



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, November 15, 2020  
Twenty-Fourth 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**

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

## **PRELUDE**

The Believer from *Triptych of Peace*

Carlotta Ferrari  
(b. 1975)

O you who have believed, enter into peacefulness.

Surah 2: 208, the Quran, translated by Mohammed Mahmoud Ghali

## 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

*When Our Song Says Peace* “Jenkins”

ELW 709



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will  
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will  
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,  
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,  
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.  
who o - pens pris - on doors and sets the cap - tives free.  
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953

Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

Text © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. www.selahpub.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## 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.

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

### **THE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

The first reading for Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost is recorded in Thessalonians, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE SOLO

*Laudate Dominum*, Psalm 117  
from *Vesperae solennes de confessore*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
(1756 – 1791)

Mary Kay Atlas, *soprano*

Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise the Lord.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

<sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

<sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”  
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

## **SERMON MEDITATION**

The Pure from *Triptych of Peace*

Carlotta Ferrari

(b. 1975)

Observe the pure person, consider the upright; for the peaceful person will have posterity.

Psalm 37:37, Complete Jewish Bible, translated by David H. Stern

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. 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, Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, and in (or in the silence) the prayers of our hearts and our minds. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**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!*

**SOLO AT THE OFFERING**

*Panis Angelicus*

César Franck  
(1822 – 1890)

May Kay Atlas, *soprano*

The bread of the angels is made the bread of man: the giver shows Himself in the form of the bread of heaven. O miraculous thing! To eat the Lord as an unworthy, humble servant. We implore Thee, triune God, so come to us that we dwell in you; through your ways lead us, who reach to you, to the light where you live.

**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 God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

## O Zion, Haste "Angelic Songs"

ELW 668

(vs. 1 & 2)

1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,  
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion him,  
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,

to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;  
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing  
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion  
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,

one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.  
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.  
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

*Refrain*

Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,

tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion, and re - lease.

## **DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

The Peacemaker from *Triptych of Peace*

Carlotta Ferrari

(b. 1975)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.

Matthew 5:9, New Revised Standard Version Bible



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Elaine Fuhlbruck from the Thomasula, Carmer, Addison, Fuhlbruck and Hoebel Families; In Loving Memory of Kathy's mom Jutta, by Kathy and Gary Szakmary; and In Loving Memory of Raymond Ph. and Laurie Weil from their family.



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.



## *MUSIC NOTES*

Carlotta Ferrari (b. 1975) is a contemporary Italian female composer. Educated at the Conservatory in Milan, she has composed in many genres, developing a personal language that is concerned with the blend of past and present. Her compositions have been performed frequently around the world, including such venues such as Harvard University, New York University, Steinway Haus in Hamburg and München, National Center for Performing Arts in Beijing, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, St. Gallen Cathedral, St. George's Hanover Square in London, Manhattan Central Synagogue in NYC, and other relevant theaters and churches. A recital entirely devoted to her music has happened in Cardiff UK in 2014.

Ms. Ferrari won the 2nd prize at the 2013 edition of Sisi-Frezza competition for women composers held by IFBPW (International Federation of Business and Professional Women). She received the auspices of the President of Italy in 2008 for the premiere of her secular Cantata dedicated to the victims of terrorism. Ferrari's music appears on several CD recordings, including three all-Ferrari organ CDs: two recorded by Carson Cooman (2014/16) and another by Peter Clark (2015). She is currently the chair of music composition at Hebei Normal University in Shijiazhuang, China.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ANNUAL COMMITMENT:** The Stewardship Committee thanks all of you for your continued support. Commitment cards have been mailed out and we ask that you return the cards either in person on a Sunday, or by mailing to the church office.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE:** This year's Thanksgiving Eve service will be held online via Facebook on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30pm.

**HOLIDAY BASKETS:** The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will once again be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets. Last year we filled ten baskets with non-perishable food items, gift certificates, and other items. We hope to do the same this season. All non-perishable food items will be used for the baskets. Cash donations to help provide gift certificates can be sent to the church office and designated "holiday baskets". Thank you for your donations.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias which will be placed in the chancel for Christmas. Flowers are \$10 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms can be found in the church paper, as a bulletin insert, or by calling the church office, and completed forms may be mailed to the church office.

**AMAZON SMILE:** With the holidays approaching we would like to remind everyone to select Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as the charity for AMAZON SMILE. This will ensure that a donation to HT will be made with each of your purchases through AMAZON SMILE.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** ConnectLife will be sponsoring a blood drive at Holy Trinity on Sunday, December 6 from 9am – 1pm. The need for blood is so important, especially at this time. ConnectLife is the primary supplier of blood for Kaleida Health, ECMC and all the hospitals in Niagara and Wyoming Counties. To schedule an appointment or if you have any questions, please call Nurse Judy Reifsteck at 632-3448.

**CHILDREN’S WORSHIP SPACE:** Holy Trinity has a received a Thrivent Action Grant to help develop a small space in our sanctuary that is designated for small children (2-4 years). This space is open to children throughout the service as a space that they may play and imagine, complete activities while remaining in the worship space where they are able to hear and see the service continue. The space will be created with the idea that some of our smallest members might just need a space for a short time in order to get some of their energy and wiggles out that they are not able to do in the confines of the pew. This area would be child-friendly with quieter activities for children to engage in. During COVID, this space will provide individual activity boxes for children/families and this space will be open but there will be a limited number of activities for children. The child’s space will be located behind and to the left of the baptism font and you will see that space be transformed over the next couple of weeks.

**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** Each week via Zoom at 9:30 am at  
<https://zoom.us/j/427428740?pwd=Y1BZdUdLL3l4YU5QWnJUUTdkRlk4Zz09#success>. Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195.

**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.

**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.

# **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**

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist  
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)

## **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209**  
**(716) 886-2400 phone/(716) 884-7505 fax**  
**e-mail: [info@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:info@holytrinitybuffalo.org)**  
**[www.holytrinitybuffalo.org](http://www.holytrinitybuffalo.org)**

Friend us on Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo](http://www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo)  
[www.facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic](http://www.facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic)



Copyright ©2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.  
CCLI License No. 243