



Holy Trinity

LUTHERAN CHURCH

N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

196 Woodbine Avenue, Narberth, Pennsylvania 19072

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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:

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"

Johann Sebastian Bach

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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen.**

L: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Compassionate God,
C: **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

L: Hear this good news:
We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: **Amen.**

Gathering Song: All My Hope on God Is Founded (ELW 757)



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

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:

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray together...

C: **Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

L: A reading from Isaiah, the 45th chapter.

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
² I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

- ¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

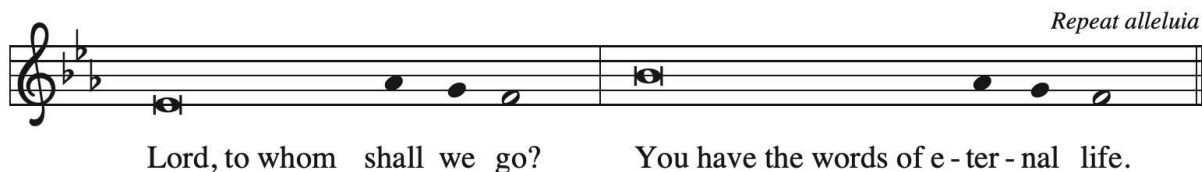
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by
God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word
only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what
kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us
and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit,
⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the
word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every
place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For
they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God
from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he
raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

L: The Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd chapter.

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

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

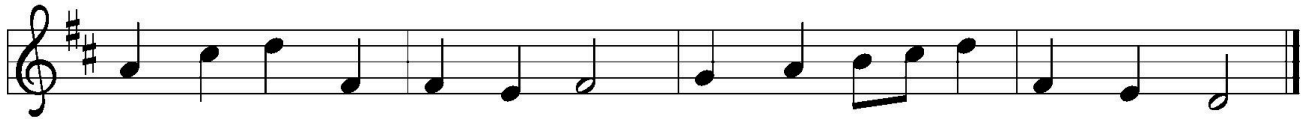
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: Take My Life (ELW 685)



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

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: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

- L: We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.
- C: **Your mercy is great.**
- L: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our 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:

Ave verum corpus

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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 voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, 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 voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

L: Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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, 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, God of pow'r and
 God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na, 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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Amen.

Communion Song:

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

W. Moore

Prayer after Communion:

L: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

Blessing:

L: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

L: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Dismissal:

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Fugue in E minor

Johann Sebastian Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to: Owen Folk (10/19).

All Saints Sunday – Names for Remembrance

On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will remember loved ones who have died and give thanks for their lives. If you would like a loved one's name included in our prayers and remembrance during worship, please submit their name to the church office (holytrinitynarberth@gmail.com) by **noon on October 28, 2026**. We hold their memories in our hearts and give thanks for the promise of new life in Christ.

A Turkey for Every Table

Help make Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need! Holy Trinity is collecting donations for *A Turkey for Every Table* to help provide holiday meals for local families who visit the Grace Lutheran Food Bank. Please make your donation **by November 18**. Contributions may be made by check in the offering or online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YH2B/home>. Thank you for helping make sure everyone has a place at the table this Thanksgiving!

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers

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



Formation Hour Begins October 18

Join us as we kick off our new Formation Hour on Sunday, October 18, following worship. Our first series, "What Are the Gospels?", will explore the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Where did they come from? Why are there four of them? How are they similar, and how are they different? Together, we'll discover how each Gospel tells the story of Jesus in its own unique way and what these ancient texts have to say to us today. No prior Bible knowledge is needed; just bring your curiosity and questions. All are welcome!

Outreach Team Revival!

Holy Trinity's Outreach Team is being revived, and you are invited to join us. This team will help brainstorm, plan, and coordinate ways for Holy Trinity to connect with our neighbors through community events and outreach opportunities such as NarbEarth Day, Pride at the Park, Witches of Narberth, and the Dickens Festival. Meetings will be held every 4–6 weeks, or as needed. If you have a passion for welcoming others, sharing ideas, planning events, or building community connections, we'd love to have you involved. Contact Pastor Jessica or the church office for more information.

Giving Garden

We continue to harvest every Wednesday at 8am. Just bring your garden gloves and whatever hand tools you may want for digging and harvesting. All are welcome as your schedules permit.

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)
The Lim family (friends of the Princes)
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)
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)