



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, February 7, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Reconciling in Christ Sunday
Celebrating our 142nd 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

This Sunday celebration has been a way for faith communities, both RIC and those on their journey, to celebrate the work that they have done, as well as to take a stand in creating a worship celebration specifically for all of God's Beloveds, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expressions. RIC Sunday is set aside to highlight our shared ministry of hospitality and reconciliation for all of our siblings in Christ, with this years theme centered on advocacy. We celebrate this Sunday as the anniversary of Holy Trinity becoming an RIC congregation. Today you will hear in prayers and preaching lifting up the justice and advocacy work we do in our community of faith.

PRELUDE

Prelude N°3 Mode de mi from Huit Pièces Modales

Jean Langlais
(1907 - 1991)

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

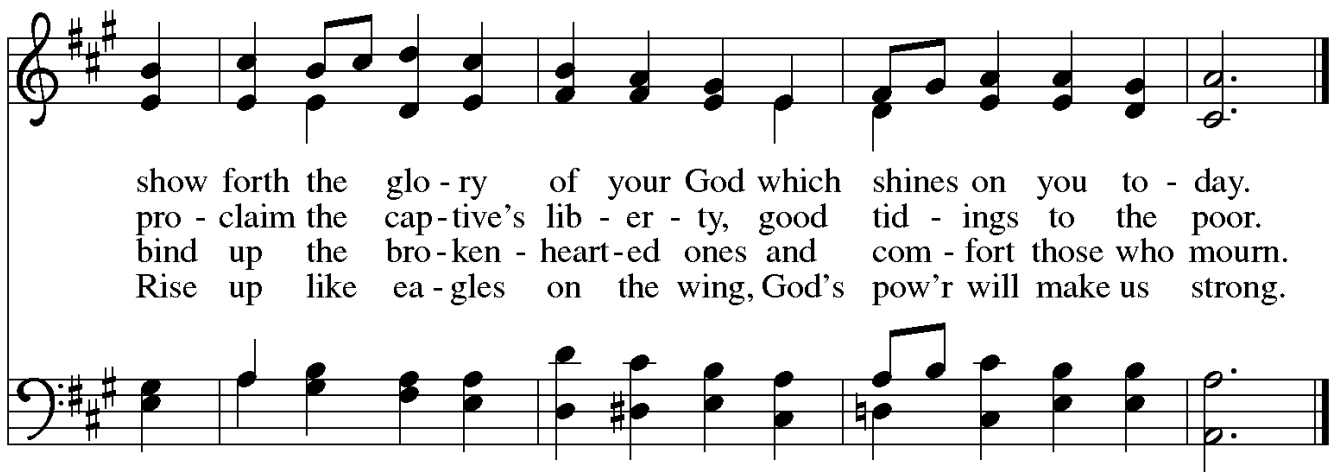
Arise, Your Light Has Come! “Festal Song”

ELW 314

(vs. 1 & 4)



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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GREETING

Called by the Holy Spirit, as people of Christ, we gather together in the endless diversity of God's creation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God of Boundless love, you require each of us to love justice. May we follow Christ's example to see, name, and care for all whom we encounter. May your love and grace fill our words and actions, turning us away from the sins of homophobia, transphobia, and racism, to live for you and serve our neighbor. Soften our hearts and expand our awareness today to share in the spirit of the Kingdom of God, making the church a place where community is built to experience your grace. In your name, we pray, Amen.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

THE READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

The first reading for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany is recorded in 1st Corinthians, the 9th Chapter.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak.

I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Lead, Kindly Light

Text: John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890)

Ciro Pinsuti

(1829 – 1888)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom, lead thou me on!
The night is dark and I am far from home, lead thou me on!
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene; one step enough for me.
I was not ever this, nor pray'd that Thou shouldst lead me on;
I lov'd to choose and see my path; but now, but now, lead me on.
I lov'd the garish day, and spite of fears,
Pride rul'd my will: remember not past years.
So long the pow'r hath blest me, sure it still will lead me on o'er moor and fen,
O'er crag and torrent, till that night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have lov'd long since, and lost a while.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

SERMON MEDITATION

Le Banquet Céleste

Oliver Messiaen
(1908 - 1992)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need...

Creator and endless weaver of our lives, we rejoice in your creation and its endless diversity. Your creativity and imagination create a sense of awe-filled wonder. As your care for creation is shown in its complexity and the changing of the seasons, teach us to see and celebrate the stunning beauty in all you have made. Embolden us to work for climate and creation justice to preserve our tactile connection to you through creation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who was made flesh, we ask for your forgiveness when we fall short to see you embodied in those around us. Give us eyes to see you in the lives of those who have been dehumanized; an immigrant, refugee, one recently incarcerated, those targeted because of systemic racism, sexism, transphobia, and homophobia. God, you know what it is like to be cast out, give us hearts to welcome those exiled from families or workplaces because of who they love. May your Spirit fill us with the courage, conviction, and dedication to work for justice knowing when we do, we are in fact caring for you.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Healer and Comforter, as each day brings new wonderings about the health of our family, friends, community, and nation, we remember that you can hold all we bring to you through prayer with sacred love. With hearts of joy and lament, we bring you the names and places of your people in need, speaking them aloud or in the silence of our hearts, now...

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the unknown, all that you are and all that you have been is without boundaries. Open our hearts and minds to the new possibilities that surround us each day. Help us to remember that through your love we are made new with each sunrise and filled with your Spirit in every breath. May this moment of worship be a touchstone of remembrance that we have something new to see and learn. Give us space to listen and see what you are showing us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to see and love people we don't know yet, so we might continue to greet you in faith and be joyfully changed by who you are: wild and wonderfully endless in your diversity. Whisper sweet Spirited inspirations in our ears. Bless this community of faith with challenges to grow us, care to wrap us up when we are wounded, and an abiding fire for the justice you are bringing.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace.

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

This Day

Bob Chilcott

(b. 1955)

Carolyn Lansom, *alto*

This day will you strength us, this day will you bless us.
This day will you lift us, visit us for good.
This day inscribe for us a happy, happy life. This day hear our cry.
This day accept our prayers in mercy and favour.
This day support us with your righteous hand.
This day accept our prayers in mercy and favour.
This day, this day.
This day will you lift us, visit us for good.
This day inscribe for us a happy, happy life. This day hear our cry.
Amen.

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

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter † keep you in peace. **Amen.**

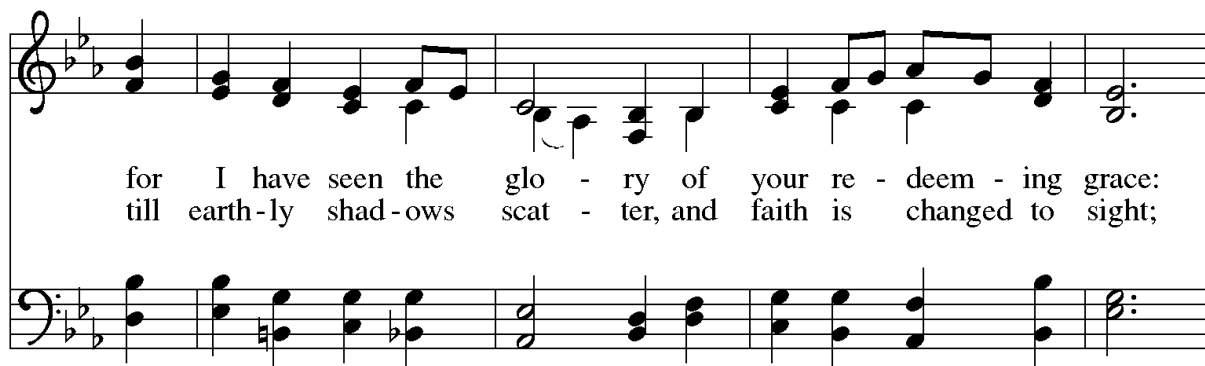
RECESSIONAL HYMN

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant “Kuortane”

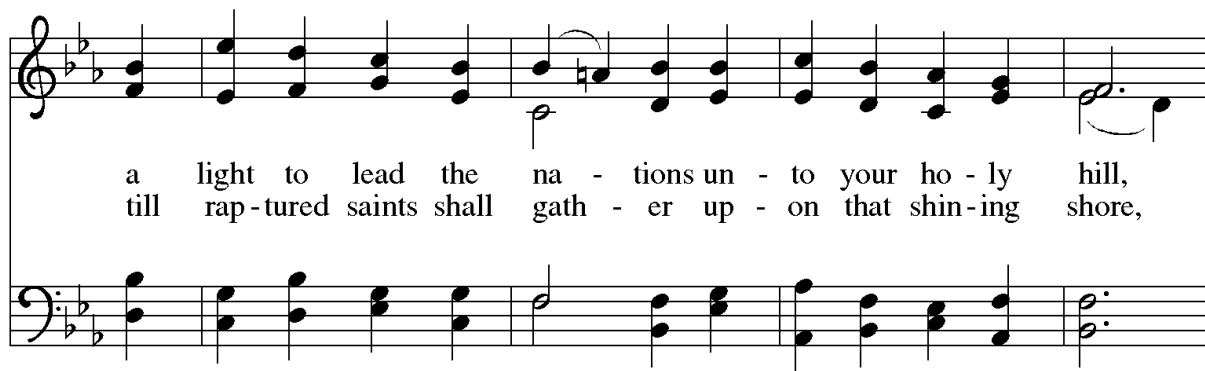
ELW 313



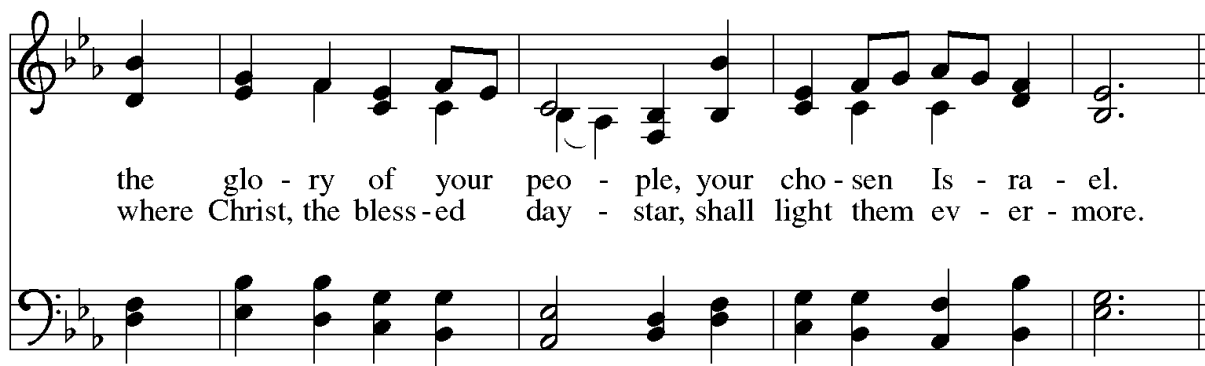
1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bells from Three Characteristic Pièces

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Earl Kunz from his kitchen crew, the Lenten Lunch Bunch.

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

On February 17 we will be offering a variety of ways to receive your ashes in a safe environment.

We will be holding our annual Ashes on Run which will take place on Main Street from 7:30am – 9:30am. Individual Q-tips will be used by the Pastors to bless each person.

There will also be two services in the Main Church, one at **Noon** and the other at **7:00pm**.

Both services will be also be Livestreamed. In order to keep everyone socially distanced, individual ashes will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKE ASHES AT HOME: Join us live on Facebook on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00pm as Pastor Lee demonstrates making ashes from old palm branches at home. To make your own ashes, gather together 1) any old palm branches; 2) a fireproof box or aluminum foil; 3) a match; 4) some olive oil. Instructions will be provided at our Facebook Live Event!

WIGGLY GRACE SPACE: This space, located to the left of the baptismal font, is intended especially for families with toddlers and preschoolers, recognizing that smaller kids are more engaged when they can see what is going on. Small tables and chairs, and age-appropriate soft toys help to keep our little ones occupied. The Wiggly Grace Space, as mentioned, is designed for toddlers/preschoolers (2-4 years of age) who are too old for nursery care (birth to 3 years) and not quite old enough for faith formation (Pre-K-12). This is a space that is more open than in the pew and just the right size for our littlest ones to move around and get their wiggles out! Here they can engage in age-appropriate activities while still experiencing worship in the sanctuary alongside their families and the whole community in Christ here at Holy Trinity. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to worship with their child(ren) when this space is being used. During COVID, the activities in the space will be limited and we ask that while in this space you continue to follow the HT COVID precautions (wear a mask, social distance, etc.).

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.

WINE AND CHOCOLATE PAIRINGS! Save the date for Thursday, February 11th at 7:30pm for a virtual wine and chocolate pairings event! For just \$60.00, this online event includes four bottles of wine and chocolates, available for pick up or delivery. Enter into our virtual tasting room for a guided experience with an expert from Addy's Fine Wine and Spirits. This makes a perfect gift for Valentine's Day! Register at our website wnylutherancharities.org.

BEER LOVERS UNITE! Give your taste buds a unique and exciting experience! For \$49 join us and a Master Brewer from Community Beer Works for an evening of fun you won't want to miss! Includes six beers (three flagship and three seasonal), house-made chips, and beer cheese. Register at www.wnylutherancharities.org.

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

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Gary Herrnreiter, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

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The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
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