



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, May 17, 2020  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Celebrating our 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

Thanksgiving for Baptism 10:30 a.m.

*Welcome to Holy Trinity!*

*Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.*

*Share your story!*

*Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity.*

*Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!*

*Find us on Facebook at:*

*Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo*

*Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God, give thanks for gifts of life and love, and hold each other in prayer.*

*Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering centered in the Word, the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.*

## **PRELUDE**

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives*  
(on the tune Antioch)

George Shearing  
(1919 – 2011)

*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*As we gather from our homes, we invite you to place a bowl or cup of  
water in front of you, to remember our baptism.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

*(At home, dip your finger into a bowl or cup of water and make the  
sign of the cross on your forehead.)*

**To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

# OPENING HYMN

## Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing "Truro"

ELW 389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

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## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

### **FIRST READING: Acts 17:22-31**

The first reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter is recorded in Acts, the 17<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>22</sup>Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

<sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SOLO**

*I’ll Walk With God*

Nicholas Brodzky (1905 - 1958)

Text by Paul Francis Webster

Roger VanDette, *tenor*

I’ll walk with God from this day on, His helping hand I’ll lean upon.

This is my prayer, my humble plea, may the Lord be ever with me.

There is no death, tho’ eyes grow dim. There is no fear when I’m near Him.

I’ll lean on Him forever and He’ll forsake me never.

He will not fail me as long as my faith is strong, whatever road I may walk along.

I’ll walk God, I’ll take His hand, I’ll talk with God, He’ll understand;

I’ll pray to Him, each day to Him and He’ll hear the word that I say.

His hand will guide my throne and rod, and I’ll never walk alone while I walk with God.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22**

The second reading for today is recorded in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

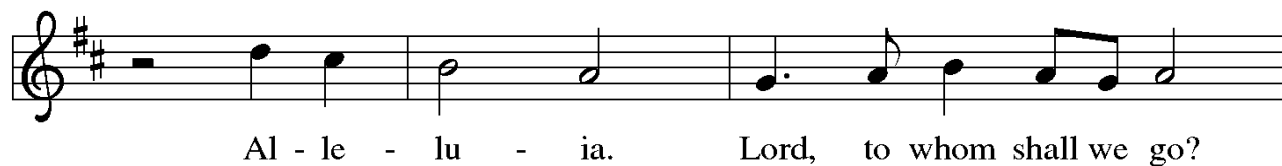
<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





## **GOSPEL: John 14:15-21**

The holy gospel according to Saint John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

<sup>17</sup>This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

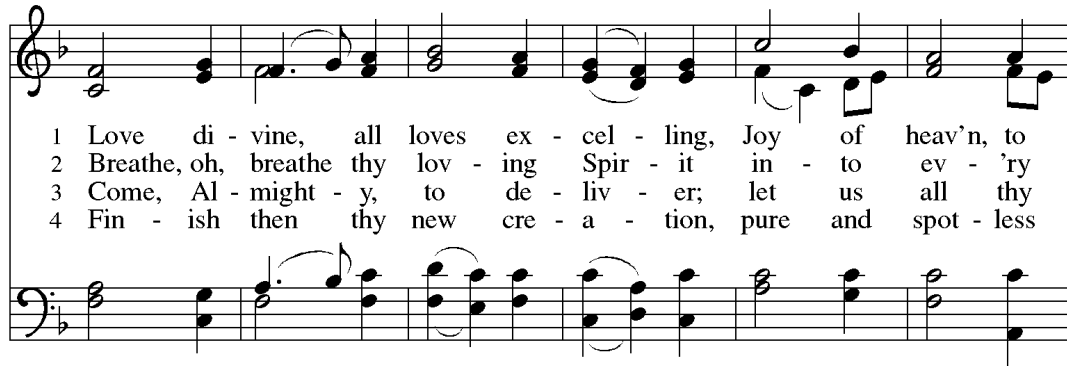
**SERMON**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

# HYMN OF THE DAY

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* “Hyfrydol”

ELW 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we welcome our God into the sanctuaries of our homes, let us pray for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with “hear our prayer.”

*A brief silence.*

Abiding God, come into all the homes around the globe from which your people offer their prayer. Show our pastors and our church councils the way forward. Bless our ecumenical partners in Voice Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities, and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection, and Holy Trinity. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Especially we pray for the waters of The Niagara River, Lakes Erie and Ontario, local creeks and riverbeds. Form us unto a baptized body that protects the waters on which we rely. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, instill in all the leaders of nations a desire for justice and the will to serve the oppressed. Guide our nation’s governors in their difficult pathway between the threat of disease and the dangers of scarcity and isolation. Bring our legislators into agreement about how to assist those in need. Give us patience in facing our current predicament. We pray for all men and women serving in the armed forces, serving domestically, and those deployed. Sustain their families. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, visit all who are in great need, those who suffer from the coronavirus, those living in loneliness and fear, those without jobs, and those who mourn their dead. Uphold those whose futures have been taken away from them. We pray for health care workers and for the residents in care homes, prisons, and refugee camps. For the countless persons who carry heavy burdens on their back, we pray, and we call out to you those for whom we pray spoken now out loud, or from our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Fatherly and motherly God, embrace all orphans. Support the agencies that attend to the world's orphans. Shield orphaned children from traffickers. Give to all nations wisdom concerning the refugees who are children. Watch over all children whose usual care-givers are absent. Form us into your children who love all your whom you have made. For all your daughters and sons, including the children of our community. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, especially this day, Anthony DeSabio. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace with someone in your home, or share a message of peace via text, tweet, or post (or call someone after worship.)*

## THE OFFERING

*Thank you for your gifts and offerings which make our ministry possible. You may share your offering by clicking the “Contribute Today” link below this Livestream and on our Homepage, or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!*

## THE SOLO

*Give Me Jesus*

Tom Trenney  
African American spiritual

Roger VanDette, *tenor*

In the mornin' when I rise, give me Jesus.  
O when I am alone, give me Jesus.  
You may have all this world, give me Jesus.  
Dark midnight was my cry: Ah, Jesus!  
O when I come to die...  
I heard my mother say, "Give me Jesus."

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray together.

**O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.**

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord "Marching to Zion"

ELW 625

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets  
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur - round the throne.  
heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*

We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:

we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

## **DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

Hyfrydol from Three Welsh Preludes

Ralph Vaughan Williams

(1872 - 1958)



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CRISIS SERVICES:** For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

**FOOD DONATIONS:** To support those in need of food from our NRC food pantry and from the emergency bags our Pastors provide, if you are able to donate, these are the items most needed.

For our pastor's bags: The Pop top canned easy meals , ex. ravioli meals.

For the Food Bank : Canned tuna, soups and canned meats such as ravioli. Items may be brought to the church. **Please call ahead to alert the staff that you are planning to donate and arrange a convenient time.**

**READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR:** The reading schedule for May and June can be found on the church website or you can call the church office to have a paper copy mailed to you.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) - July 27 – 31.** We are making plans for how VBS will look this year, but the date is new for our Community. Check back here for details soon!!

**FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP ZOOM HAPPY HOUR:** Join us every Friday at 5pm to link to a virtual Happy Hour by Zoom technology. We'll meet together through safe physical-distancing while being able to check-in with each other. Bring your own favorite beverage to the computer.

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 285 453 435

Password: 299123

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,285453435# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

**ELECTRONIC GIVING:** Holy Trinity has an electronic option for making regular offerings or a one-time donation. If you would like to sign up, please fill out the forms located on the tables in the narthex and return to the office. Please call the church office with questions.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.

# **HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP**

## **Congregational Council**

Uli MacDonald, President  
Emily Notari, Vice-President  
Guy Huber, Treasurer  
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Theedralyn Bradley, Kathy Crissey, Ryon Fleming, Richard Lee,  
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

## **Staff Contacts for Programs and Services**

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Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster  
[kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org)  
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager  
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant  
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)  
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds  
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor  
[pastor.lee.miller@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:pastor.lee.miller@holytrinitybuffalo.org)

The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor  
[pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org)

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