



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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

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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:

I Bowed On My Knees and Cried Holy

Arranged by Jim Hammerly

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

L: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

L: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers and the waters that nourish us.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

L: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Lord God, We Praise You (ELW 558)



1 Lord God, we praise you, now the night is o - ver, ac - tive and
2 Mon-arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



watch-ful, stand - ing here be - fore you; sing - ing, we of - fer
weak-ness, health and whole-ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



prayer and med - i - ta - tion; thus we a - dore you.
where your saints u - nit - ed joy with-out end - ing.
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

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.**

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

Assisting minister



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

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray together...

C: **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ WORD +

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

L: A reading from Acts, the 7th chapter.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love."

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

L: A reading from 1 Peter, the 2nd chapter.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸ and

"A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-14

L: The Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:]¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves.¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: You Are the Way (ELW 758)



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

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: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

L: God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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:

Goodness of God

Words and Music by: Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson, Jason Ingram, Ed Cash, and Ben Fielding

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.

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

L: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

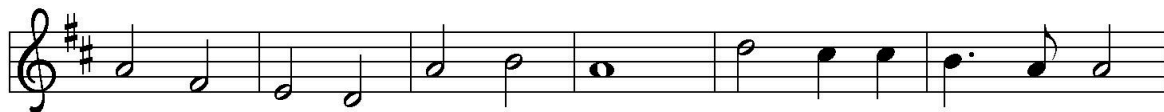
L: Lift up your hearts.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

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: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.
C: **Amen.**

Communion Song:

Come, Risen Lord

Leo Sowerby

Prayer after Communion:

- L: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,
- C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

Benediction:

- L: God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

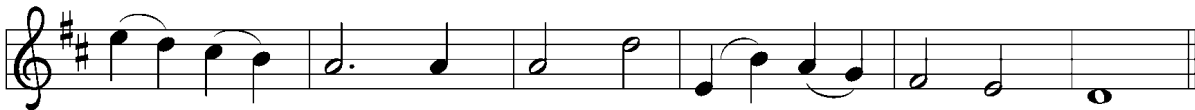
Sending Hymn: Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing (ELW 389)



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intergenerational Communion Instruction – following worship today

All are invited to join us for Intergenerational Communion Instruction immediately following worship. This time together is for children, youth, parents, grandparents, and anyone who would like to learn more about Holy Communion in the Lutheran tradition.

We will explore the meaning of the meal, why we celebrate it, and how God meets us through bread and wine with grace, love, and welcome. Whether you are preparing to receive Communion for the first time or simply want to deepen your understanding, this gathering is for you.

Please join us as we learn and grow together in faith.

Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 14, 2026 | The service will be held at Reformation Lutheran Church in Media, beginning with food at 6:30pm, followed by the service at 7:30pm. All are welcome!

Third Annual Springtime Concert

Temple University's Music Prep program and the music committee of St. Paul's Lutheran Church would like to invite you to their third annual springtime free concert by Philadelphia's foremost youth chamber orchestra with some of the finest young soloists of the region on Sunday, May 3, at 3 pm, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 415 East Athens Rd. in Ardmore.

Barb Grimaldi Meal Packaging Event - Volunteers needed

Saturday, May 16th | 9:30am | We will gather to package 20,000 emergency meals for The Grace Food Bank in Mantua. ***Please contact the church office at holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com or 610-664-5503 if you plan to attend.*** We also need your financial support to make this happen. Please consider donating online at [holytrinitynarberth.org](https://www.holytrinitynarberth.org). Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with "Barb Grimaldi Meal Packaging Event" noted in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to the church office at 196 Woodbine Ave. Narberth, PA 19072, or simply placed in the offering plate at worship. Thank you.

Giving Garden

The next Giving Garden planting date is Saturday May 23rd at 11:30am (note the slightly later time). All are welcome! Plantings will include herbs, a new and welcome addition to our garden last season and continued again this season.

Geraniums

Once again our sanctuary will be decorated with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday, May 24th. If you are interested in memorializing a plant (cost \$5.00 per plant), please email the church office at holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com or call the church office at 610-664-5503. Please include the following information:

your name

*how you would like your memorialization to appear in the bulletin (in loving memory of
or in honor of)*

number of plants

if you will be taking your plant/s or leaving it/them to be planted on our grounds

Checks can be made out to Holy Trinity with a note in the memo line "Geraniums". Please mail or drop off checks to Holy Trinity, 196 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, PA 19072. Deadline to order is Sunday, May 17th. Thank you!

Cederstrom Sargent Scholarship Fund - Applications due June 1st

If you are interested in applying for the Cederstrom Sargent Scholarship, please have your application to the church office via email at holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com or snail mail to 196 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, PA 19072, by June 1st. The Cederstrom Sargent Scholarship Fund at Holy Trinity is accepting applications for school and camp tuition assistance for the 2026-2027 school year. If you'd like to apply, please contact the church office for an application.

Lutheran Night at the Phillies - June 5

The Phillies take on the Chicago White Sox.

Use Code LUTHERAN

https://mlb.tickets.com/schedule/?agency=MLB_MPV&orgid=21#/sales_group_code;salesGroupId=7455

Join with your family and friends to cheer on the Phillies. Make a day of it and start your America 250 celebration early by visiting local historical sites ahead of the crowds!

Meet with Pastor Jessica

Pastor Jessica would love the opportunity to meet with you and get to know you better. If you're interested in scheduling a conversation, please reach out to Pastor Jessica after worship, by phone 301-412-8989, email pastorjessica@holytrinitynarberth.org, or Calendly calendly.com/pastorjessica.

Holy Trinity's Prayer List

Jan Doan

Mark Frye

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 and Dorothy McCluskey)

Ellen Mitchell (sister of Mary Williamson)

Steve Crews (Kim's father)

The Lim family (friends of the Princes)

Cheryl Kurpiel and Family (friends of the Frye Family)

Cestare family (Extended family of Kim)

Bob Gamble (friend of Bruce & Dorothy McCluskey)

Joe Prince & Greg Savoy (loved ones of the Princes)

Deborah deHeyman and family (friends of Holy Trinity)

Katy Olsen (Pat Brubaker's niece)

Lori Chambers (friend of Mark and Dee Jaye Frye)

Laurie & Wayne (friends of Pat Brubaker)