

Holy Trinity
LUTHERAN CHURCH
N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072
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Website: holytrinitynarberth.org; Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Narberth
Rev. Jessica Zurcher, Pastor - pastorjessica@holytrinitynarberth.org
Dale Morris, Office Manager - holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com
Christopher Ertelt, Music Director

You are a child of God and you are welcome here: whatever your faith commitment, experience, or level of doubt, mental or emotional health, physical abilities, financial or employment status, race, ethnicity, or primary language; whatever your gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation. We welcome you whether you are a parent or caregiver; whether you are a fussy baby, an energetic toddler, a 'tween, or a teen; whether you are an inquisitive young adult, exhausted adult, or wise senior citizen; whether you are single, in a relationship, married, divorced, or widowed; whether you struggle with an addiction to drugs, alcohol, or anything else. We welcome you however you found us: on the internet, from your neighbor or friend, or passing by our Giving Garden. We welcome those who hurt and those who celebrate, those who worship every week or just this once, and in whatever you choose to wear. We extend a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome you to join us as we grow in faith through worship, study, and friendship. We welcome you as we seek to make a difference through combating food insecurity, ministering with those in need, and committing to racial equity. And we welcome you to help us be fully open to all. Whoever you are and wherever you are from, you are a child of God and you are welcome here.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude:
Aria — Flor Peeters

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

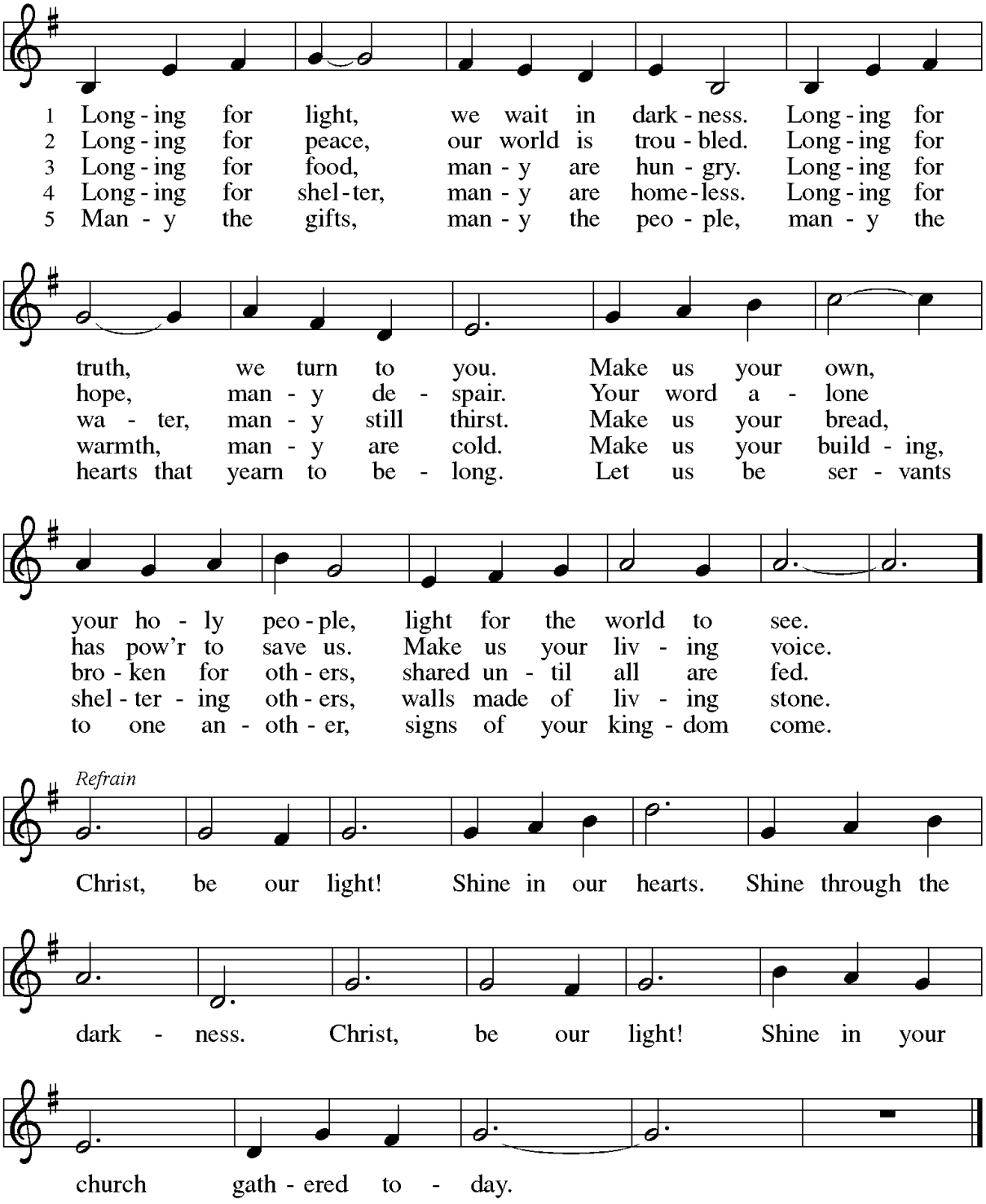
L: Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.

L: Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song: Christ, Be Our Light (ELW 715)
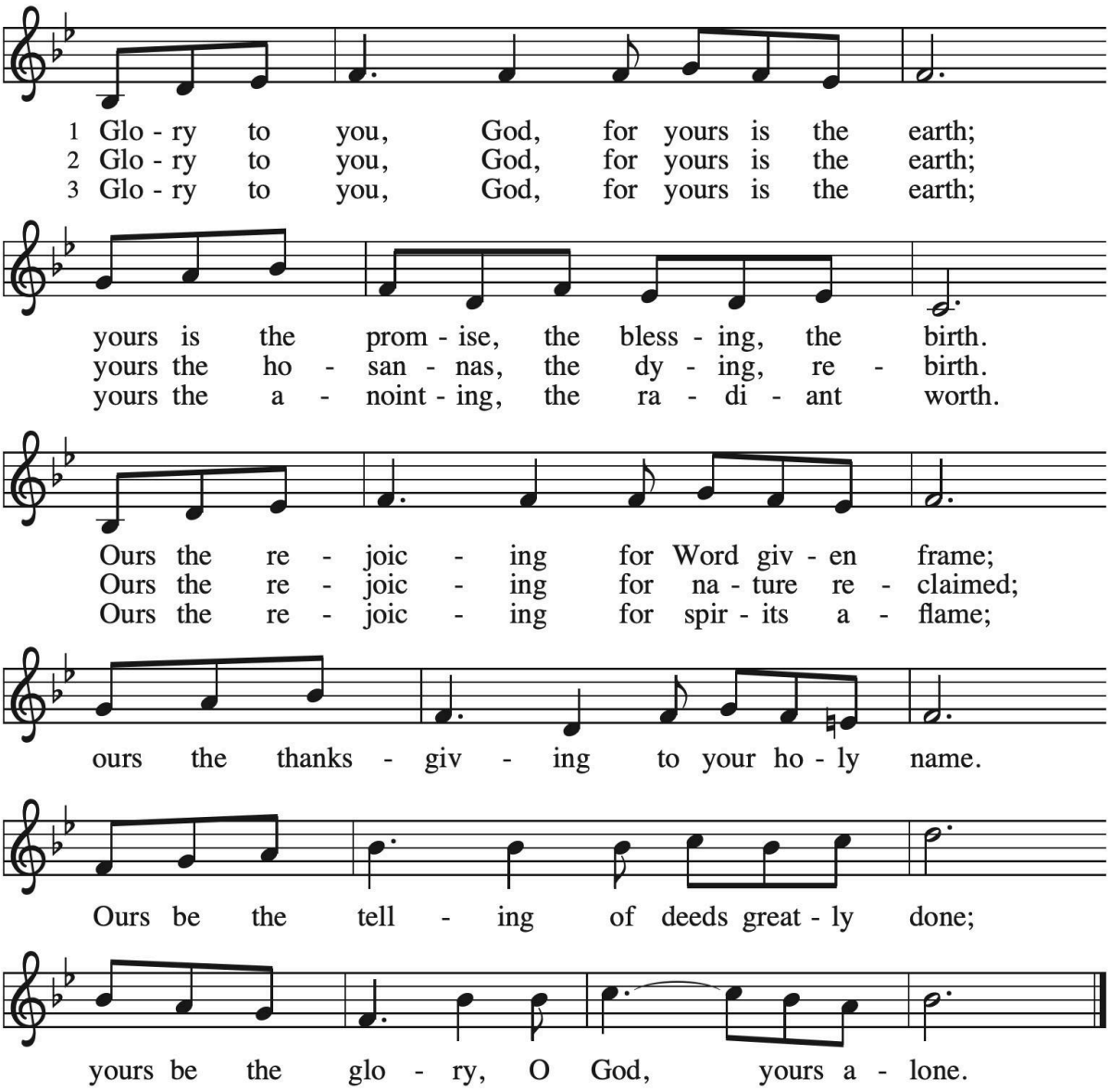


Greeting:

L: 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.

Song of Praise:



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray together...

C: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

L: A reading from Zephaniah, the 1st chapter.

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.

15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: Word of God. Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
The psalm will be read responsively.

1 Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,**
from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**
and like a watch in the night;

[5] you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
[6] **in the morning it is green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
[7] For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
[8] **Our iniquities you have set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
[[9] When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10] **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
[11] Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?]
[12] **So teach us to number our days**
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

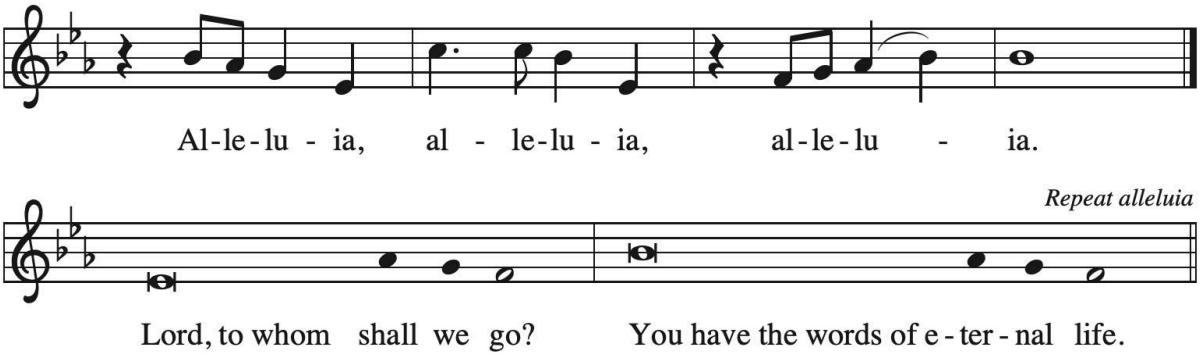
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the 5th chapter.

[1] Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. [2] For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3] When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! [4] But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; [5] for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. [6] So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, [7] for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. [8] But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9] For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10] who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. [11] Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: Word of God. Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

L: The Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.
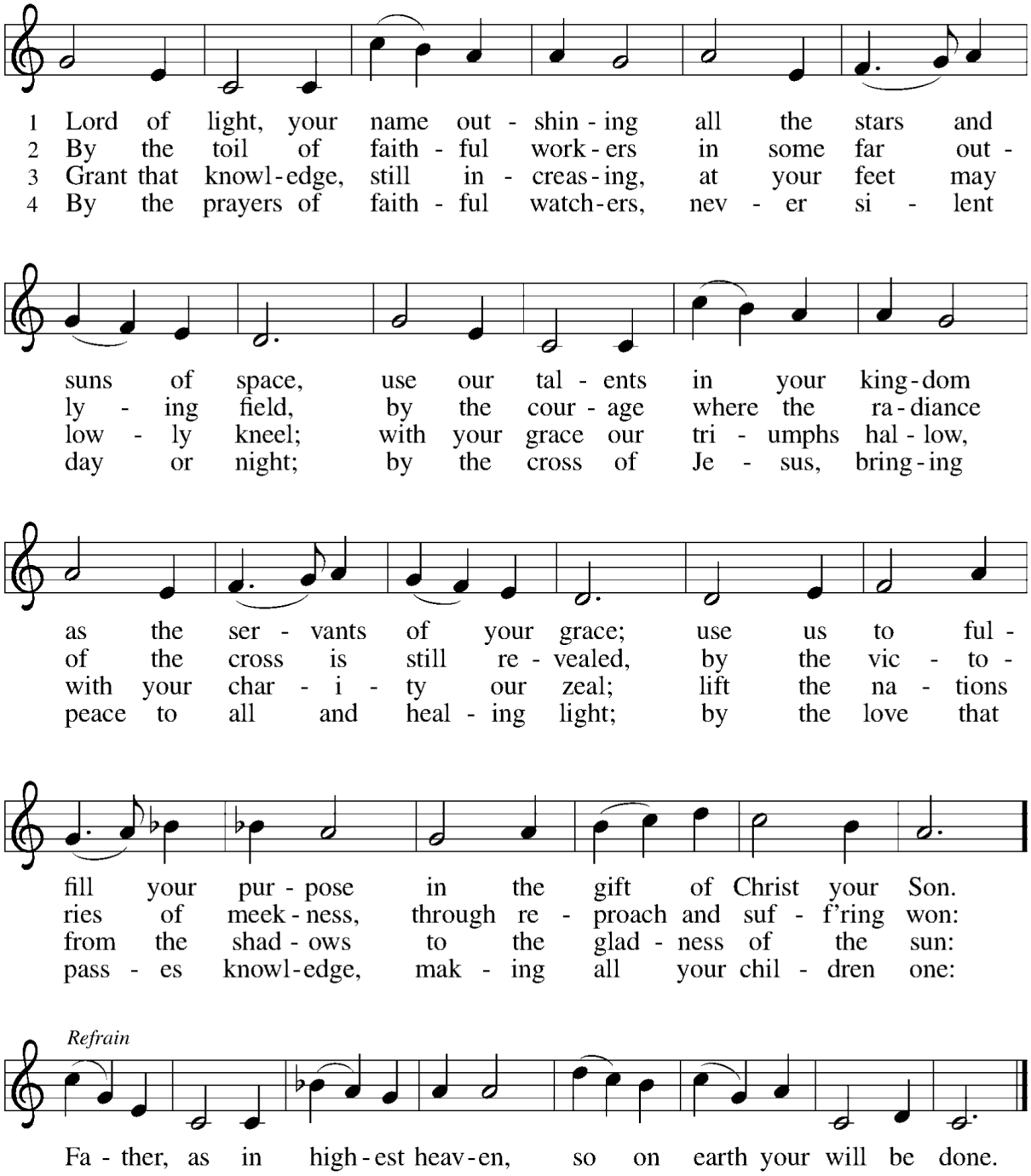
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [14] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; [15] to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' [24] Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' [26] But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the

ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: Lord of Light (ELW 688)



Apostles' Creed:

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

Prayers of Intercession

L: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C: Amen.

The Peace of Christ:

L: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you are comfortable.
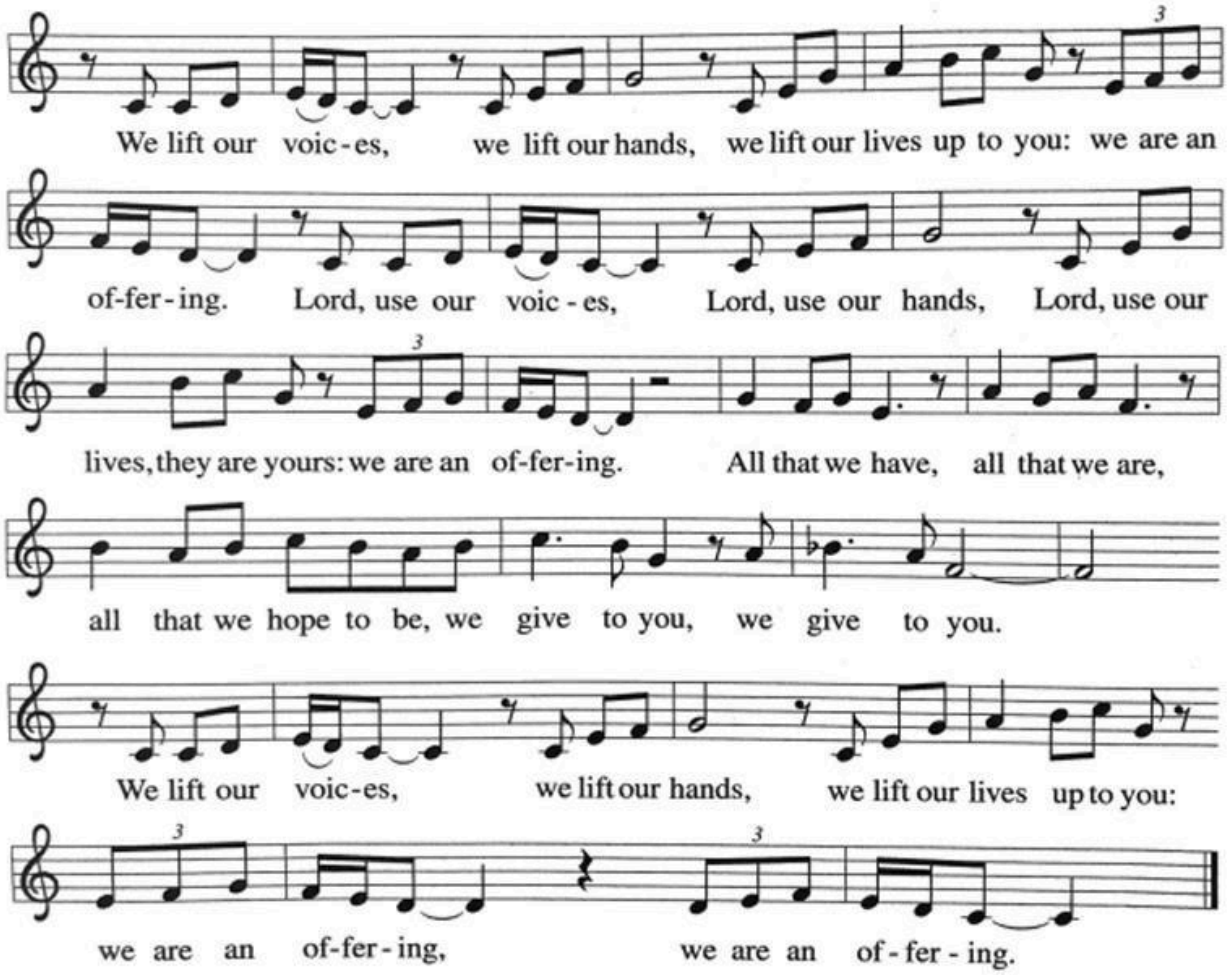
Anthem:

Trust in the Lord — Allen Pote

You are welcome to give by scanning the QR code, by visiting our church website, or by placing your offering in the offering plate. We are inviting you to give financially out of your heart and love for God. Our giving is a spiritual practice as part of our faith and discipleship.

Offering Song and Prayer: We Are an Offering (ELW 692)

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands, and the offering song is sung by all.



L: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +
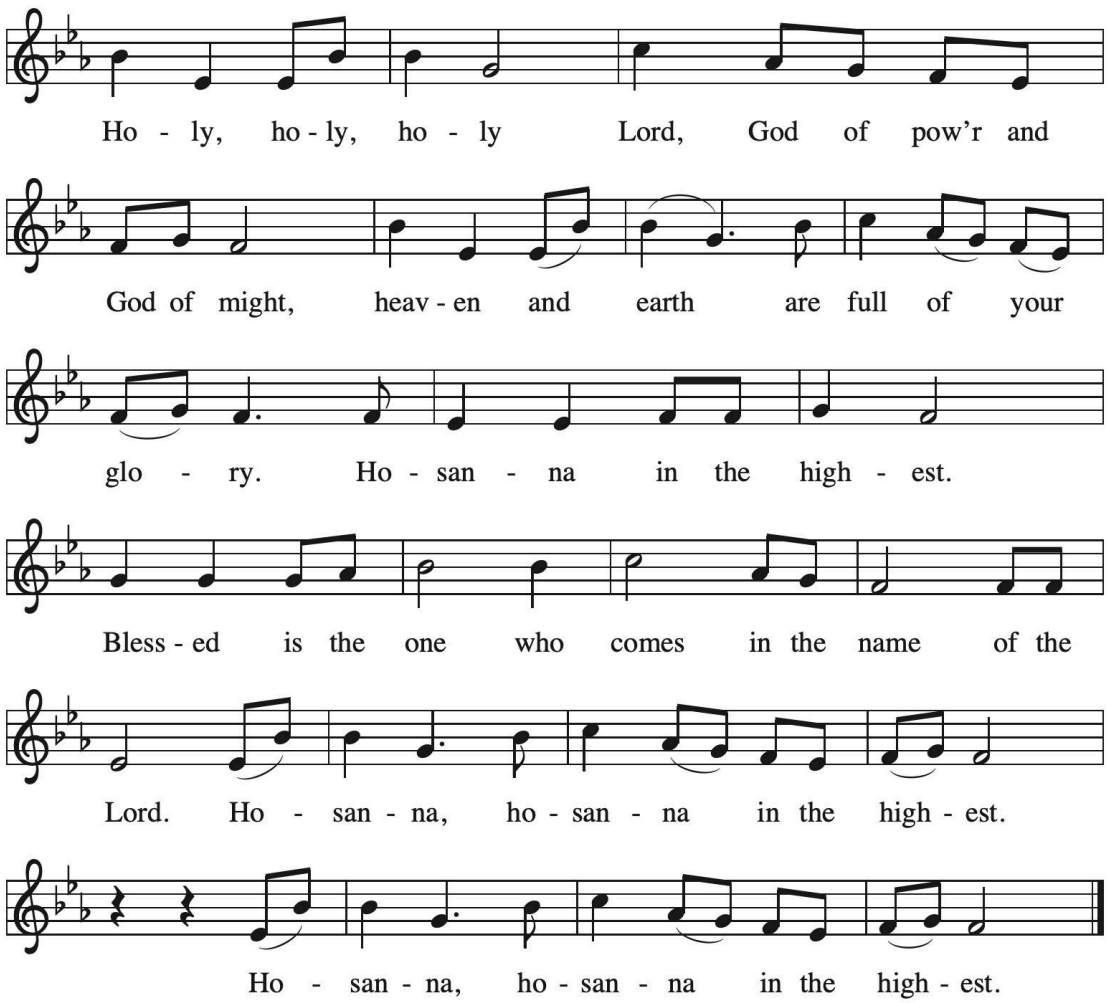
The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with the Reformers and all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



L: When the time was right, O God, you sent Jesus
To show us the way that we had lost.
He healed the broken and fed the hungry.
People of power feared him;
People in need followed him.
He invited those on the edges to come to the center.
Wherever he went, he broke bread with those who needed him most.

In the night before he died for us,
our Lord Jesus gathered with faltering friends
for a meal that tasted of freedom.
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember that night Jesus spent with friends,
and we feel his presence with us now.
We ask God, through the Holy Spirit
to bless these gifts we offer and share,
making them Christ for us,
and making us into Christ's holy body.
Together with all the church, we give you thanks:
Creator, Redeemer, Spirit of love.
Bind us together. Open our hearts. Grant us peace.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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.

All are welcome to receive communion. Those online will be communed first. Then, ushers will dismiss you by row to come forward for communion. You may proceed down the center aisle to the front, where you may receive bread to dip into the cup. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice cups are available for those who prefer them. If you are unable to come forward but desire to receive, please let the usher know so that the Eucharist may be brought to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and may indicate this by crossing your hands over your chest when you approach the minister. After you have received communion, please return to your seat using the side aisles.

Invitation to Communion:

L: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.
C: Amen.

Communion Song:
By Your Hand You Feed Your People — Marty Haugen

Prayer after Communion:
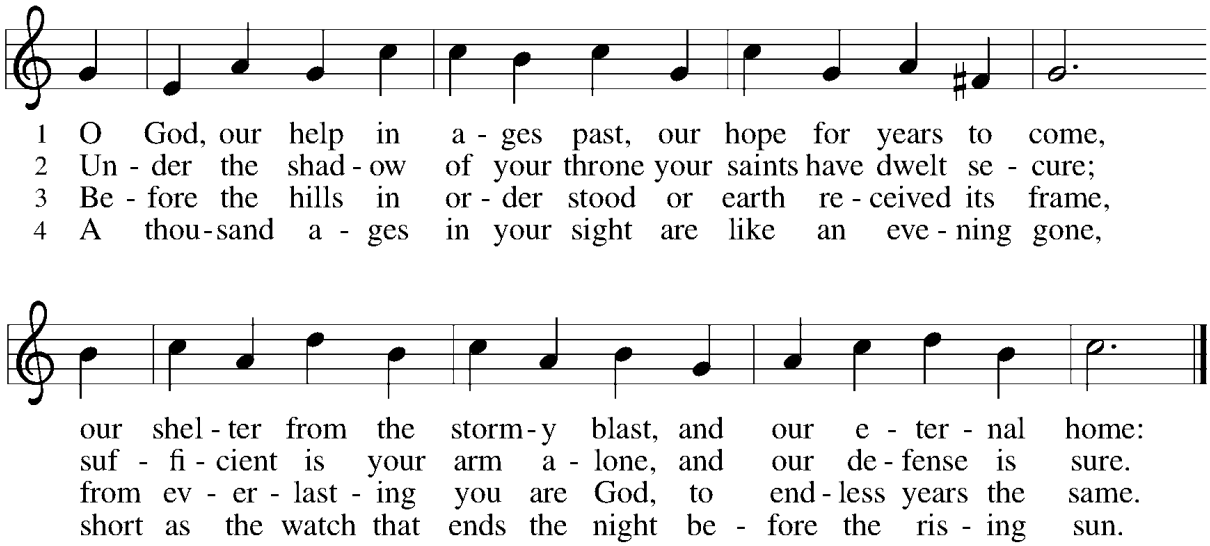
L: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

Blessing:

L: The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ELW 632)



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Fugue in C — Johann Sebastian Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to: Ben Folk (11/16), Eddie Williamson (11/16), Will House (11/18), and John Williamson (11/21).

Help Us Get Ready for the Narberth Dickens Festival after worship today!
The Outreach Team is getting ready for the Narberth Dickens Festival (12/6), and we'll be selling soup in a jar as part of the festivities! We'll need helping hands to assemble the jars after worship today. All are welcome, and we'd love to have you join us!

We will also need a few volunteers to sell the jars at the festival. If you'd like to help, please contact Lisa Lundgren (lundgrenlisamarie@gmail.com) or Pastor Jessica.

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers
We are in need of volunteers to lector/read and assist during communion. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up using the QR Code or contact Dale in the church office. Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to serve. Holy Trinity's ministry is possible because of the many people who share their gifts. We are grateful for all that you do.

Formation Hour Resumes 11/22
Due to the Dickens Festival soup jar assembly, we'll resume Formation Hour next week (11/22). See you then!

Don & Nancy Hall Turkey Fundraiser
Help make Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need! Holy Trinity is collecting donations for the Don & Nancy Hall Turkey Fundraiser to help provide holiday meals for local families. Please make your donation by November 18. Contributions may be made online at holytrinitynarberth.com. If you prefer to send in a donation via check, please mail it to the church office at 196 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, PA 19072 or place your donation in the offering plate during worship. Note Don & Nancy Hall Turkey Fundraiser on the memo line. Thank you for helping ensure everyone has a place at the table this Thanksgiving!

Winter Coats for Grace Lutheran
The cold weather is creeping in on us and once again we'll be collecting winter coats for our beloved friends at the Grace Food Bank. Please donate coats for women, men and children in gently worn or new condition. Leave them in our pantry closet, on the porch, at the Woodbine Ave. entrance. This coat drive will be ongoing until Christmas. Thank you for your kindness.

Advent Potluck & Decorating – Friday, December 4
Help us get Holy Trinity ready for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Join us on Friday, December 4, beginning at 6:30pm for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and decorating. Bring a dish to share and enjoy some time together as we deck the halls and prepare our church for the season ahead. All are welcome, and we hope you can join us!

Christmas Wreaths & Poinsettia Plants
We are pleased to continue our tradition of decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias and wreaths for the Christmas season.

Please note the following key dates and details for this year:

Wreaths ($20.50 each) - Sanctuary will be decorated December 4th
(**Order deadline: November 22nd**)
Poinsettias ($10.50 each) - Sanctuary will be decorated for Christmas Eve services
(**Order deadline: December 13th**)

If you would like to place an order, you can do so here using the google form using the QR code or contact Dale in the church office at 610-664-5503.

Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity with a note in the memo line "poinsettia/wreath". Please drop off or mail checks to Holy Trinity, 196 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, PA 19072. If you prefer to pay online, please use our donation button on our homepage here and notify Dale in the office that you have paid for the order this way. Thank you!

Thank you for your support in beautifying our sanctuary this season.

Subscribe to our Weekly Newsletter
If you would like to subscribe to our weekly newsletter, please scan the QR code or contact Dale in the church office.

Holy Trinity's Prayer List

Jan Doan

Friends and Relatives

Bettina Chavanne (friend of the McCluskeys)
Sharon Neall (Hall family member)
Beth Brady (Kristine DelMonte's co-worker)
Norma DelMonte (Tom's mother)
The Houghs (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Linda Baldi-Boyd
Marbury Hooey
John & Rosemary (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Margie (Jan Doan's friend)
Joseph Davis
Heinrich Mengel (cousin of the Hoffmann Family)
Louise Jackson (cousin of Julie Ackerman)
Mary Fran (friend of Dorothy McCluskey)
Tara Echelmeier Dolan (friend of Julie Ackerman)
Mary Ann Dixon (friend of the Hoffmans)
David Segermark (Kristine DelMonte's father)
Jane S. (friend of Pat Brubaker)
Ken Ackerman (Carl Ackerman's father)
Grace Vanartsdalen (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)
Ellen Mitchell (sister of Mary Williamson)
Steve Crews (Kim's father)
Cestare family (Extended family of Kim)
Bob Gamble (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)
Deborah deHeyman and family (friends of Holy Trinity)
Lori Chambers (friend of Mark and Dee Jaye Frye)
Laurie & Wayne (friends of Pat Brubaker)
Bob Fuhrmeister (grandson of Bob Catherman)
David Rovner (friend of Holy Trinity)
Butch & Jackye (cousins of Pat Brubaker)
Gloria Guy (Grace Lutheran)
Kevin McMaster (son of Winnie McMaster)
Nina (Bob Catherman's cousin)
Julia Williamson (Carter Williamson's sister)
Bob Berger (Donna Hall Berger's husband)
R. J. Battaglia and Family (friends of Mark and Dee Jaye Frye)
Jeanne Mastriano (family of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)