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First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

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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:

"Sleepers, Wake!" (bicinium) Hugo Distler

Welcome

Call to Worship:

L: Come, listen.
C: A thrill of hope is calling.

L: Come, rejoice.
C: A weary world is healing.

L: Come, watch.
C: A bright star is shining.

L: Come, worship.
C: The Messiah is coming.

Advent Candle Lighting:

Reader 1: In the midst of busyness, bustling, and buzzing, we pause to breathe and release our burdens. We surround ourselves with candles, lights, greenery, and beauty. May these sights and sounds remind us that we are people of faith, guided by the light of the world. Listen for words of hope on this First Sunday of Advent.

Brief pause for silence.

Reader 2: It is difficult to gather in this place without acknowledging the hurt all around us.

Reader 1: There are unjust systems and harmful powers in place that diminish life.
C: What can we do? Where is our hope?

Reader 2: Be alert. Pay attention. There are whispers of hope all around you:

Reader 1: in a meal delivered, a hand extended, forgiveness granted.

Reader 2: As we live between the already and the not yet, we remember salvation doesn't happen when all is right in the world.

Reader 1: The Messiah draws near now, breaking into the present through moments of compassion and flourishing.

Reader 2: In this season of holy waiting and wholly longing, we light the candle of hope.

Light the first candle.

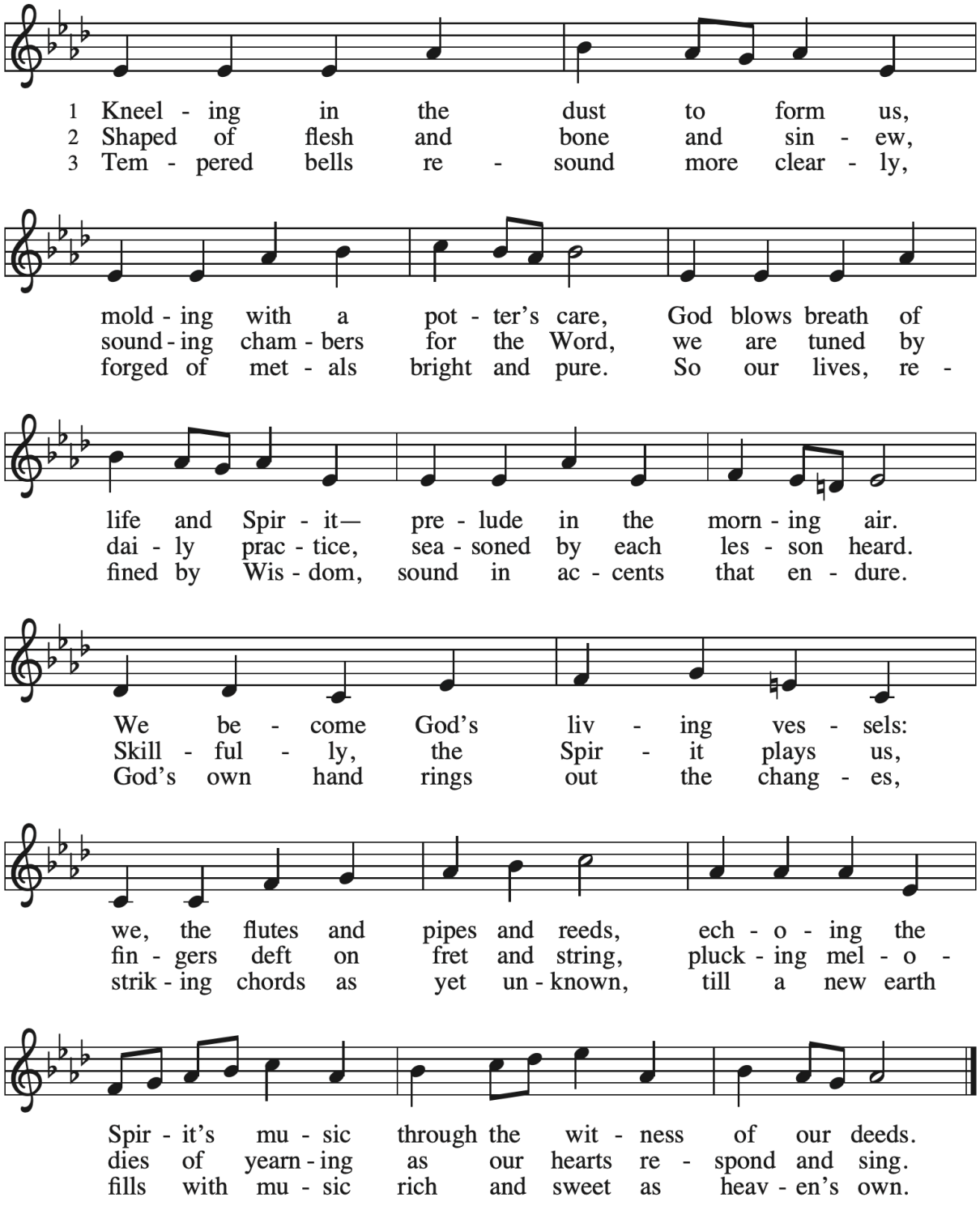
Reader 1: Saying goodbye to the powers that harm and welcoming the coming of Christ.
C: May the hope of God-with-us thrill and inspire.

Confession and Forgiveness:

L: Our hearts cry out for restoration.
Our spirits plead for illumination.
Let us come before God in confession and in trust.
Our salvation is near.

L: Before God and one another,
C: we confess our love for power and control
that separates us from one another
and from you, O God.
We cling tightly to wealth
because we fear vulnerability.
We insist on our own way
because we fear change.
We reject love and salvation
when they come to us from outside our comfort zone.
We follow our own paths
instead of your own faithful leading.
Forgive us through your endless grace
and guide us into your truth.
Lead us by the mercy of Jesus,
who is our way and our life. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Kneeling in the Dust to Form Us (ACS 1099)

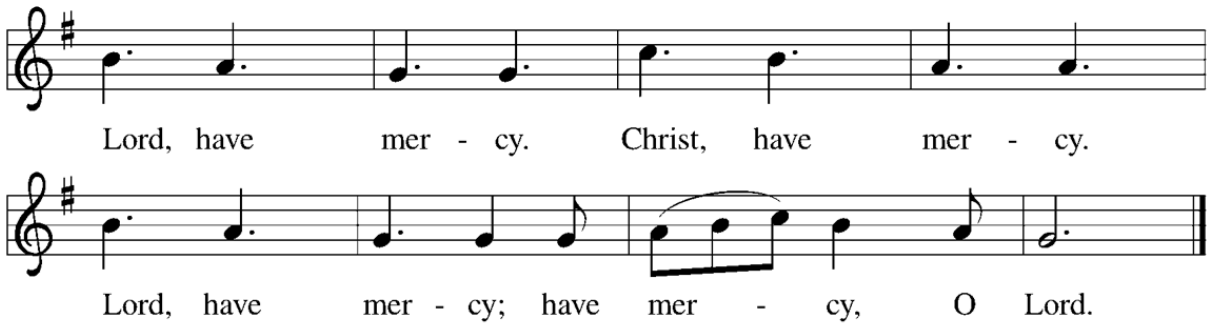


Greeting:

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.

Kyrie (ELW 154)



Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray together...

C: God of hope, we gather together in this space to encounter you, to encounter the holy saving grace of the Messiah. As we enter this time, we acknowledge all we bring with us: fear, worry, exhaustion, expectation, longing, and we listen for your call to be on guard, to be alert, to watch and wait. The psalmist says, "Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved." May our focus, our presence, and our attention be on your shining face this day as we sing, pray, and reflect in community. And may the thrill of hope far surpass our worry or fear. Amen.

+ WORD +

First Reading: **Isaiah 64:1-9**

L: A reading from Isaiah, the 64th chapter.

[1] O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
[2] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3] When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4] From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
[5] You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
[6] We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
[7] There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
[8] Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
[9] Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

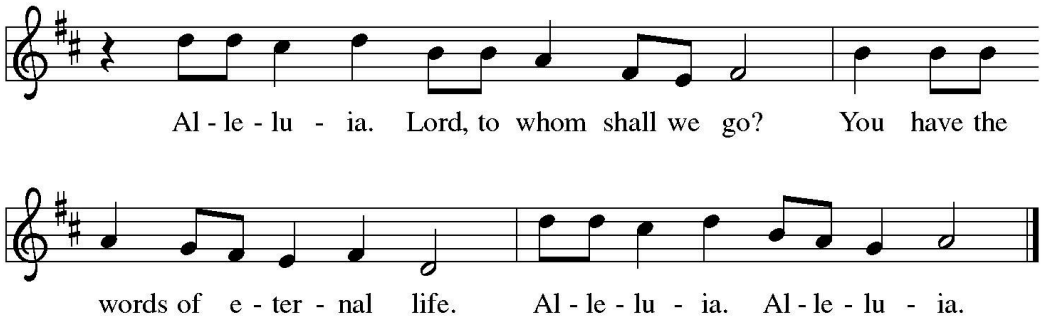
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

The psalm will be read responsively.

[1] Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
[2] **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
[3] Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
[4] **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
[5] You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
[6] **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
[7] Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
[17] **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
[18] And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
[19] **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

L: The Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

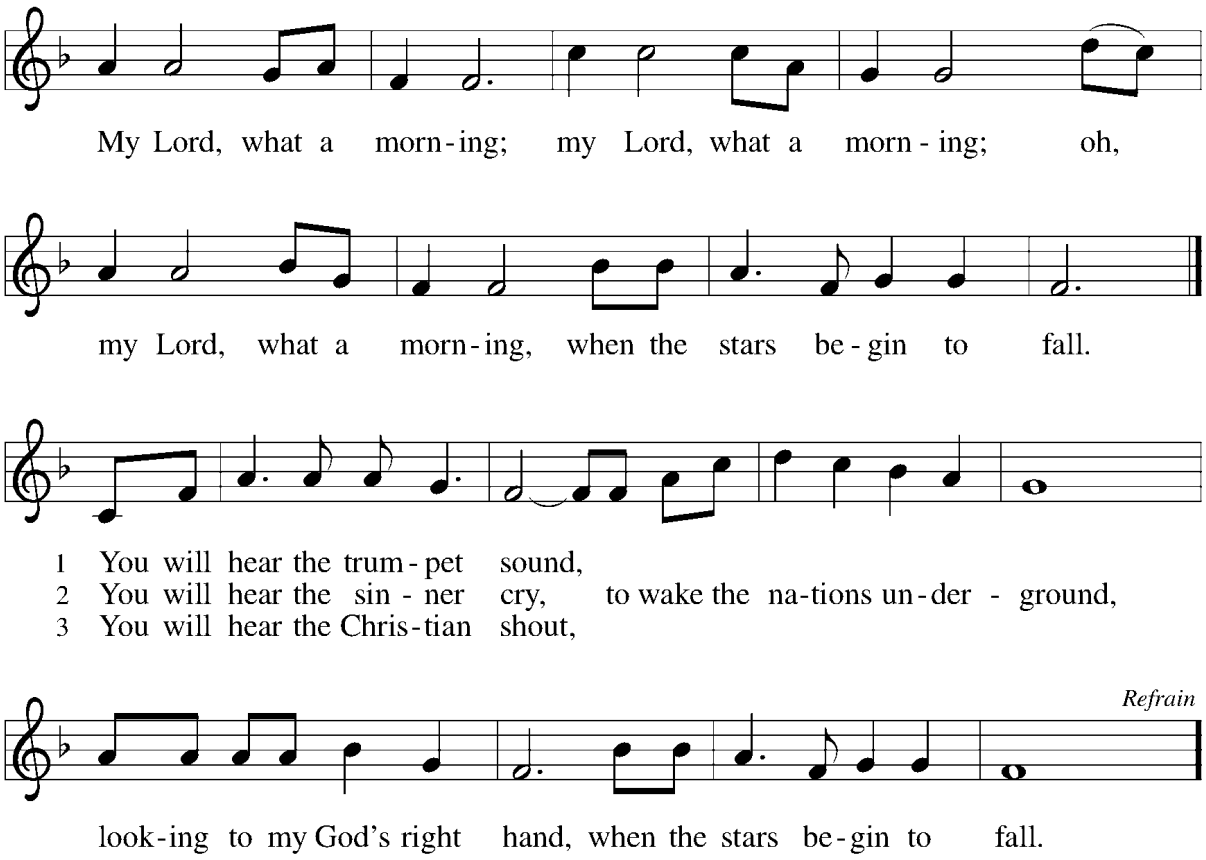
L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: My Lord, What a Morning (ELW 438)

Refrain



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 the People:

L: We come before God, offering both the rejoicing of our hearts and the weariness of our spirits. Let us join in prayer.

L: For the shifting of the seasons— for the gifts of both darkness and light, for the rest and respite of creation, for people navigating transitions, for the health of our land and water, for all gifts of stewardship and creativity:

C: ...receive our prayers, O God.

L: For those who watch and wait— for bedside vigils, for anticipated reunions with those detained or incarcerated, for test results, for news about employment, for hope of reconciliation after disagreement or division, for expectant families, those in labor, and those in the wilderness of infertility, for all who await God's great and abundant mercy:

C: ...receive our prayers, O God.

L: For the dawning of Christ's reign— for peace among nations and people, for just and merciful leaders and authorities, for a world where all are fed, clothed, and protected, for equal access to basic needs, for the restoration of joy, and for abundant life for all:

C: ...receive our prayers, O God.

L: These and all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, we commend to God, our Creator and our thrill of hope.

C: Amen.

Passing of the Peace:

L: The one for whom we wait is our prince of peace and reconciler of the world. We share the peace with a weary world. We share the peace to offer God's grace. We share the peace to anticipate and recognize God's salvation in our world.

L: May the peace of Christ be with you.

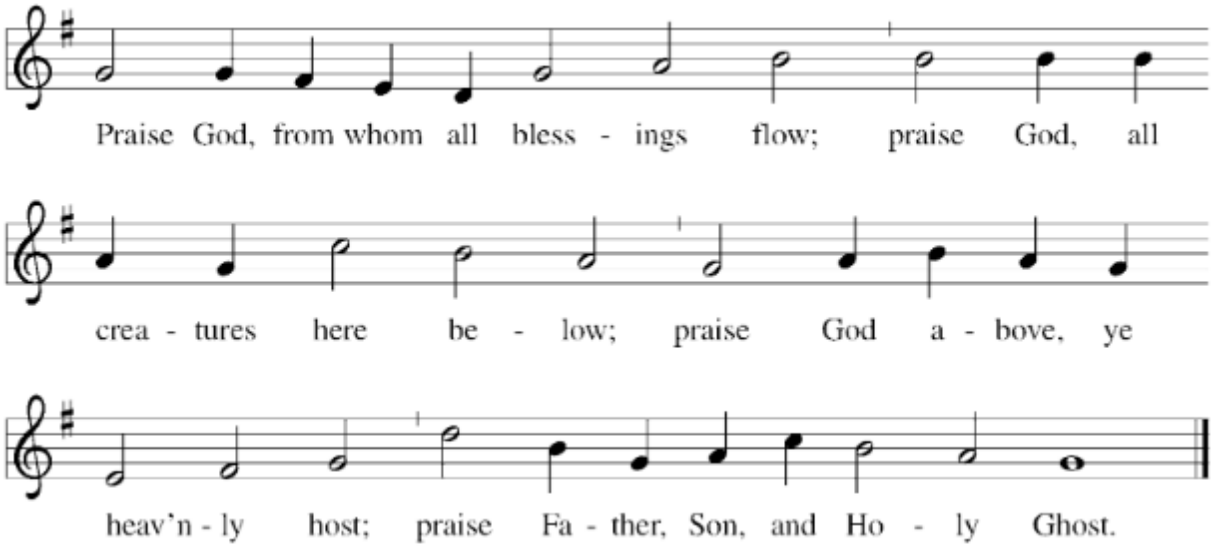
C: And also with you.

Anthem:

They That Wait Upon the Lord — Stuart Hamblen

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.

Doxology and Offering Prayer:



L: Gracious God, in this Season of Advent, as we wait for the Messiah, we offer not only ourselves but our tithes and gifts as well. May these offerings work to bring about healing, justice, belonging, and the thrill of hope to a weary world.

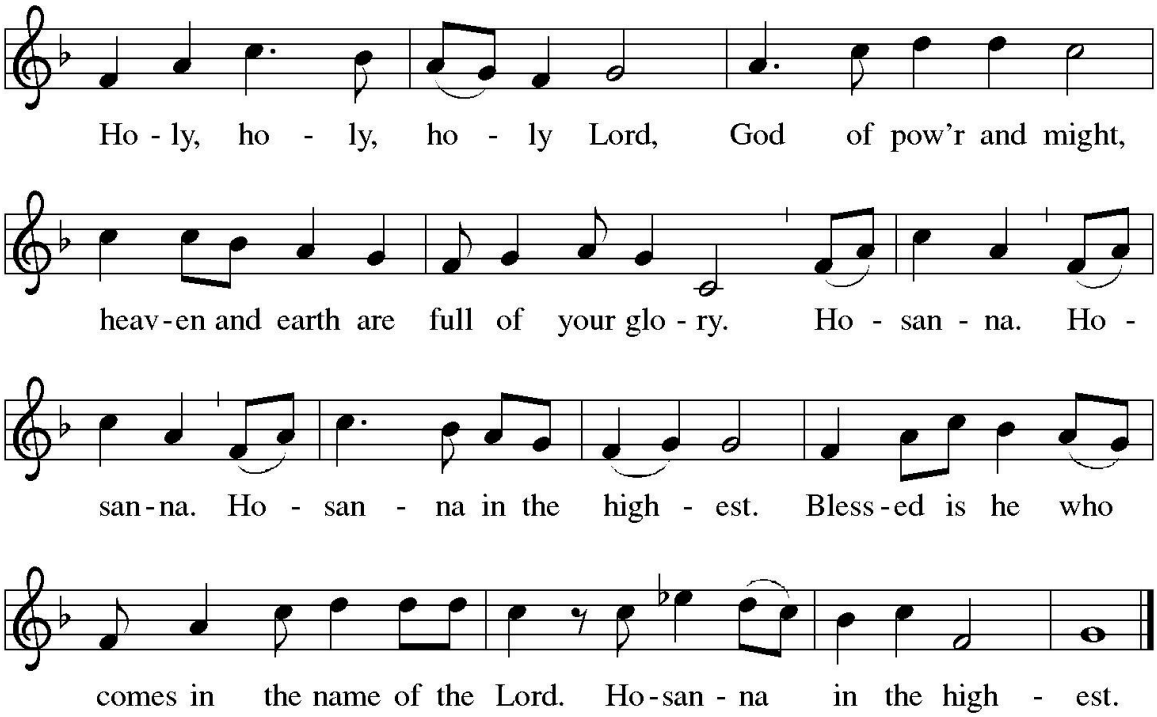
C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts full of holy anticipation.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to Immanuel, God with us.
C: We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

L: We do lift up our hearts in gratitude to you, O God, for all the many ways you offer your saving grace each day. We give thanks for the model you provided for us: how to forgive, how to care, how to love. You came to show us these things during a time of corrupt power when systems prioritized wealth over the wellness of all people. And yet, that did not deter you. The witnesses to your actions could not keep silent. They told and retold your story so that the work of thy kin(g)dom come would sustain and inspire their communities and generations to come. And so, with a thrill of hope in our hearts, we unite with all the saints who have gone before us, telling your story, and joining their unending hymn:



L: Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your almighty name.
When the faithful cry out to you, you draw near. Salvation comes.
As we long for healing, restoration, and wholeness,
you model the power of mercy, compassion, and generosity through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Words of Institution:

L: On the night you gathered your friends to eat together in the midst of their fear and yours, a common meal was transformed into elements of grace to be shared, remembered, and celebrated by generations upon generations.

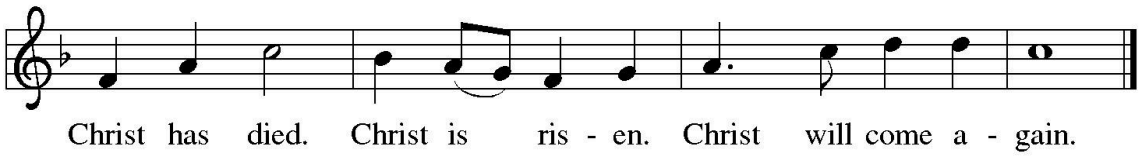
You took a simple loaf of bread. Blessed it. Broke it. Shared it.

You encouraged your friends to eat, letting the bread nourish and sustain them for the work ahead.

Then you took a cup of wine. Blessed it. Passed it.

You said to drink from it, letting the warmth trickle down, reminding them of your ever-present love.

L: Because of these simple and remarkable acts, we offer ourselves to be your hands and feet, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:



L: Gracious God, pour out your Spirit on us and these your gifts of grace. May they be for us a reminder of how your salvation breaks through in everyday life to everyday people. May we remember the Messiah who saved us is saving us and will save us. Fill our hearts with gratitude for this table where there is enough for all. Our world, O God, is in desperate need of your salvation. May this bread and cup give us courage to be communities of resistance and repair.

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 the Table:
Across generations, people have cried out for healing, justice, and peace. We look at a weary and wounded world and dare to believe that there is a different way. Again and again, God draws near. At this table, we remember one of the ways Jesus taught us to recognize that nearness—through the hope of those who say goodbye to the powers diminishing life. Here, we proclaim Christ has come and trust Christ still comes among us: wherever the hungry are fed, the excluded are welcomed, and ordinary people choose mercy over revenge, courage over fear. So come to this table with all that makes you weary and all that keeps you hoping. Come hungry for a world made whole. Come ready to remember and actively wait. For even here, in bread broken and a cup shared, the miracle of Immanuel persists:
God is with us. The thrill of hope remains.

Communion Song:

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah — Yiddish folk tune

Prayer after Communion:

L: God of hope, through this meal, you nourish us in our weariness and strengthen our community of faith. Energize our spirits to stay alert to your saving presence in the world. May we go forth as storytellers, not withholding what we have heard and felt while gathered together in this space, but sharing with all who are curious and all who long for restoration. In your Son's name we pray.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

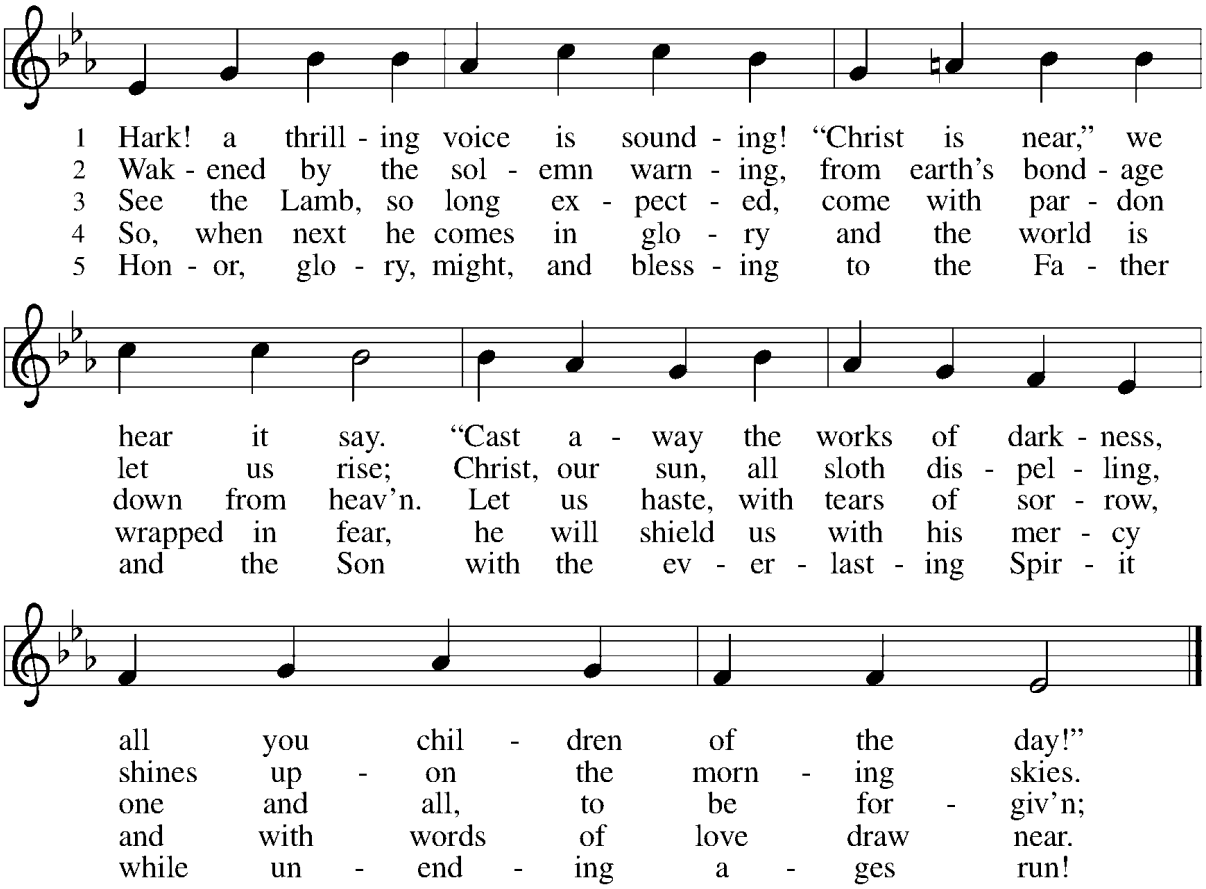
Announcements

Benediction:

L: May the blessing of
God, our salvation,
Christ, our peace,
and the Spirit, our joy,
thrill your heart and sustain your spirit,
now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding! (ELW 246)



Dismissal:

L: Go out into the world and keep awake—watching, waiting, and remembering salvation happens when we say goodbye to the powers that diminish life. Look for God's restoration and healing and empower one another to resist despair with the thrill of hope.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude:

"Sleepers, Wake!" (trio) Johann Sebastian Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to: Chris Ertelt (12/1) and Josephine Sozer (12/3).

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.

Advent-Epiphany Formation Hour: A Thrill of Hope

Join us after worship for Formation Hour as we explore our Advent-Epiphany devotional, *A Thrill of Hope*. Together, we'll reflect on the hope, promise, and anticipation of the Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. 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 Poinsettia Plants
We are pleased to continue our tradition of decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Christmas season. Poinsettias are $10.50 each. The order deadline is December 13th.

If you would like to place an order, you can do so here using the Google Form via 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". 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 | Special Music at 9:30pm



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)