fear the Lord.**
⁵**He has sworn to | do no wrong**
and does not take | back his word.
⁶**He does not give his money in | hope of gain,**
nor does he take a bribe a- | gainst the innocent.
⁷**Whoever | does these things**
shall never be | overthrown.

Second Lesson - 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet, this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering.

Hence, the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

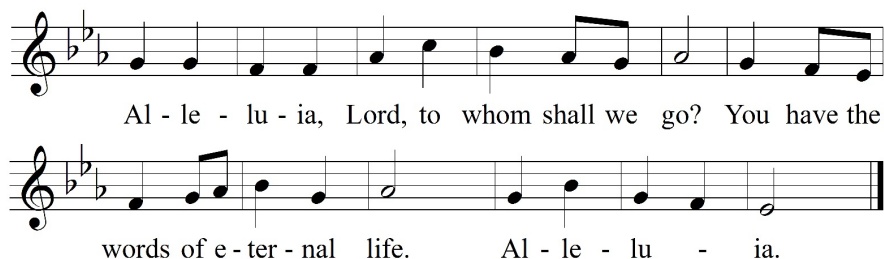
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: The word of the Lord.

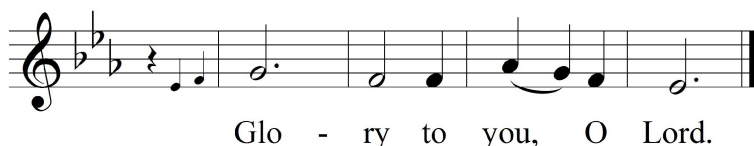
C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia Verse



Holy Gospel - Matthew 5:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.



Jesus of Nazareth opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

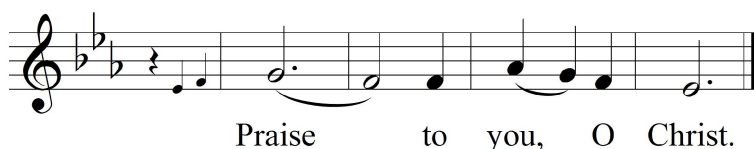
⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn of the Day

Let Streams of Living Justice

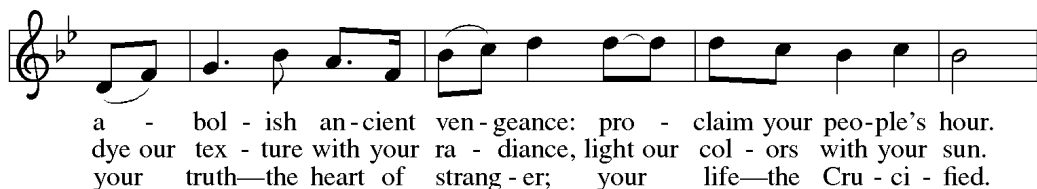
1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home-land bright-ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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: God our wisdom, renew the Church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Help us preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and activists who are reviled for speaking truth to power. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Help us reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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

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!*
(text: George Matheson, 1842-1906)

Offertory

Unison



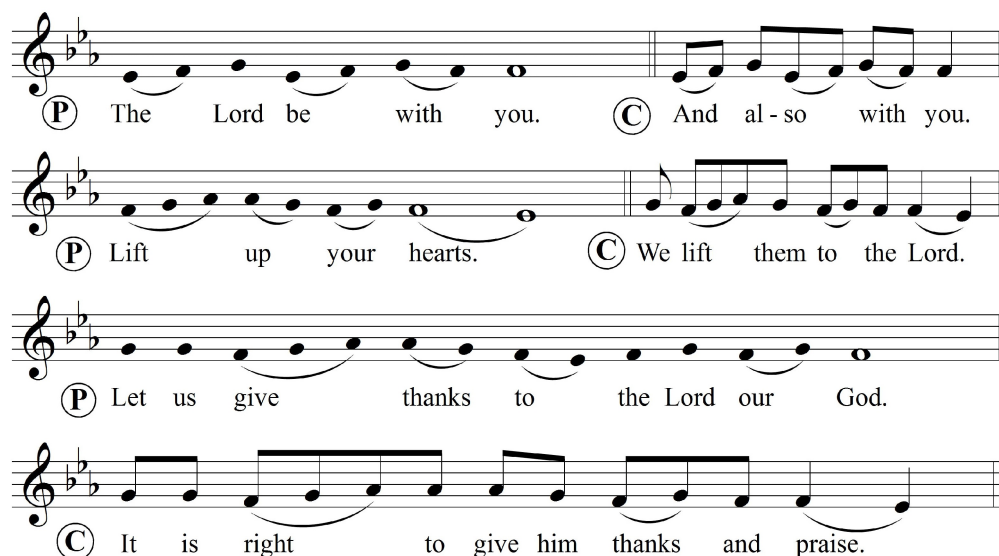
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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



Four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains two phrases: (P) The Lord be with you. and (C) And al-so with you. The second staff contains: (P) Lift up your hearts. and (C) We lift them to the Lord. The third staff contains: (P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. The fourth staff contains: (C) It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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



Seven staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff is the beginning of the Preface: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might. The subsequent staves continue the Preface and then the Sanctus. The Sanctus begins with: 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.

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

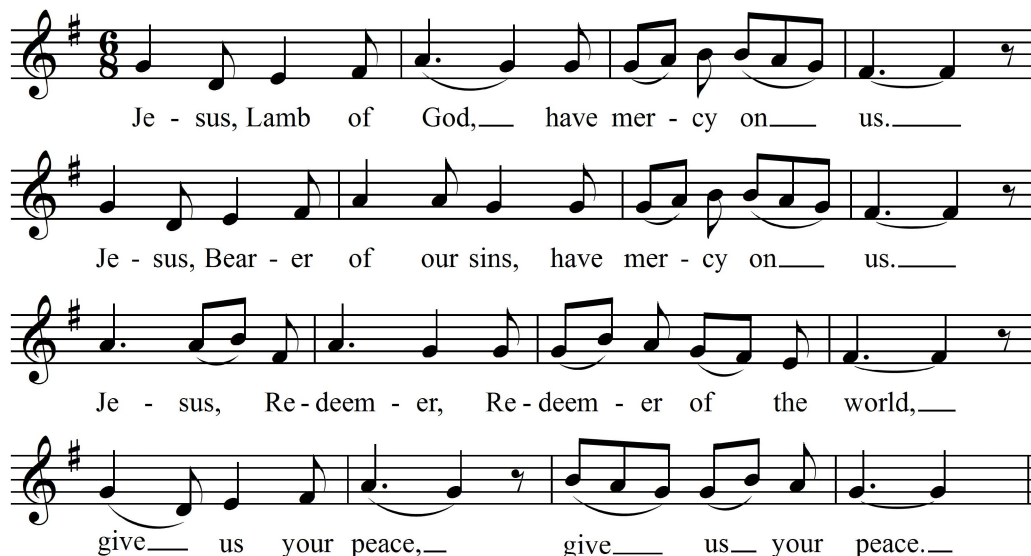
Lord's Prayer

**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.

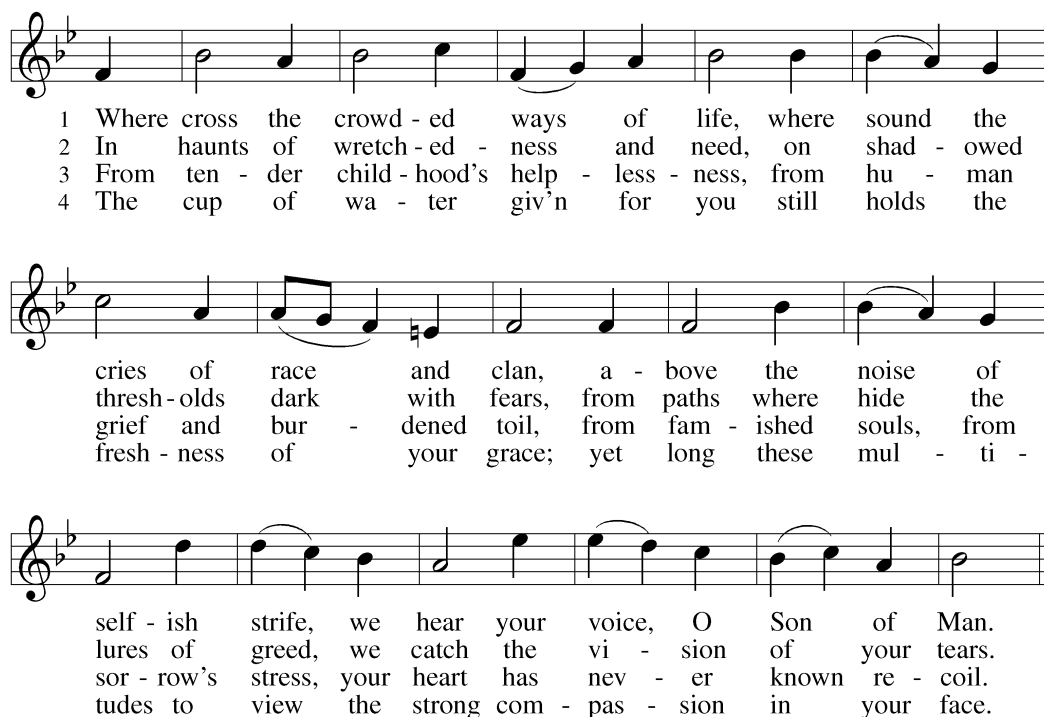
Je - sus, Bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

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

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Hymns

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above
shall come the city of our God.

Jesus, the Very Thought of You



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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;



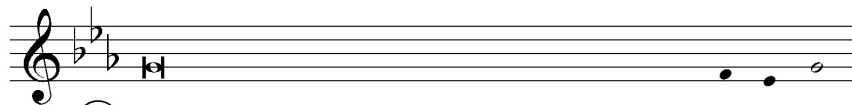
but in us, thy lov-ing chil-dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

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

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! His king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, his word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Quintal Toccata

J. William Greene



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Moira Rafferty and Rob Bass
in memory of Alex Pretti.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

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)
Monday, February 2	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, February 3	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study - <i>1 John</i>
	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, February 4	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 5	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	11:00 a.m.	Sermon Discussion Group
Friday, February 6	7:00 a.m.	Breakfast Series - <i>The Bible With and Without Jesus</i>
	8:00 a.m.	Matins
	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>
Sunday, February 8	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	9:30 a.m.	Holy Trinity Youth (all ages)
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion
	11:30 a.m.	<i>Souper Bowl</i> Luncheon
	2:00 p.m.	Parish Nurse Education Series

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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

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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