



Thanksgiving Day demonstration, 1970

MARCH 3rd, 2024

THIRD 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.

Sky Sunday

Good News from Sky (Ps. 19.1-6)

Psalms 19 offers one of the boldest portraits of creation communicating a message, a word of God we ought to hear. This Psalm is more than poetry. In this psalm the sky proclaims an important message to us all, a message about the vibrant presence and creative word of God. When the skies/heavens declare the glory of God' they are reiterating the words of Isaiah (6.3) that Earth is 'filled' with God's living presence. We are invited to see that presence shining through. The skies also announce that the work of the Creator is everywhere and that God keeps on creating all around us. An awareness of God's presence and care in every part of creation ought to motivate us to respect our planet as a sacred place full of songs from the sky.

The Sympathy of Sky (Jer. 4.23-28; Mark 15.33-38)

When we listen closely to Mark's version of Jesus' passion, we hear the anguish of the sky in sympathy. At noon darkness covers the whole land and Jesus cries out to God from the darkness. Creation too is suffering. The darkness recalls the reading from Jeremiah. Not only does he foresee a virtual return to chaos when the enemy from the North arrives, he also hears creation groaning. Or in his words, 'Earth mourns and the sky grows black'. The blackened sky is the sky suffering in empathy. And today, we need to be alert to a suffering sky that has been polluted by our greed. And we need to remember that Christ and this sky suffered together that noon on Calvary.

PRELUDE *Imagine* (1971)by John Lennon
arr. by Aron Rider
Aron Rider, cello

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

Canticle of the Turning.....ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

Continued on next page



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.
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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 Let us pray.
Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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: Jeremiah 4:23-28

²³I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void;
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

²⁴I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

²⁵I looked, and lo, there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

²⁶I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

²⁷For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a
full end.

²⁸Because of this the earth shall mourn,
and the heavens above grow black;
for I have spoken, I have purposed;
I have not relented nor will I turn back.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM

All Good Gifts (from *Godspell*, 1971).....Stephen Schwartz and Matthias Claudius
Translation by Jane M. Campbell
Christus Choir, featuring Aron Rider, Cello and Laura Shoun, Clarinet

SECOND READING: Psalm 19:1-6

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
 and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
 and its circuit to the end of them;
 and nothing is hid from its heat.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE HYMN.....Walk With Me

Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that

God has planned where love shines through. We come to lis - ten and to learn what

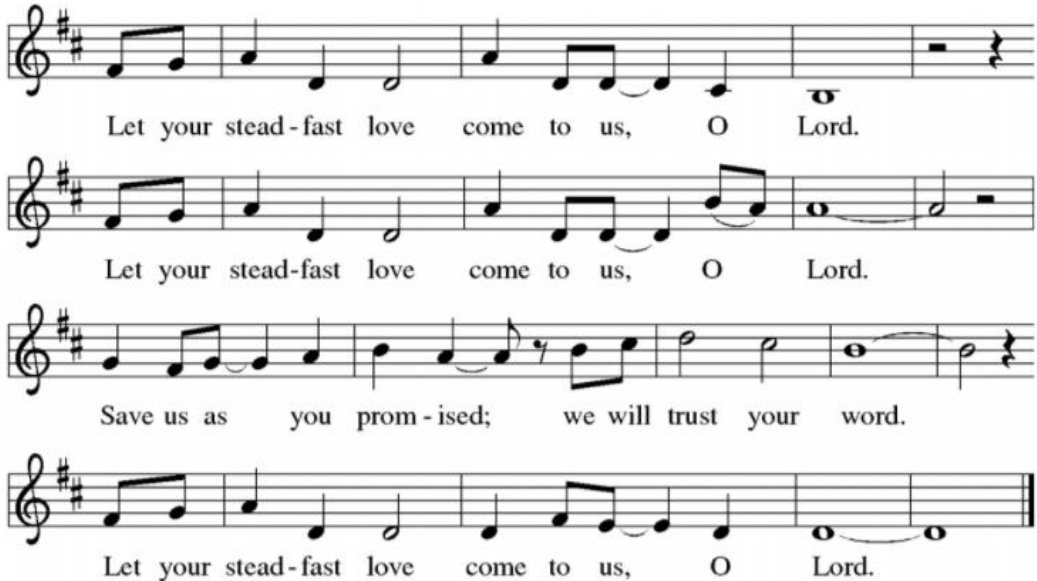
God wants us to do. To share our love and share our gifts, to be di-sci-ples true.

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.....Pastor Mike Gutzler

LENTEN VERSE ELW S189

Please stand as you are able



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 15:33-39

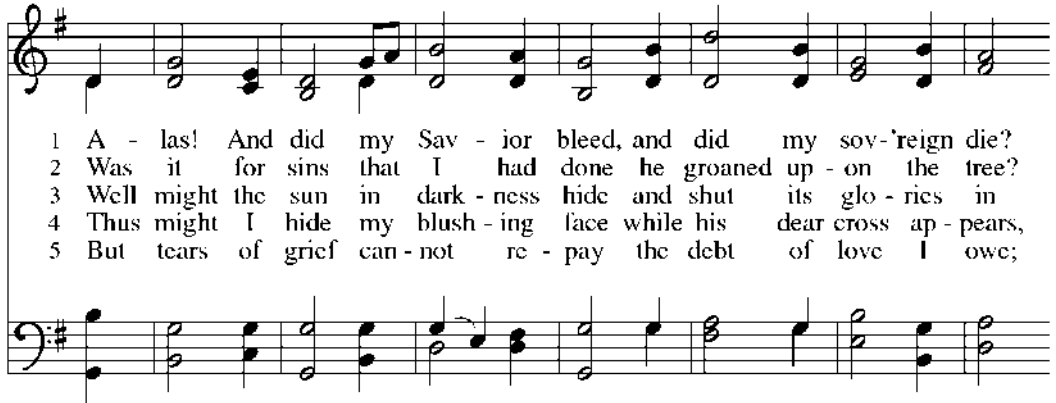
P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the fifteenth chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

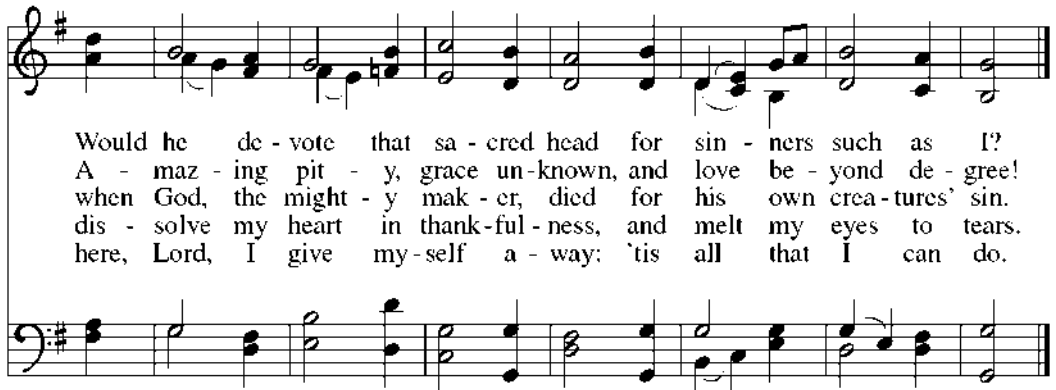
P The Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE HYMN

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed.....ELW 337
(Verses 1, 3, 4, and 5)



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - 'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way; 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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

A 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.

A You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land (*regions in conflict may be named*). Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick (*especially*). 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.

A You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family (*especially*). We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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

Create in Me a Clean Heart.....W&P 35

The image shows the first line of musical notation for the hymn 'Create in Me a Clean Heart'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Bb, and Gm. The lyrics 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve' are written below the treble staff.

Continued on next page

C⁷ sus C⁷ F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C
 you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

Gm F/A F/B♭ C F Am⁷ Dm⁷
 I might be re - newed. So fill me and

Am⁷ Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Gm/D C⁷ sus C⁷
 heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C Gm F/A F/B♭ C F
 ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

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**

LAMB OF GOD.....ELW S191



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, Lamb of God.

P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

C **Amen.**

P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN

You Are Our Living Bread (1979).....GATHER 819

You are our liv-ing bread; you are our ho-ly wine, Lord Je-sus

Christ!

1. I feed my peo-ple on the fin - est ___ of
2. I feed my peo-ple on the fin - est ___ of
3. Where two or three ___ have ___ gath-ered in my

to Refrain

1. bread, on my bod - y ___ bro - ken for them.
2. wine, on my blood of ___ suf - f'ring and shame.
3. name, there am I in the midst_ of ___ them.

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COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God.....ELW 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: Twila Paris
Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

YOUR ONLY SON
LMD

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

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens.....ELW 771



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space:
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Share your bread.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Light of the World* (from *Godspell*, 1971).....Stephen Schwartz

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Presiding/Preaching Minister

Pastor Mike Gutzler

Assisting Minister

Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

Tech Team

Ben French and Jeff Taylor

Musicians

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

Christus Choir

Aron Rider, Cello

Laura Shoun, Clarinet



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

March: The 1970s

The pictures in the bulletin today are from the “Thanksgiving Day demonstration “ held on Thanksgiving Day, November 26th, 1970, by the Junior and Senior Confirmants, at the 10am Thanksgiving Service. The bulletin read to “Come and take part in a demonstration of thanksgiving—Depart empowered to demonstrate daily a sincere thanksgiving.”

REMEMBER IN PRAYER - Prayers for strength and comfort for Anne Anderson and family on the passing of her husband, Joe.

Prayers for strength and comfort for Bill, Deb and Sam Haynes on the passing of Bill's father.

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

Prayers for strength and comfort for Jean Strandlie and family; Julie Strandlie, Jerry, Carolyn and Nicholas Lemens on the passing of Jean's brother, Clair Thompson in WI., and also for Joanna Forbes and her family during this time after the passing of her father.

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).

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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