



# Holy Trinity

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### N A R B E R T H

*Growing in Faith - Making a Difference - Open to All*

**Ascension/Rogation Sunday**  
**May 21, 2023**

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

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Christopher Ertelt, Organist and Choir Director; Rob Tucker, Men's Section Leader

Virtual choir: Meredith Beck, Emily Bigelow, Lauren Cupples, Christopher Ertelt, Dawn Falato, Elizabeth Fenton,  
Sarah Gliko, Paul V. Patanella, Brittney Marquand Sedgwick, Daniel Smith, Rob Tucker

*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**

Préambule

Louis Vierne

**Welcome**

**L:** Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**C:** **He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism:**

**L:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C:** **Amen.**

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.  
In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.**

L: Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean and quench our thirst.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

L: Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: Praise and Thanksgiving



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.  
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.  
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

## 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.

*Final refrain*



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 and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, 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: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from the book of Acts, the 1st chapter.

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 68:4-10, 32-35 (to be read responsively)**

**<sup>4</sup>Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;  
I Am is that name, rejoice before God!**

**<sup>5</sup>In your holy habitation, O God,  
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;**

**<sup>6</sup>you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

**<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,**

**<sup>8</sup>the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

**<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful rain, O God;  
you restored your inheritance when it languished.**

**<sup>10</sup>Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**


**<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.**

**<sup>33</sup>You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;  
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

**<sup>34</sup>Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.**

**<sup>35</sup>How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,  
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be 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 17:1-11**

L: The Gospel according to St. John, the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

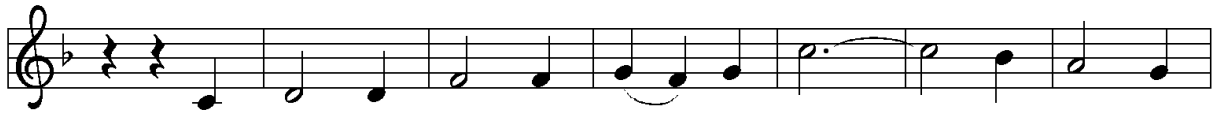
L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon:** Pastor Dan Smith



## Hymn of the Day: The Word of God is Source and Seed



1 The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to  
2 The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to  
3 The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to



die and sprout and grow. So make your dark earth  
heal and wake and save. So let the Spir - it  
sing, to laugh and cry. So dare to be as



wel - come warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.  
touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.  
Je - sus was, who came to live and love and die.

### *Refrain*



Gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,



gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no!

## **Apostles' Creed:**

**L:** Let us make public profession of our faith together, reflecting on the love of God in Christ Jesus.

**C:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
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:**

**L:** United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence*

God of harmony, as you drew your Son to your side, you draw us to you and unite us with the planet and one another. Weave your church together in a web of mutual love for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

- L: As your Spirit hovered over the waters of creation, so your Spirit hovers over all that you have made. Bless the water that sustains the planet and grant wisdom to use it wisely. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: You empower your people with the fire of your Spirit. Challenge activists and organizers, teachers and politicians, and all in leadership to speak a message of peace and justice. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: You care for all your children. Show your steadfast love to those suffering isolation. Break the chains of all held fast by systemic oppression of any kind. Comfort all who are afraid or suffering from illness. Be with Sue, Linda, Frank, Alesha, and Rob. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
- 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:**

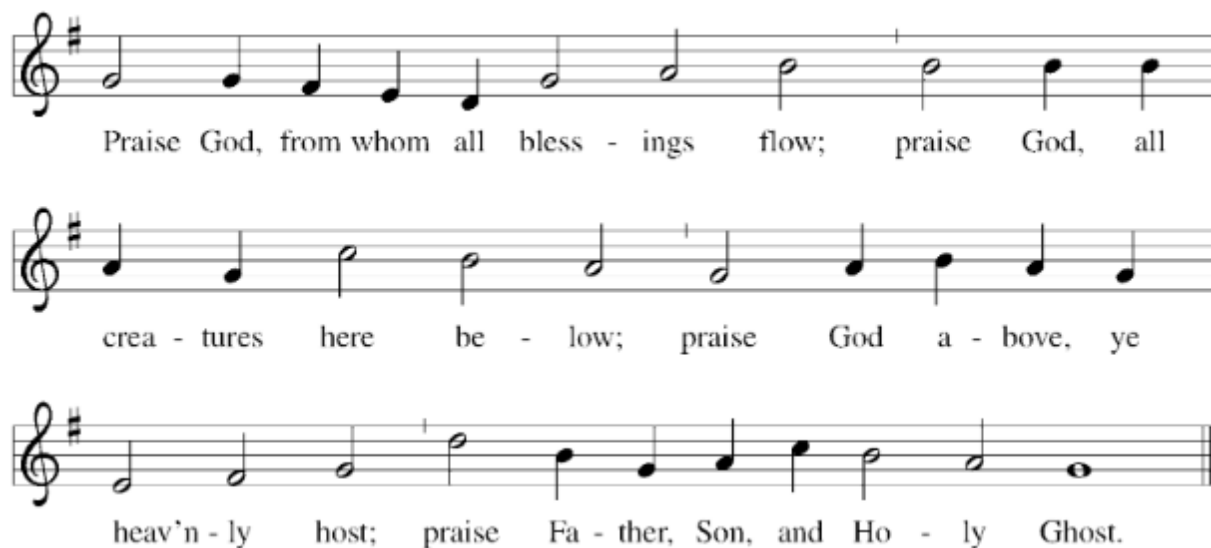
Sing to the Lord of Harvest

arr. Healy Willan

*You are welcome to use this QR code if you wish to donate online, or to go to our church website.*



## Doxology & Offertory Prayer:



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## Offertory Prayer:

- L: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
- 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.**

## The Proper Preface:

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, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; 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: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, when he gave himself up for the life of the world, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he 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.

L: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: **Come, Holy Spirit.**

L: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer:**

L: Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

#### **Invitation to Communion:**

L: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

C: **Amen.**

## **Communion Song:**

Eat This Bread

Taizé; Jacques Berthier

## **Post-Communion Prayer:**

L: We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

## **Announcements**

### **Blessing of Seeds, Soil, and Water**

L: Creating God, you have given seed for the sower and bread to the people. Nourish, protect, and bless the seeds which your people have sown in hope. By your loving and bountiful giving, may they bring forth their fruit in due season, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

L: Giver of life, we give you thanks that in the richness of the soil, nature awakens your call to spring. We praise you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-plowed field. We ask that you help us to be good stewards of the land. In the name of the one who gives us new life, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

L: Sustaining God, we receive the fruits of the earth from you. We give you thanks for the smell of the earth after rain, for its welcome cooling, and its necessary hydration for the land. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed so that crops may flourish and the coming harvest be indeed bountiful.

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: For the Fruit of all Creation**



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.



## Dismissal:

L: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace, share the good news! Alleluia!

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

## Postlude

“Little” Prelude and Fugue in F

J. S. Bach

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### Holy Trinity’s Prayer List

Sue Steiger

Frank Wick

Linda Wieteha

Alesha Brophy

Rob Tucker

### Friends and Relatives

Bettina Chavanne (friend of the McCluskeys)

Kellie & Bob Coombs (friends of Anne Hoffman)

Vincent Sangmeister (Mary Williamson’s brother)

Fran Gebhart

Sharon Neall (Hall family member)

Beth Brady (Kristine DelMonte’s co-worker)

Norma DelMonte (Tom’s mother)

Cindy and Bobbie (cousins of the Hoffmann’s)

The Houghs (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Linda Baldi-Boyd

Cheryl & Donna (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Kelly (Carolmarie Scanlon’s sister in law)

Beth Ann Force (friend of Louise Hoffman)

Georgette, her daughter Kara, and Chuck Marbury Hoey

John & Rosemary (friends of Pat Brubaker)

June Duncan

Annette Steiger (Dave Steiger’s sister)

Martin Eichner (Gloria Eichner’s son)

Margie (Jan Doan’s friend)

Eleanor Crissman (Bob Catherman’s sister)

Joseph Davis

Winifred Joyce (friend of the Hoffmans)

Peter Stein (friend of the McCluskeys)

Danelle VanInstendal (friend of the Steigers)

Heinrich Mengel - cousin of the Hoffmann Family

Donna Dutton (daughter of June Duncan)

Peter Stein and Michelle Murdock (Peter’s wife)

Louise Jackson (cousin of Julie Ackerman)

Jody (friend of Pat Brubaker)

Marian and family (friends of Pat Brubaker)

Carol Devine (“adopted sister” of the Hoffmans)

Pr. Kris Peterson

Mary Fran (friend of Dorothy McCluskey)

Tara Echelmeier Dolan (friend of Julie Ackerman)

*Want to add someone you love and care about to the prayer list? Contact the church office anytime.*