

Holy Trinity
LUTHERAN CHURCH
N A R B E R T H

Growing in Faith ~ Making a Difference ~ Open to All

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

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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:
"Sleepers, Wake!" 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,
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: We're Marching to Zion (ELW 625)



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 justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ WORD +

First Reading: **Amos 5:18-24**

L: A reading from Amos, the 5th chapter.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm70

The psalm will be read responsively.

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.
[2] Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
[3] Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
[4] Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the Lord!”
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

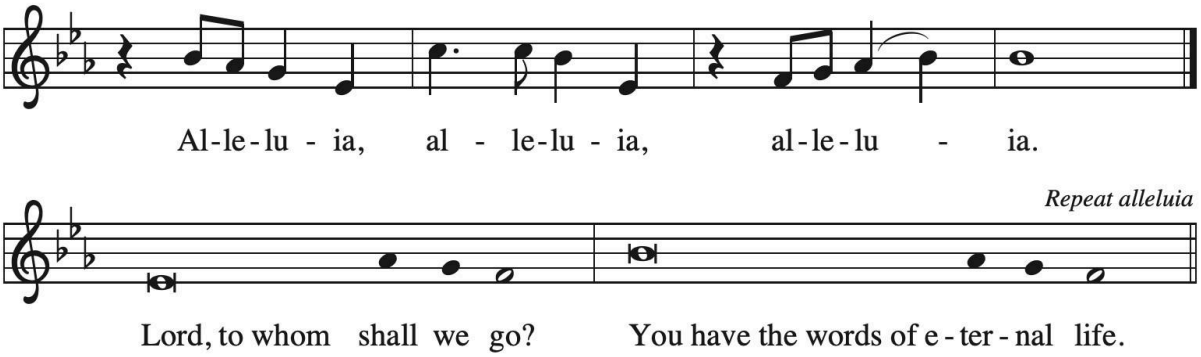
L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the 4th chapter.

[13] We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have
died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that
Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have
died. [15] For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left
until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16] For the Lord
himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet,
will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who
are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so
we will be with the Lord forever. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

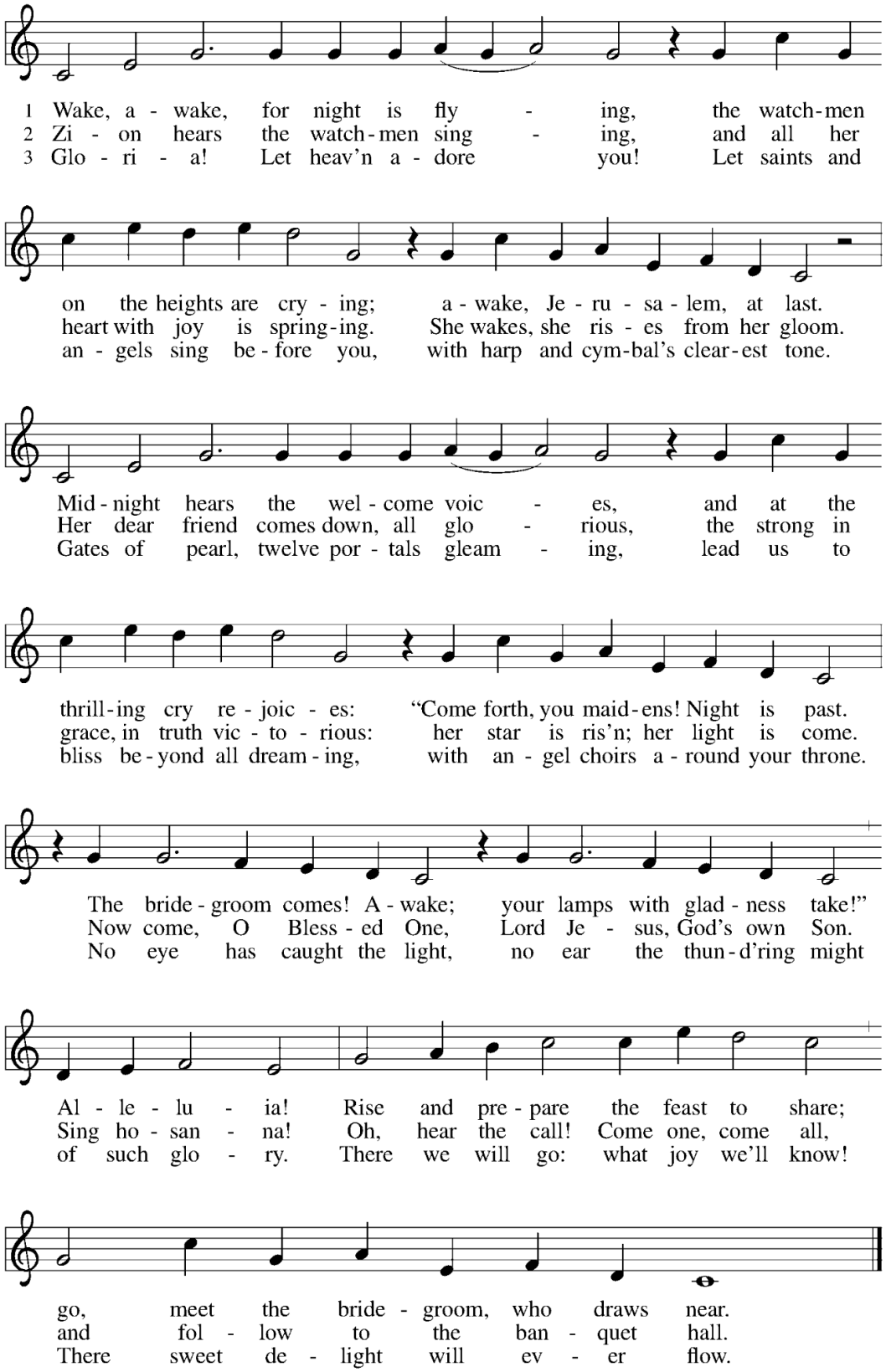
[Jesus said to the disciples:] [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Jessica Zurcher

Hymn of the Day: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (ELW 436)



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: You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. 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:

I Am the Light of Nations — Spanish melody, arr. Hal H. Hopson

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:
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness — Johann Crüger

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: Blessed Assurance (ELW 638)



Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday to: Dorothy McCluskey (11/8); Charlene Starankovic (11/8); and Mark Frye (11/10).

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to lector/read and assist during communion. 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.

Join Us for Formation Hour

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!

Don & Nancy Hall Turkey Fundraiser

Help make Thanksgiving special for our neighbors in need! Holy Trinity is collecting donations for the Don & Nancy Hall Turkey Fundraiser to help provide holiday meals for local families. Please make your donation by November 18. Contributions may be made online at holytrinitynarberth.com. If you prefer to send in a donation via check, please mail it to the church office at 196 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, PA 19072 or place your donation in the offering plate during worship. Note Don & Nancy Hall Turkey Fundraiser on the memo line. Thank you for helping ensure everyone has a place at the table this Thanksgiving!

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.

Help Us Get Ready for the Narberth Dickens Festival!
The Outreach Team is getting ready for the Narberth Dickens Festival (12/6), and we'll be selling soup in a jar as part of the festivities! We'll need helping hands to assemble the jars after worship on **Sunday, November 15**. All are welcome, and we'd love to have you join us! We will also need a few volunteers to sell the jars at the festival. If you'd like to help, please contact Lisa Lundgren (lundgrenlisamarie@gmail.com) or Pastor Jessica.

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!

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)