



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church  
Buffalo, New York



*From “The People, Yes!”*

*By Carl Sandburg*

*The sea has fish for every man,  
Every blade of grass has its share of dew.  
The longest day must have its end.  
Man’s life? A candle in the wind, hoar-frost on stone.*

*Nothing more certain than death, and nothing  
more uncertain than the hour.  
Men live together like birds in the wood; when  
the time comes, each takes his flight.  
As wave follows wave, so new men take old men’s places.*

# A Service of Holy Communion

In Loving Memory  
of  
The Rev. John A. Buerk

December 27, 1932 – July 29, 2020

September 25, 2021  
11:00 a.m.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

*Rigaudon*

André Campra  
(1660–1744)

Voluntary on ‘*Deo Gratias*’

Charles Callahan  
(b. 1951)

*The Gift to Be Simple*

Based on the tune *Simple Gifts* American Shaker Melody

Dale Wood  
(1934 – 2003)

*Toccata* on Noël Nouvelet

Gordon Young  
(1919 – 1998)

*O Welt, ich Muss Dich Lassen* Opus 122, No. 3 + 11  
(O World, I Now Must Leave Thee)

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS*

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God "Ein Feste Burg"

ELW 504

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

## **WELCOME**

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother John, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

**We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

**We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

C:

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the  
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.  
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -  
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,  
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of  
God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
Glo - ry to God in the high -  
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Rev. Jeremiah Smith

Everlasting God, who abides amid the ceaseless tides of change which sweep away the generations of man!

In the springtime of the year when field and forest reawaken from the seeming death of winter, when earth and sky resound with the song of life reborn, a renewed faith and confidence surge through our hearts.

The clouds that darkened our spirits are dispelled by the miracle of reviving nature.

The gloom of the valley of the shadow is pierced by the light of thy presence.

Beyond the winter of death smiles thine eternal springtime.

It cannot be that in a world of unending life, we, thy children are given over to destruction; that fashioned in thine image we are doomed to annihilation.

The spirit, implanted within us, cannot be only a passing breath.

Thou art our dwelling place in life and in death.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, John. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

## THE FIRST READING

### Isaiah 25:6-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE PSALM

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup>*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

<sup>2</sup>*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside  
the still waters.*

<sup>3</sup>*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for  
his name's sake.*

<sup>4</sup>*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will  
fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort  
me.*

<sup>5</sup>*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

<sup>6</sup>*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*



## SECOND READING

### 1 John 4:7-12

A reading from the First Letter of John, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE ANTHEM

*The Gift To Be Simple*

Traditional Shaker Tune

Arr. Bob Chilcott  
(b. 1955)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,  
'tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,  
and when we find ourselves in a place just right,  
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,  
to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
to turn, turn will be our delight  
till by turning, turning we come round right.

*(Please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel, as you are able)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

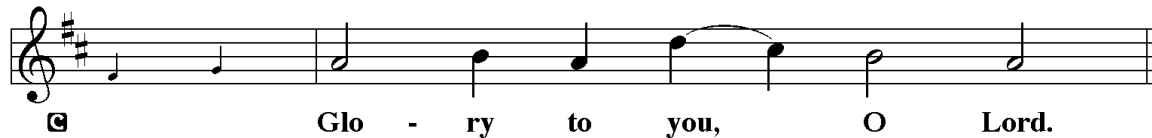


You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE GOSPEL

### GOSPEL: John 1:1-5, 10-13; 13:33-35

The holy gospel according to Saint John

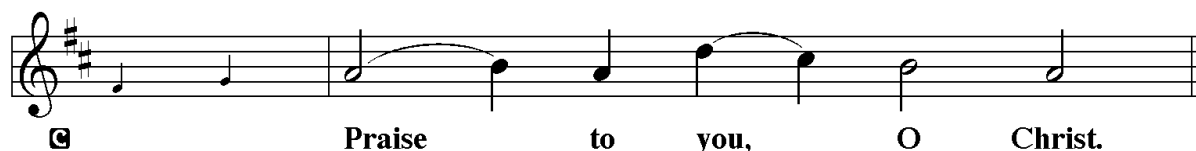


<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>13</sup><sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gosepl of the Lord.



*(Please be seated)*

# SERMON

The Rev. James Bresnahan

# REFLECTIONS

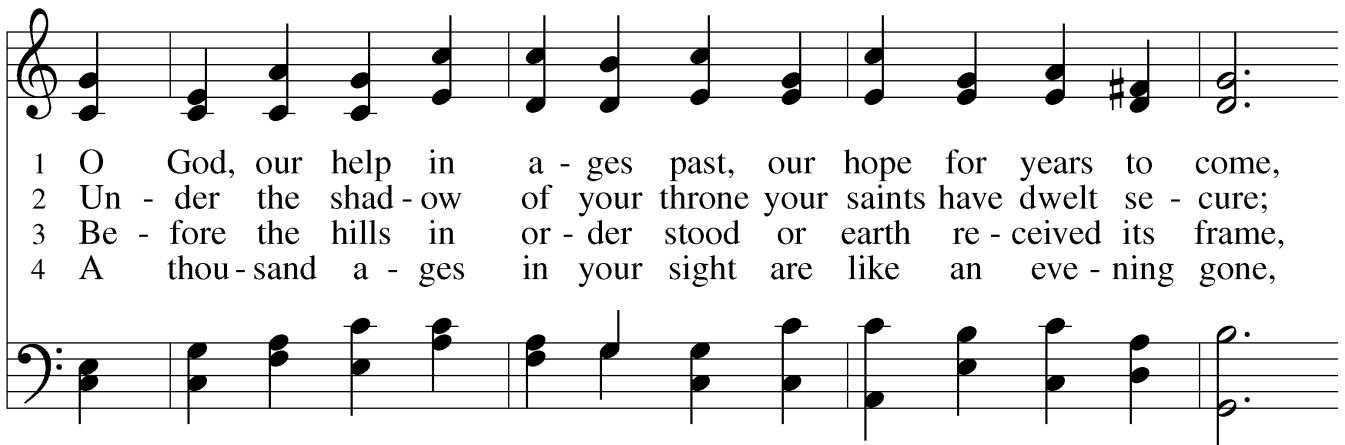
The Rev. Richard E. Zajac  
The Rev. James Bresnahan

*(Please stand, if you are able)*

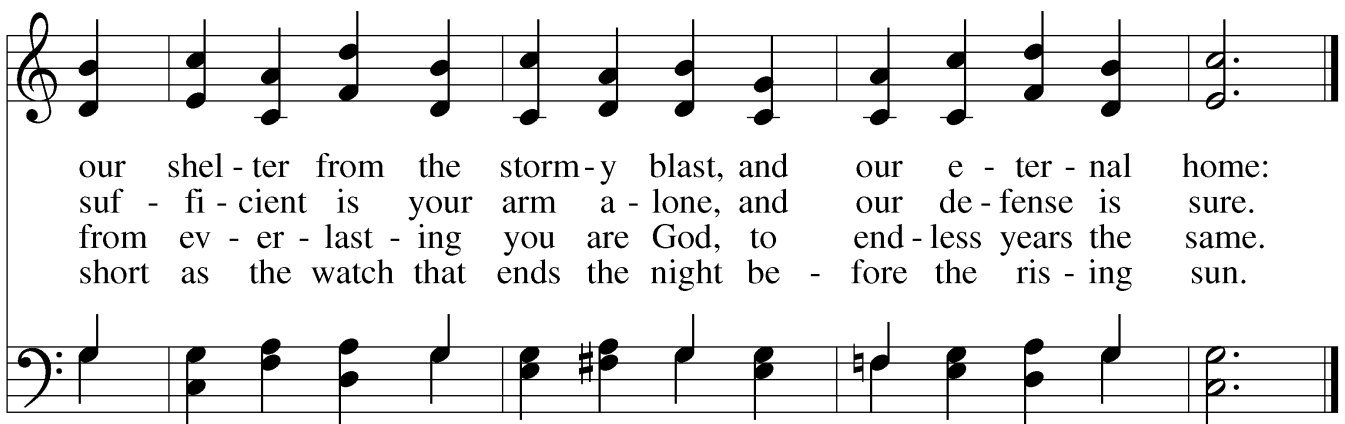
# HYMN

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past* “St. Anne”

LBW 320



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home!

## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Grant us grace to entrust John to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Into your hands, dear Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your promises, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THE PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**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.**

## AGNUS DEI



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.

*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

*Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion*

All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. In your pews you will find pre-packaged grape juice and wafers (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

## THE MOTET

*Os Justi*

Text: Psalm 37:30-31

Anton Bruckner

(1824 – 1896)

The just mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps do not slip. Amen. Amen.

## **THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

## **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please stand, if able.*

## **THE COMMENDATION**

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, John. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**Amen.**

*Words from Walt Whitman read by The Rev. James Bresnahan*



## **THE SENDING**

*As Pastor John prayed before every sermon, let us pray together:*

**“Lord,**

**Help us to become masters of  
ourselves, so that we may become the  
servants of others.**

**Take our lips and speak through  
them,**

**Our minds and think through them,**

**Our hearts, and set them on fire with  
Thy Holy Spirit. Amen.”**

## **THE BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Let us go forth in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

# THE CLOSING HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God* "Nun Danket Alle Gott"

ELW 840

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

*The Ringing of the Tower Bells*

**POSTLUDE**

*Nun Danket Alle Gott* BWV 79  
Arr. Virgil Fox (1912 – 1980)

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

*Please remain at your seat until the conclusion of the postlude*

*The family invites you downstairs to Redeemer Hall  
for a Reception*



Memorials given in loving memory  
of John may be made to:

Buffalo Chamber Music Society  
P.O. Box 349  
Buffalo, NY 14207



*Officiants*

*The Rev. Brenda Maynor  
The Rev. James Bresnahan  
The Rev. Richard E. Zajak  
The Rev. Jeremiah Smith*

*Ushers*

*Kurt and Mary Kaufmann  
Elizabeth Vihnanek*

*Organist*

*Kristen Pomietlarz*

*Many thanks to the Holy Trinity Chancel Choir  
Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster*

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