

Construction of current Church, Spring 1964

February 18th, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 10 A.M. WORSHIP



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Lifting Up, Reaching Out

WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY!

We are so glad you are joining in our worship. Whether this is your first time or you are a regular participant, we are happy to welcome you today.

Planet Earth Sunday

In The Beginning (Gen. 1.1 and John 1.1)

There are many theories, myths and beliefs about the beginning of Earth, life or the entire cosmos. We discern in Genesis One and John One an amazing message we accept by faith. The beginning of everything, no matter how it may be explained, begins with that eternal impulse called the Word! The Word is not a simple sound, a cosmic noise or a big bang, but the creating impulse that has been at work from the beginning. There is no end to the possibilities of exploring this mystery in our creation: the life impulse of the Word, which is God creating, is present from the beginning and continues in our planet—from the smallest embryo to the largest galaxy. The beginning was only the beginning—the creating of God goes on and on!

The Earth Story (Gen. 1.2-13)

The Genesis story includes the story of Earth, a story we have tended to ignore. The story begins with Earth waiting under the primal waters and with God's spirit hovering above. The waiting Earth is present but not yet transformed. Days One and Two provide the light and space for Earth to appear. Day Three is the big event! The waiting Earth emerges from the waters recalling the image of a child being born. God calls on the waters to separate/burst so that Earth can emerge. And Earth 'appears'! The term 'appear' is normally used of God 'appearing', a theophany. The appearance of Earth is only the beginning of her story. Then she becomes a co-creator bringing forth vegetation (Day 3) and animal life (Day 6). Earth is God's partner in creation and continues as such today.

PRELUDE Adagio	Cantabile	 	 L.	V. Beethoven

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT

Please stand as you are able

- P Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.
- C Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.
- P Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.
- C Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.
- P Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.
- C Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.
- P Lent calls us to journey with God.
- C Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

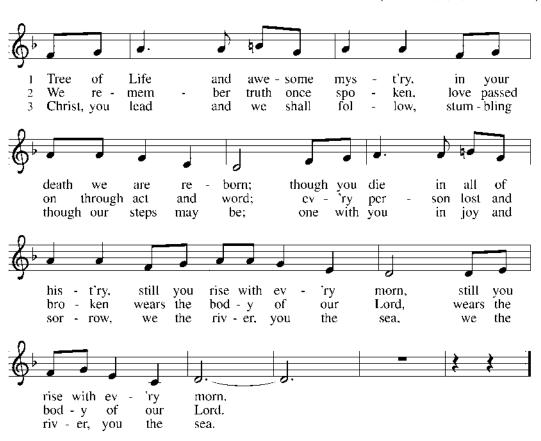
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
- C Amen.
- P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy God,
- C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
 We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
 We speak in ways that silence others.
 We are silent when we should speak up.
 We keep score in our hearts.
 We let hurts grow into hatred.
 For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
- C Amen.
- P Here is a flood of grace:
 Out of love for the whole world,
 God draws near to us,
 breaks every snare of sin,
 washes away our wrongs,
 and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery......ELW 334 (Verses 1, 2, 3, and Lent 1)



Lent I

From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own; stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true; may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light. Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death, hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, h. 1950 Music: Marty Haugen

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Music: Marry Hanger Music: Marry Hanger Text and music O 1984 CHA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Muson Ave., Chicago, II. 60638, www.gianu.sic.com, 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

- P 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1-25

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ¹²The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was

good. ¹³And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. ²⁵God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

This Little Light of Mine......arr. Allan Robert Petker

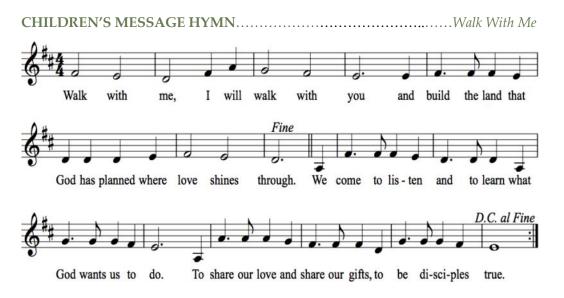
Christus Bells

SECOND READING: Psalm 33:1-9

¹Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. ²Praise the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. ³Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. ⁴For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.
⁵He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.
⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
⁷He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.
⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
⁹For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God

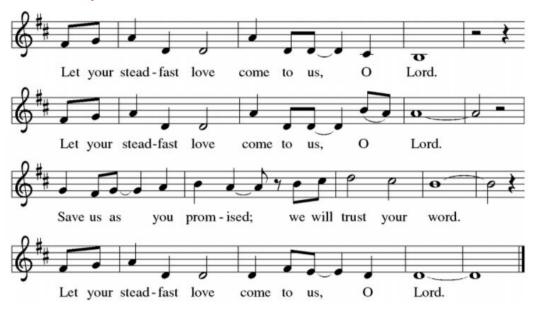


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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE......Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

LENTEN VERSEELW S189

Please stand as you are able



GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-14

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

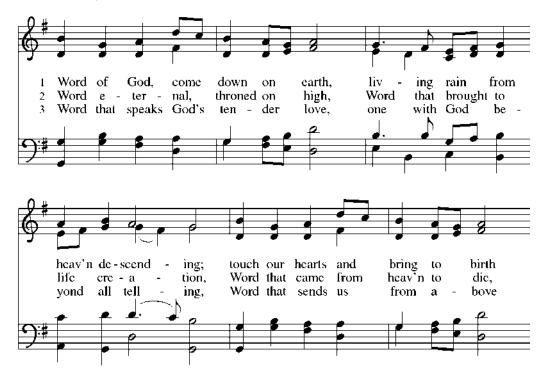
- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

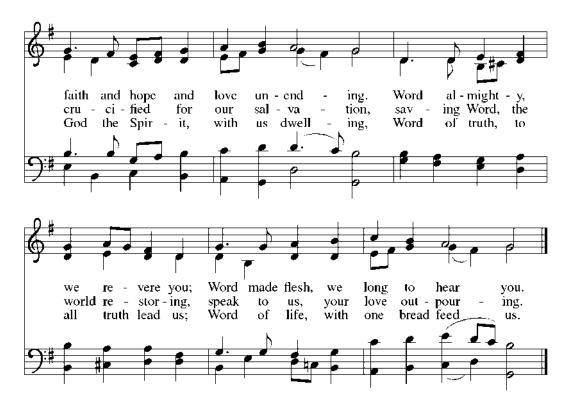
SERMON......Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

MESSAGE HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth......ELW 510

Please stand as you are able





Text: James Quinn, st, b. 1919 Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Text @ James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent, www.selahpub.com.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God. the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

- P God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people (especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and dis regard. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Watch over our military and members of agencies serving to keep us safe and free. Bless, strengthen, and defend them with your heavenly grace, give them courage in the face of peril, and grant them a sense of your abiding love and presence wherever they may be throughout the world. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- A Watch over all your children, Lord, including any who have not felt welcomed by the members of your church. Help us to truly be a Reconciling in Christ congregation: a welcoming and safe community for all. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

- P God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- P God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.
- P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

PEACE

- P May the peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated. Please also sign the red Friendship Register and pass it to the next person in your pew.

OFFERING HYMN





Your offering can be received in many ways. You may use the offering plate in the Sanctuary, sign-up for online giving at www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/giving, mail your offering to the church, or drop your offering in the mail slot by the office door.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

A Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name

C Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

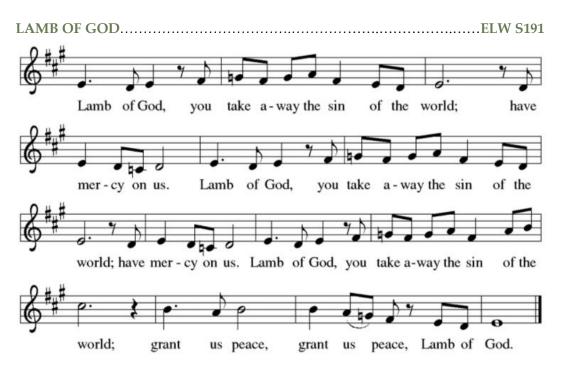
- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray
- C Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Come, for all things are now ready.

 Come to the table with all your kin and share with all in need—

 the gift of healing for those in pain, the gift of forgiveness for those in sin, the gift of assurance for those in doubt, and the gift of hope for those in tears.
- C May we who share these gifts, share Christ with one another and with all our kin. Amen



- P This is the body of Christ, given for you.
- C Amen.
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.
- C Amen.

Seed That in Earth is Dying......ELW 330



Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929 Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944 Tr. © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh Music © Norsk Musikforlag SÅKORN SOM DØR I JORDEN 7676876 

Text: Peter Scholtes, b.1938
Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S, 7 6 7 6 8 6 with refrain; Peter Scholtes, b.1938

☐ 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able

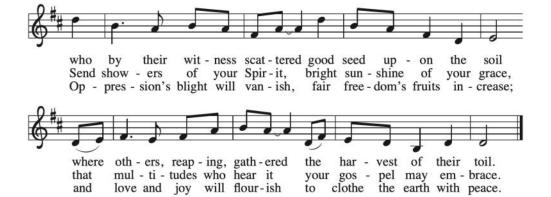
- P Let us pray.
- P Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
- C Amen.

BLESSING

- P Beloved,
 we are God's own people,
 holy, washed, renewed.
 God bless you and keep you,
 shower you with mercy,
 fill you with courage,
 and + give you peace.
- C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O God, Whose Word Well Planted...... 1 0 God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit hun-dred - fold, 2 0 God of seed and har - vest, of and soil and rain, God. fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field vour we praise those who sowed of old. your grac - es grant - ed to plant - ing in at - tend the word we sow, its be will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

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DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Share your bread.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Mystery Postlude".....???
Program Note: We changed a few words...can you spot the differences?

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Piscataway, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister Pastor Mike Gutzler

Preaching Minister Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

Tech Team Ben French and Jeff Taylor

Josh Brown, Director of Music & Cantor

The Praise Project:

Greg Bloy, Piano;

Bill Merkel, Guitar;

Caleb Merkel, Guitar;

Brent Stone, Bass;

Bill Richards, Percussion;

Jonathan Hill, Saxophone;

Mark Shoun, Trombone and Piano

Erika Johnson, Director of Handbells

Christus Bells



Musicians

In 2024, Holy Trinity is celebrating our 75th Anniversary! Each month we will be celebrating a different decade of our history.

February: The 1960s

Swing by the narthex today after worship for our Sweetheart Coffee Hour featuring 1960s era refreshments from our church cookbook. We will use an old punch recipe popular at 1960s weddings.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER - Prayers for comfort and peace for Joe Anderson, receiving hospice care, and his family.

Prayers of healing for Katie Blomquist's mother and Lynn Tedesco, recovering from surgery.

Prayers for strength and comfort for Joanna Forbes and her family as her father's health declines.

Prayers of healing and strength for Kathy Chelsen. (Kathy would appreciate phone calls from HT members. Please contact the HT office for details.).

Prayers also for Joel and Donna Cook (health concerns); Anne Simmons' husband, Rich (liver transplant); and Rita Juhasz (ongoing health concerns).



Construction of current Church, February 29th, 1964

3022 Woodlawn Ave., Falls Church, VA 22042 Office: (703) 532-6617 Fax: (703) 532-4659 www.holytrinityfallschurch.org www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityFallsChurch

