



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 16, 2025 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



### Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ working for peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and embrace all people, without exception, into the fullness of God's love. We advocate for racial, gender, queer, and economic equity. We celebrate people of all cultures, ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status, and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this community. All are invited to join us as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of their 41st Wedding Anniversary by John and Barbara Beckford.

# SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister and Preaching	Patrick Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Sadie Zhou
Prayers	Jerry Wesley
Cantor	Amanda Cook
Guitar	Duke Barsody
Communion Assistant	Jess Bigby
Acolytes	Dovie Dykes Madelyn Fagala
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Melissa Kolb Lara Wannemacher
Nursery	Karen Craig
Praying for Possibilities	Merry Mulcahy
Greeters	Mark Allen Lani Ludian Linda Morgan Cathy O'Neill Pat O' Neill
Ushers	Richard Delap Carol Elliott Danny Fagala David Potts
Fellowship Hosts	Austin Blythe Carl Witherspoon
Video	Kellie Fontecchio
Audio	Gregg Alley

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

*Please stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mother/Father God,

**you have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.**

**We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.**

**We ignore our neighbors.**

**We exploit the earth.**

**We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.**

**Repair our relationships,  
restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts,  
and bring us to new life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God the Faithful One loves you,

† in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

**Amen.**

*Refrain*

**Let us go now to the banquet,  
to the feast of the universe.  
The table's set and a place is waiting;  
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.**

**I will rise in the early morning;  
the community's waiting for me.  
With a spring in my step I'm walking  
with my friends and my family. *Refrain***

**God invites all the poor and hungry  
to the banquet of justice and good  
where the harvest will not be hoarded  
so that no one will lack for food. *Refrain***

**May we build such a place among us  
where all people are equal in love.  
God has called us to work together  
and to share ev'rything we have. *Refrain***

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.  
**And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and  
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



*Refrain*

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



*Refrain*

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, our strength and salvation, the world around us is falling into fear and confusion. Why is everything falling apart? Even in this frightening reality, you keep us steadfast in your Word and constant in hope. Comfort us when we feel unprepared.

Continue saying to us "Do not be afraid." Remind us that through the power of your Holy Spirit, you will light the way ahead of us. Give us courage to bear witness to unending love, trusting that we can endure, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Please *be seated*

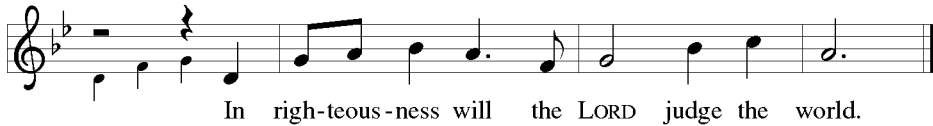
A reading from Malachi.

Malachi 4:1-2a

<sup>1</sup> See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the GOD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup> But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.**Psalm  
Refrain**Psalm  
Tone*

- <sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- <sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- <sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- <sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,  
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- <sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,  
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers | clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
who comes to | judge the earth.**
- <sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peo- | ples with equity. **R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*Do Not be Afraid—Love is Near**Please stand as able*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the twenty-first chapter.

### **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, <sup>6</sup>“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” <sup>7</sup>They asked Jesus, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” <sup>8</sup>And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am the One!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup>“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be afraid, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup>“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before rulers and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, <sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## SERMON

*Do Not be Afraid. Do Not Prepare.*

*Please stand as able*

*Refrain*

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness  
calling and free; Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,  
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
and over the eons you called to each thing:**

**“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”** *Refrain*

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,  
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;  
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,  
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.** *Refrain*

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,  
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;  
and down in the city you called once again,  
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.** *Refrain*

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;  
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise.** *Refrain*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of steadfast love and protection, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized focused on the inclusive work of the gospel in response to Christ's call. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquakes, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters and war in Gaza, Ukraine, Mexico, Columbia, Syria. The violence in our world feels uncontrollable. Bring an end to the fear and hatred that has stoked these currently violent times. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of change, as the seasons shift, flow, and ebb, help us, your people, to be more flexible to the changes in our lives. When our hearts grow cold toward people you love, help them to be warmed. When fear pushes us away from those on the margins, knit us together with the needles of your love and the yarns of your grace. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of victory, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up your people. Guide courts, especially the US Supreme Court, to open their hearts to the marginalized. Move them to focus on feeding the hungry and protecting the vulnerable rather than upholding power and privilege. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind, especially those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Comfort and succor all who find themselves in a season of fear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people to build an equitable community where all are valued. Lift the voices of those on the margins of our worshiping community, so that we might better reflect the abiding love you have for absolutely all your people. Continue to protect this ministry as it works to protect and serve the Queer and Transgender community with whom we are so blessed to share Christian fellowship. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of land, water, and sky, write on our hearts the memory of the Native people who trod this earth before us. You shaped a people from this soil. They became keepers of its rhythms and dwellers in its beauty, and they flourished in the dance of your creation's harmony. Unfortunately, by human sin, the land was stolen from them. In the arrogance of whiteness, our ancestors believed this land to be their birthright. Now we live beneath the shadowed wound they created. Grant us, here in the upstate of South Carolina, the courage to honor specifically the Cherokee people who stewarded this land before it was taken away. This land is the stage for our work, our play, and our worship. Help us to honor it in the ways the Cherokee has always honored their lands. Let the memories of these people be our teacher. Guide us toward truth and repair. Make a way for us to reject the cruel illusion that worth is bound to skin color, to sexuality, to nationality, to religion, or to gender. Remind us in this remembering that we own nothing, for all belongs to you. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Receive our prayers, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

MEAL

OFFERING

*O Love*

Music: Elaine Hagenberg; Text: George Mattheson

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
That in thy ocean depths its flow  
    May richer, fuller be.  
O Joy that seeks me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morning shall tearless be.

*Please stand as able*

OFFERING HYMN

*As Saints of Old*

#695

(Verse 1)

**As saints of old their first fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field  
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,  
so we today first fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

Let us pray, God of healing and hope,

**you bless those who are hungry,  
promising to fill them with good things.**

**Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.**

**Nourish us with the abundance of your feast  
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

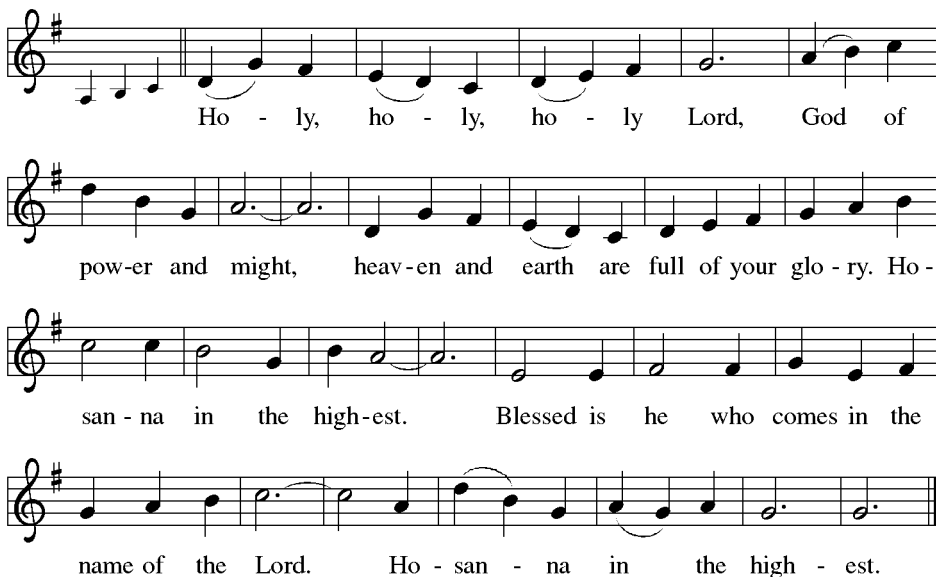
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est."

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

#### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

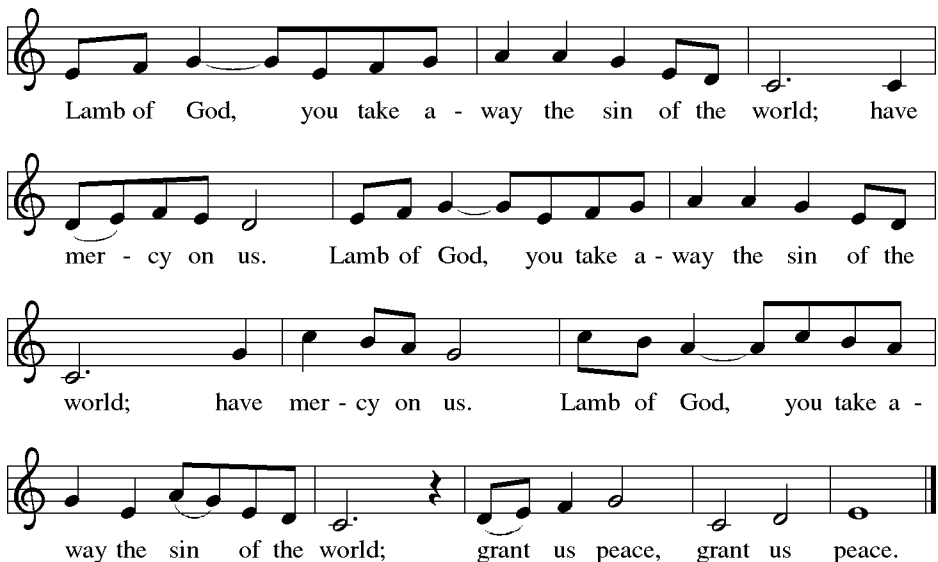
*Please be seated*

#### COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Both wine and grape juice are available in the split chalice— wine in the larger section and grape juice in the smaller section. Christ's grace and forgiveness are found in the bread, wine, and grape juice.  
Gluten free wafers are available.*

*At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the wafer into the chalice to receive Communion by intinction.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind*

#400

**God of tempest, God of whirlwind, as on Pentecost descend!  
Drive us out from sheltered comfort; past these walls your people send!  
Sweep us into costly service, there with Christ to bear the cross,  
there with Christ to bear the cross!**

**God of blazing, God of burning, all that blocks your purpose purge!  
Through your church, Christ's living Body, let your flaming Spirit surge!  
Where deceit conceals injustice, kindle us to speak your truth,  
kindle us to speak your truth!**

**God of earthquake, God of thunder, shake us loose from lethargy!  
Break the chains of sin asunder, for earth's healing set us free!  
Crumble walls that still divide us; make us one in Christ our Lord,  
make us one in Christ our Lord!**

**God of passion, God unsleeping, stir in us love's restlessness!  
Where the people cry in anguish, may we share your heart's distress.  
Rouse us from content with evil; claim us for your kin-dom's work,  
claim us for your kin-dom's work!**

*Meditation* by Cécile Chaminade  
Mary Beth Ridenhour, violin

*Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand*

#441

**Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the heav'nly throng;  
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land the new celestial song,  
the new celestial song.**

**Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself as Lord,  
and thousands meet in their new home which Jesus has prepared,  
which Jesus has prepared.**

**Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and love and peace  
will roll down over us with good and blessedness and grace,  
and blessedness and grace.**

**O Lord, your grace is ev'rything; your love has made us free  
to stand among the saints and sing the glory that we see,  
the glory that we see.**

*I Come with Joy*

#482

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here, alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world the  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.**

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.  
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth  
to the cross my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.**

*The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

#531

**The trumpets sound, the angels sing,  
the feast is ready to begin.  
The gates of heav'n are open wide,  
and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

*Refrain*

***Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.  
Come and revel in heaven's love and light.  
Take your place at the table of the King.  
The feast is ready to begin; the feast is ready to begin.***

**Tables are laden with good things;  
oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.  
He'll fill you up with love divine;  
he'll turn your water into wine. *Refrain***

**The hungry heart he satisfies,  
offers the poor his paradise.  
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud  
the amazing goodness of the Lord. *Refrain***

*Please stand as able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,  
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven  
that gives life to the world.  
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,  
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who  
hunger and thirst,  
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

As autumn deepens and gratitude grows,  
may we walk gently with creation,  
seek justice with courage,  
and rest in God's abundant love + that renews, sustains, and redeems all things.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

950

## Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In



1 Oh, when the saints — go march - ing in, — oh, when the  
2 Oh, when the Lord — in glo - ry comes, — oh, when the  
3 Oh, when the new — world is re - vealed, — oh, when the  
4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they  
5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, — and on that



saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that  
Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that  
new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that  
gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that  
hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that



num - ber — when the saints go march - ing in. —  
num - ber — when the Lord of glo - ry comes. —  
num - ber — when the new world is re - vealed. —  
num - ber — when they gath - er round that throne. —  
num - ber — on that hal - le - lu - jah day. —

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace and trust that God in Christ goes with you.

Do not be afraid when this world trembles.

Rest assured that you are safe in the loving embrace of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Following worship everyone is invited to gather for refreshments and fellowship in the back corner of the Gym followed by Together@Trinity in the Multipurpose Room*

*Spirit of Gentleness*

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God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind

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*Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

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Light Dawns on a Weary World

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Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

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## CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell  
Senior Pastor

James C. Parham, III  
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Patrick D. Preacher  
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator and  
Pastoral Associate

Angie H. McCormack  
Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

Jerry R. Wesley  
Coordinator for Mental Health Wellness

Kay M. Cook  
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and  
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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Vice-President

Donna Potts  
Secretary

Mike Boliek  
Treasurer

Lexi Thomas-Harewood  
Youth

Carl Brune

Patrick Morgan

Danny Fagala

Jeff Rehm

Jaime Fivecoat

Margaret Roth

Angie Hager

Kerry Sease

Deirdre Hixson

Chris Sorenson

Dean Hybl

Chris Wannemacher

Richard Moose