



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, September 27, 2020  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Celebrating our 142<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

Service of the Word 8:30 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**

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

## **PRELUDE**

Toccata from *Toccata, Aria, and Finale* Opus 1184

Carson Cooman  
(b. 1982)

*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**

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

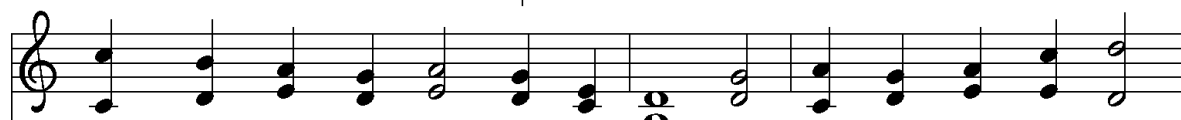
## What Wondrous Love Is This "Wondrous Love"

ELW 666

(vs. 1 & 3)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.  
Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

### **THE READING: Philippians 2:1-13**

The first reading for Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost is recorded in Philippians, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter.

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not  
only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out  
your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at  
work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good  
pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# THE SOLO

## Psalm 142

Ned Rorem

(b. 1923)

Dr. Aurora Deeds, *soprano*

I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.

I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble.

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.

In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me:

Refuge failed me, no man cared for my soul.

I cried unto Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

Attend to my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy name:

The righteous shall compass me about; for Thou shall deal bountifully with me.

I cried unto the Lord with my voice; with my voice unto the Lord did I make my supplication.

Attend unto my cry.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew

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

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’

<sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

## **SERMON MEDITATION**

Aria from *Toccata, Aria, and Finale* Opus 1184

Carson Cooman  
(b. 1982)

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. We pray that you will preserve and protect the earth. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. We ask that you look with compassion to the people in all the nations of the world. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, and the prayers of our hearts and our minds. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community; make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. We pray for our ecumenical and inter-faith siblings in VOICE Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities, and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection Village and the Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness, especially today we give thanks for the life and work of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; 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.)*

## **SOLO AT THE OFFERING**

*Hear My Prayer*

from *Biblical Songs* Op. 99 No. 3

Antonin Dvořák

(1841 - 1904)

Dr. Aurora Deeds, *soprano*

Hear my prayer, O Lord, my God!

Oh, hide not Thy face from my petition.

Bow thine ear to me and hearken unto the voice of my mourning.

Pained sore is my heart within, and trembling hath fallen upon me,

The fear of death overwhelms me. Hear my sighing!

Oh, had I but eagle's pinions, had I wings like the silver dove!

Far away would I wander, I would hide in the wilderness.

On wings I would hasten to hide from the storm,

The storm and the fearful tempest.

## **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!*

## **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**

Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

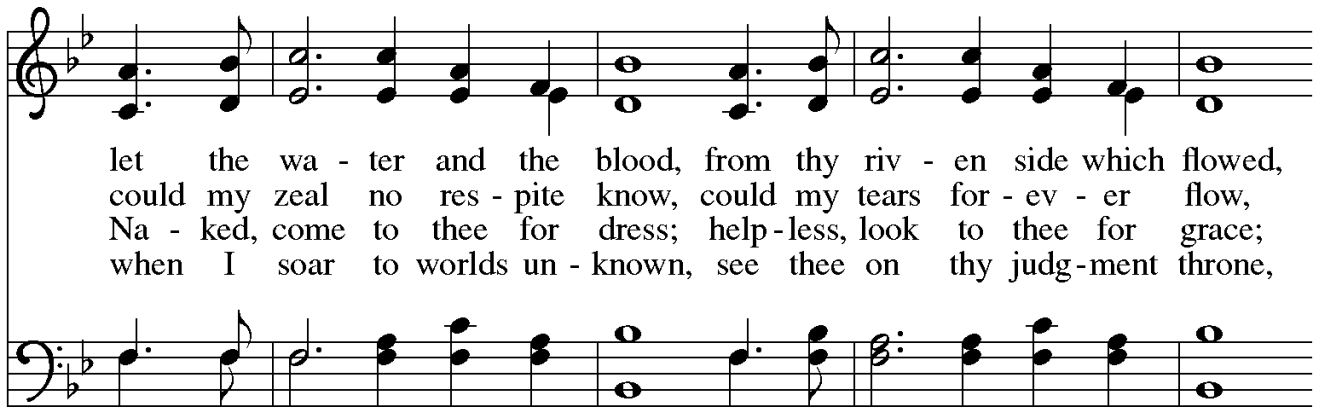
*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* "Toplady"

ELW 623

(vs. 1 & 2)



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778  
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Finale from *Toccata, Aria, and Finale* Opus 1184

Carson Cooman  
(b. 1982)



### Music Notes

Carson Cooman (b. 1982; Rochester, New York) is an American composer with a catalog of hundreds of works in many forms—from solo instrumental pieces to operas, and from orchestral works to hymn tunes. Since 2006, Cooman has held the position of Composer in Residence at The Memorial Church, Harvard University. From 2008-11, he also served as Composer in Residence to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, Massachusetts. Since 2015, he has been Organ and Choral Editor for Lorenz Publishing Company and Sacred Music Press. He has edited organ publications for various publishers (including Boosey & Hawkes and Oxford University Press) and was editorial director for over 300 organ, choral, and hymn publications for Zimbel Press. Cooman's principal composition teachers were Bernard Rands, Judith Weir, and he holds degrees from Harvard University and Carnegie Mellon University.

Cooman is an active organist who specializes in contemporary music. Over 300 new compositions by more than 100 international composers have been written for him. *Toccata, Aria, and Finale* (2017) was commissioned for the ongoing dedication events and recitals at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Roanoke, Virginia.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLU CLINIC:** We will be holding our annual flu clinic on Sunday, October 4 from 9:30am – 1:00pm in Redeemer Hall. You will need to have your insurance card and photo ID. Get your flu shot early.

**ALTAR FLOWERS ARE BACK:** Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following dates are available: October 18<sup>th</sup> - 1 vase, November 1<sup>st</sup> - 2 vases, November 29<sup>th</sup> - 2 vases. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for these or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at [msmarylschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:msmarylschmidt@gmail.com) or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

**FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Happy Hour** – Join us each Friday via Zoom at 5:00pm. We'll meet together through safe physical-distancing while being able to check in with each other and enjoy the company. Bring your favorite beverage to the computer. Zoom Meeting ID: 285 453 435. Password 299123.

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Each week via Zoom at 9:30 am. Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195.

**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.



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Richard Bauchle by Janice Bauchle.



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

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