Holy Trinity
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NARBERTH

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Reign of Christ
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 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:

Andante tranquillo (Sonata III) — Felix Mendelssohn

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.

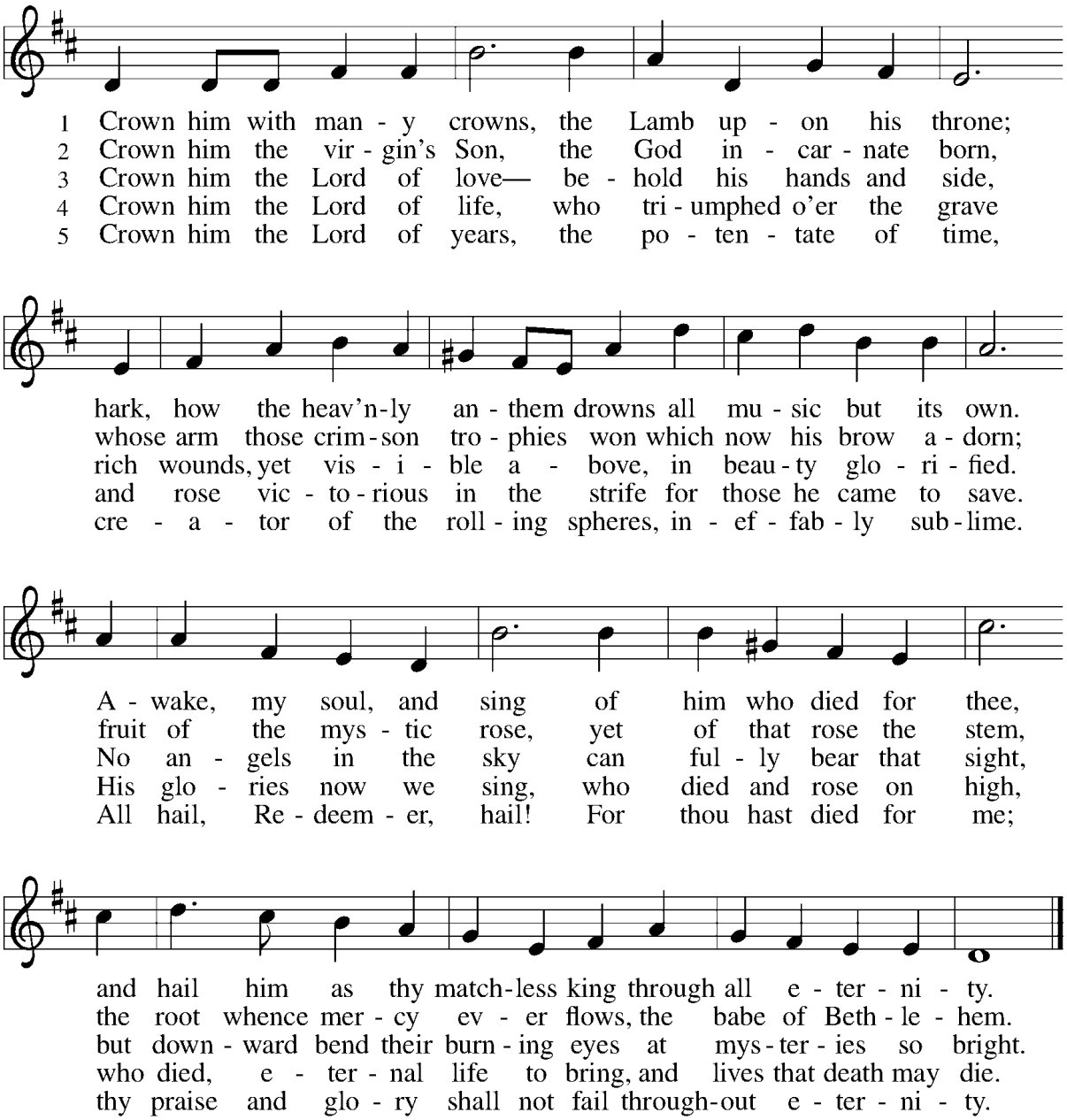
L: Holy God,

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: Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855)
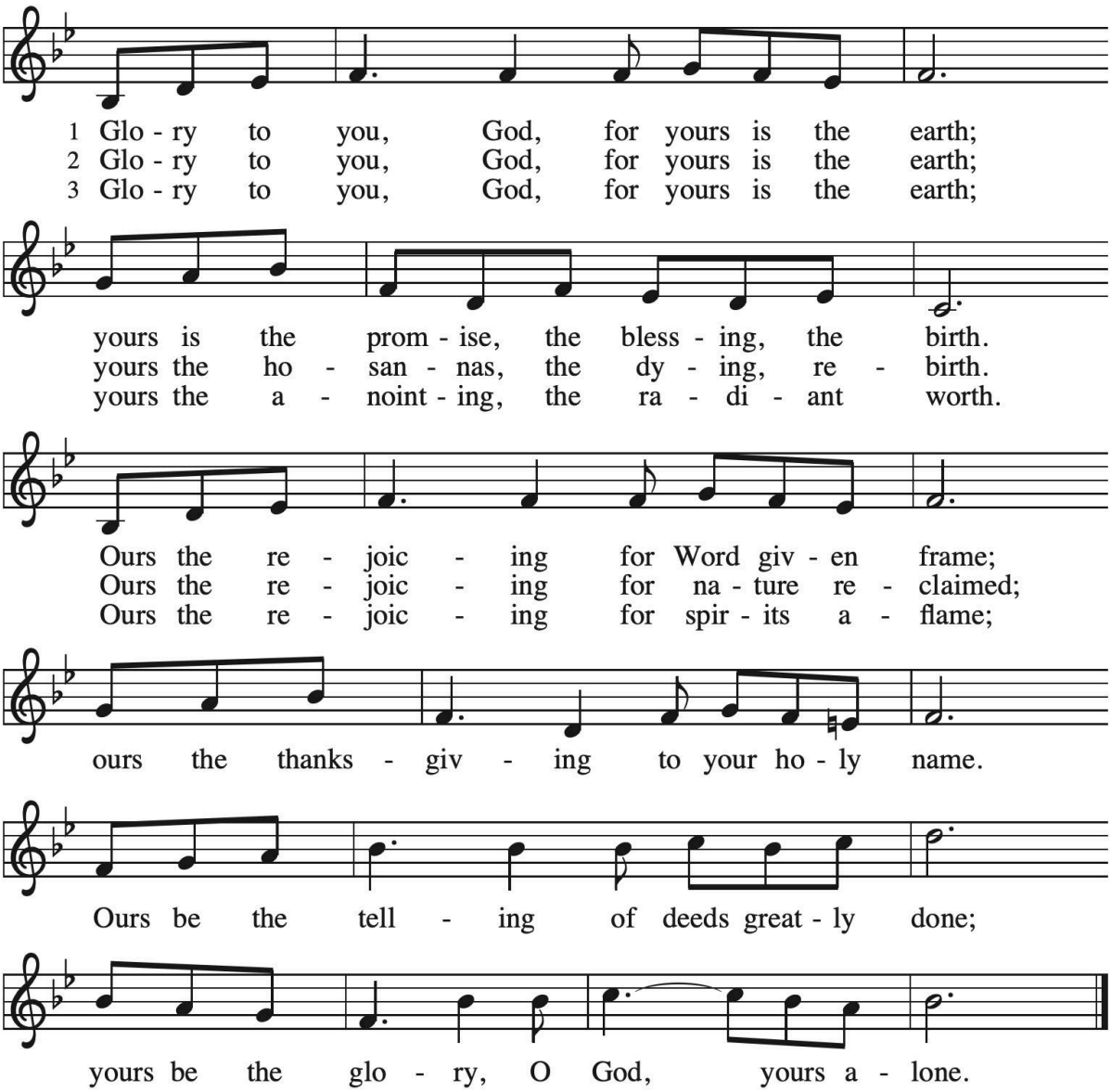


Greeting:

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: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ WORD +

First Reading: **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

L: A reading from Ezekiel, the 34th chapter.

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my
sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from
the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of
Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them
with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they
shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of
Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the
Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the
injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed
them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat
sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all
the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my
flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he
shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant
David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

[1] Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
[3] For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are also yours.
[5] The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship and bow down,**
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
[7a] For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

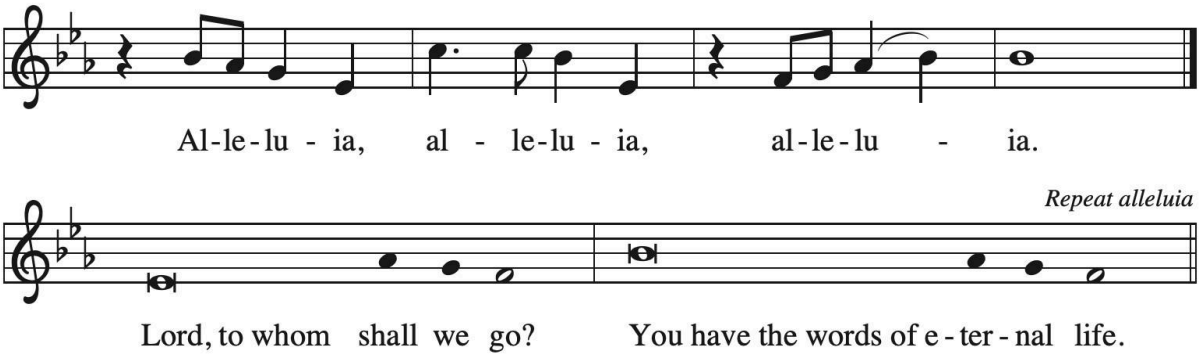
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

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

[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.
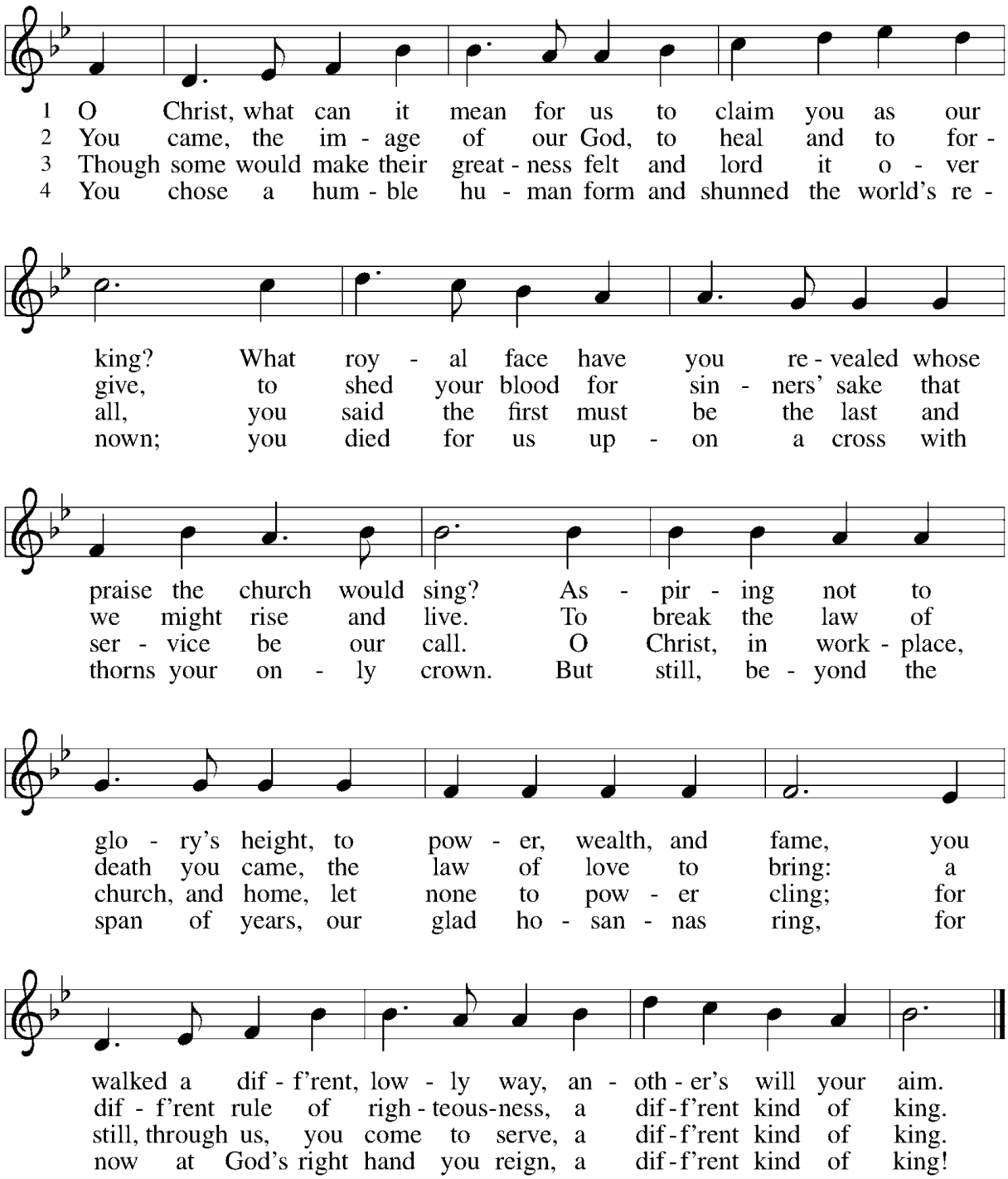
[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us (ELW 431)



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.

L: Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. 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.
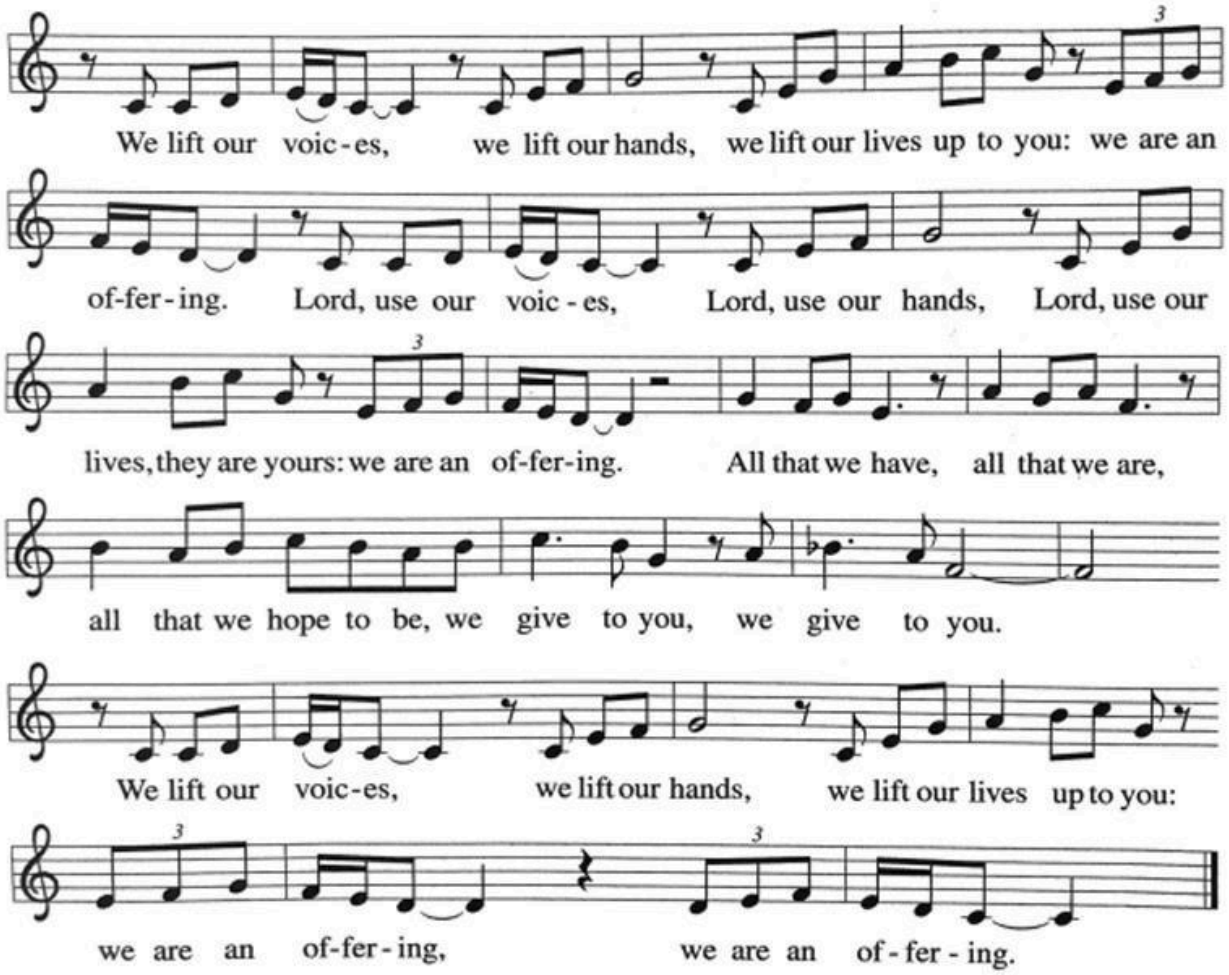
Anthem:

King of Glory, King of Peace — David Charles Walker
Text: George Herbert

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 +
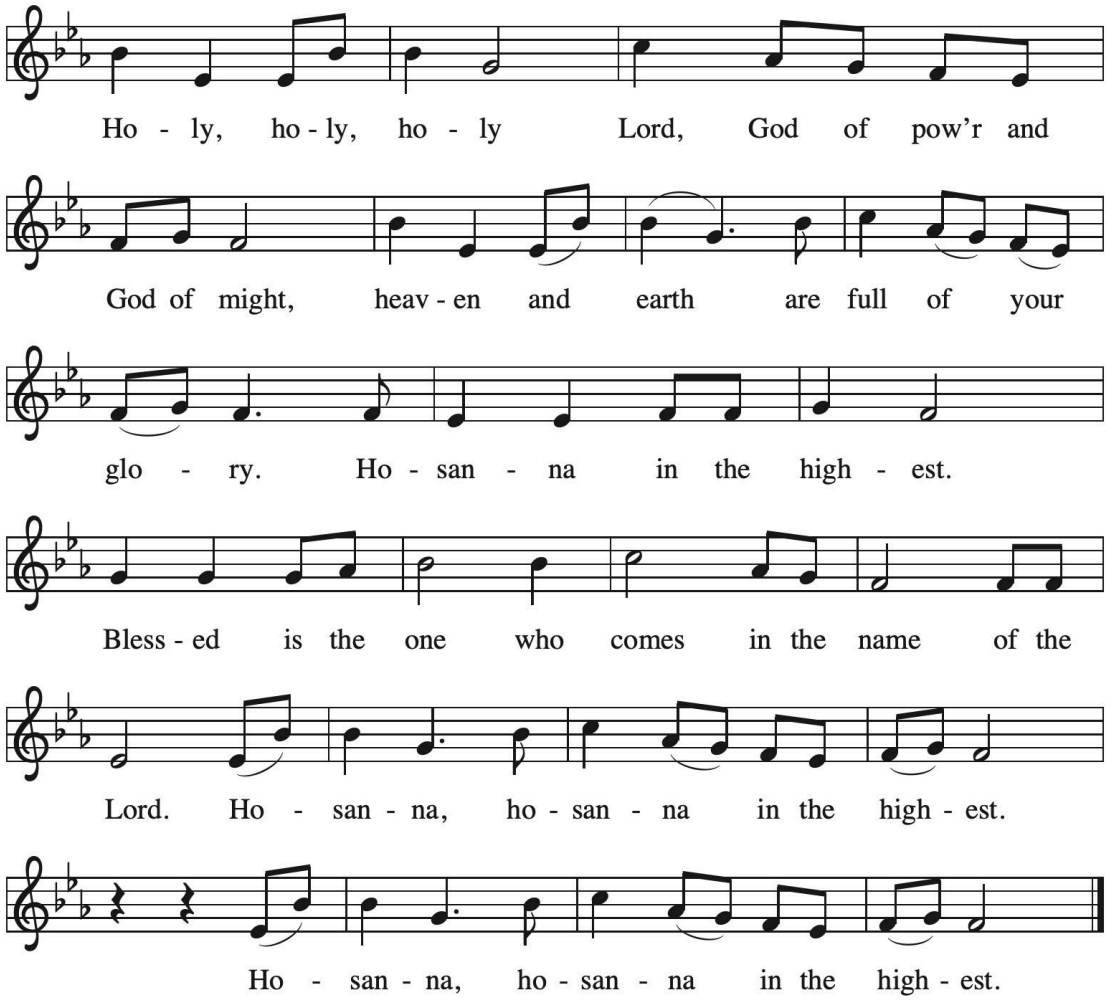
The Great Thanksgiving:

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 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:
I Am the Bread of Life — Suzanne Toolan

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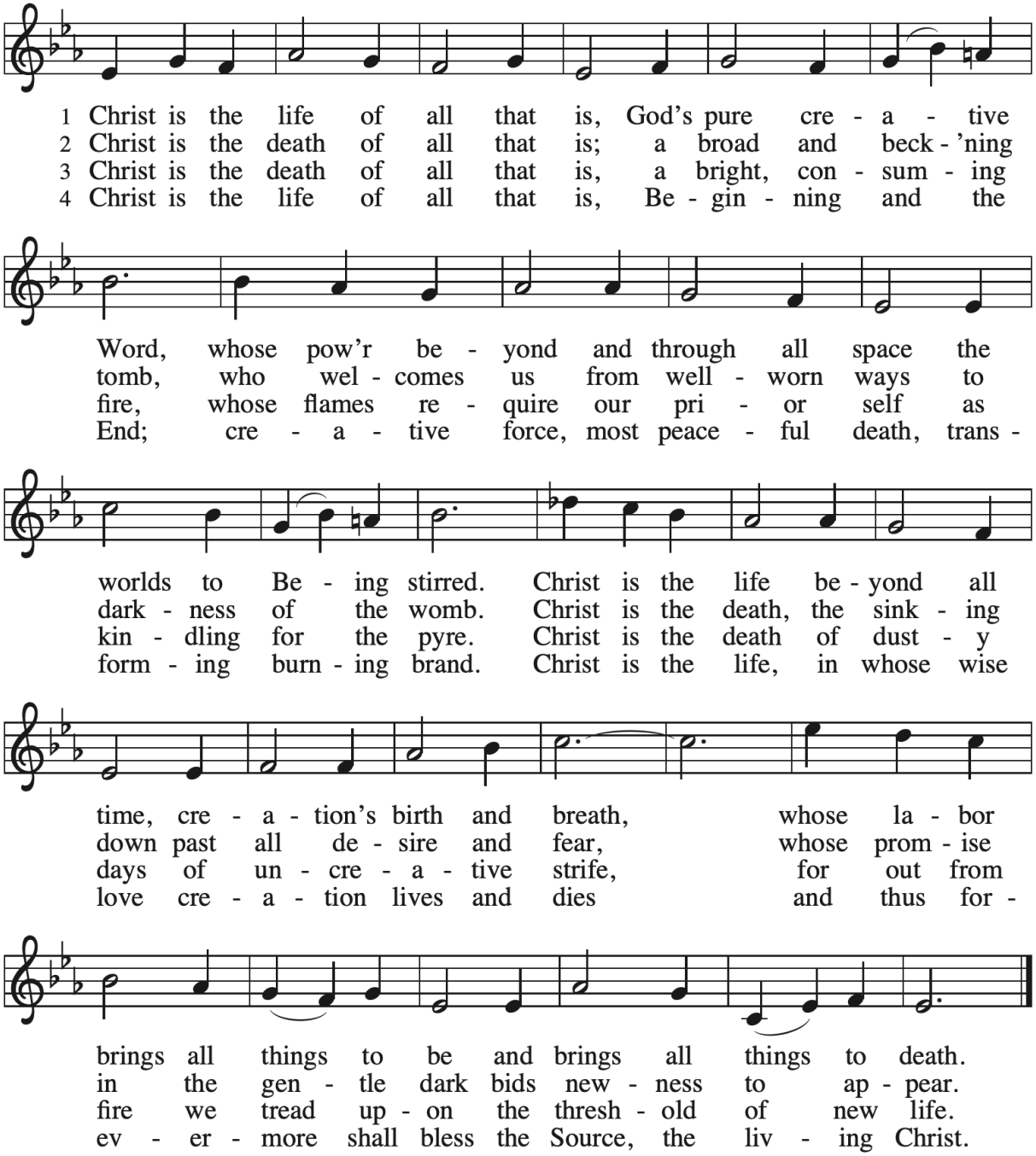
L: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

Blessing:

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

Sending Hymn: Christ Is the Life (ACS 927)



Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

"Little" Prelude and Fugue in G J. S. Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Candle Lighter/Readers, Christmas Eve and Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers needed

We are in need of volunteers to light the Advent candle and read during the Advent season as well as volunteers to lector/read, greet/usher and assist during communion. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up here 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 today

Stay after worship and join us for Formation Hour! We'll gather to continue our series exploring the Gospels: what they are, how they came to be, and what they tell us about Jesus. Whether you're new to the Bible or have been reading it for years, there's a place for you in the conversation. Come learn, ask questions, and grow in faith together. All are welcome!

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!

Dickens Festival Volunteers
We are still looking for a few volunteers to help sell the soup jars at the Dickens Festival on Sunday, December 6. If you'd like to lend a hand at the table, please contact Lisa Lundgren (lundgrenlisamarie@gmail.com) or Pastor Jessica. We'd love to have you join us!

Christmas Wreaths & Poinsettia Plants - Wreath orders due TODAY
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 for your support in beautifying our sanctuary this season.

Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, December 24 | 4:00pm and 10:00pm



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)