

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Buffalo, New York

Sunday, January 29, 2023 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Celebrating our 144th Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 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 creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.
We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions,

interpersonally and structurally. We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

We invite you to share your story and your worship experience! Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity. You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo, on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff

Large print bulletins are available at the entrance ways

INTRODUCTION

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Herr BWV 731

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Herr"

ELW 520



Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

(10:30) You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able.

Holy One, source of our renewal, we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of + Christ our Savior.

Amen.

(10:30) Please stand as you are able.

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.**

KYRIE



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Richard Neal

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

The first reading for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany is recorded in Micah, the 6^{th} Chapter.

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,

and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

- ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
- and I sent before you Moses,
 - Aaron, and Miriam.
- ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?
⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(8:30) THE ANTHEM

Creator of Beauty and Giver of Light Text: Beverly Easterling; Tune: *Nettleton*

Ellie Yap, *flute*

Mark Schweizer

(1956-2019)

Creator of beauty and giver of light, Who set the stars shining in dark sacred night; We offer our music with hearts full of praise, With joyful thanksgiving for all of our days.

In pastures of heaven, where green valleys sing, And high mountains echo, each prayer to our King; May this song, a gift forever be found, Now offered with grace, and eternity bound.

The journey of each soul remains in your care, Your guidance and faithfulness, always you share; Your spirit, within us, each strength that you send, Returned to your glory, a world without end.

Colleen Flynn, *flute*

(10:30) THE ANTHEM Soon Ah Will Be Done

African-American Spiritual Arr. William Dawson (1899-1990)

Soon ah will be done a-with the troubles of the world..., Goin' home to live with God. (*refrain*)

I want to meet my mother..., I'm goin' to live with God. (*refrain*)

No more weepin' and a-wailin'..., I'm goin' to live with God. (*refrain*)

I want to meet my Jesus..., I'm goin' to live with God. In the mornin' Lord! I'm goin' to live with God.

SECOND READING: 1st Corinthians 1:18-31

The second reading for today is recorded in 1st Corinthians, the 1st Chapter.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.

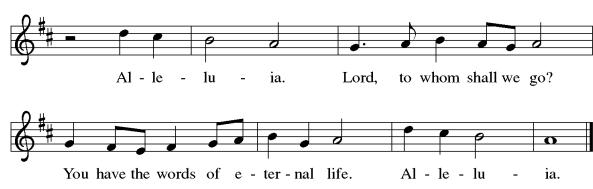
²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy gospel according to Saint Matthew



¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Richard Neal

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life "Walton"



- 5 O Master, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain; among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod; till glorious from your heav'n above shall come the city of our God.

THE 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, and justice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Give your life, strength, and wisdom to all in need and all those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses. Establish the cross as the center of our life together. We pray for all your beloved children, especially Hannah and Hayden. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

THE OFFERING

(8:30) OFFERING ANTHEM

The Beatitudes Text: Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(10:30) OFFERING ANTHEM

The Beatitudes (1991) Text: Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
Rejoice and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935) Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow "Old Hundredth" Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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.

PREFACE

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

ELW 885

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS 0 Lord God of pow'r and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, full heav'n and earth of are your glo ry. high - est. Bless - ed Ho - san - na in the is he who comes in the of the Lord. name Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

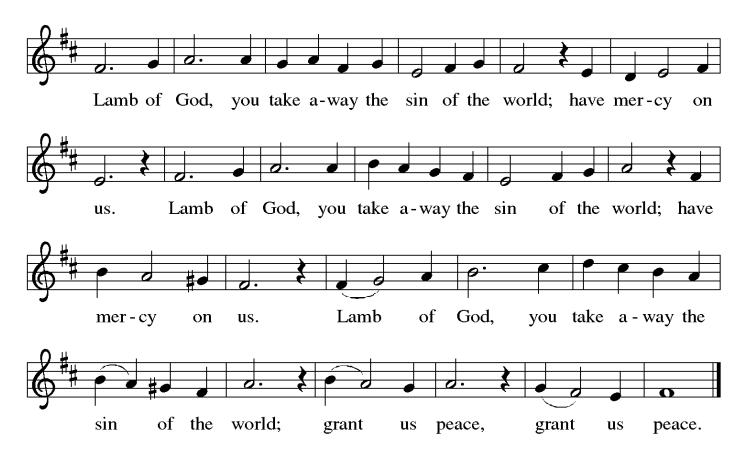
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

THE AGNUS DEI



Please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Beginning with those seated closest to the altar, you are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the presiding minister. Receiving the wafer in your hand, you are invited to dip or "intinct" the wafer into the chalice. There is wine in the silver chalice and grape juice in the ceramic chalice. For those who prefer, gluten-free wafers are available by simply asking the Pastor as you are served. Portable communion cups are also available for those who are not comfortable sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion in-person. Adults or children choosing not to receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord.

(10:30) COMMUNION ANTHEM

Christus est Stella Text: The Venerable Bede (673-735) Will Todd (b. 1970)

Erin Alexander, conductor

Christ is the morning star, Alleluia; who when the night of this world is past, Alleluia, promises and reveals to his saints, Alleluia, the everlasting light of life, Alleluia.

Please stand as you are able.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together. Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod + bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. Amen. **RECESSIONAL HYMN** *Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng!* "Marion"



- 5 Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array, as pilgrims through the darkness wend till dawns the golden day. *Refrain*
- 6 At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest; the pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

7 Praise him who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore: the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore. *Refrain* **THE DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune in C*

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

You are encouraged to take the bulletin home with you for future reference. Otherwise, please place them in the recycle bins at the entrance ways.

We invite you to join us downstairs in Redeemer Hall for refreshments and fellowship following the 10:30 Service.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, January 29, 2023 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion w/Chapel Choir (CH) 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR) 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC) 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery (SS) 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour (RH) MONDAY, January 30, 2023 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (FR) 6:00 p.m. Gamblers Anonymous (RH) **TUESDAY, January 31, 2023** 7:00 p.m. Community Music School Rehearsal (MC) WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023 7:00 p.m. Investment Meeting (RH) THURSDAY, February 2, 2023 10:00 a.m. Watercolor Class (RH) 6:00 p.m. Chapel Choir (CH) 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MC) 7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH) FRIDAY, February 3, 2023 7:30 p.m. Community Music School Concert (MC) SUNDAY, February 5, 2023 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH) 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR) 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC) 10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Nursery (SS) 11.30 a m Coffee Hour (RH)

	CH = Mansperger Chapel	CI = Crib Room	CR = Conference Room
	FR = Fellowship Room	FI = Fireside Room/Library	MC = Main Church
	MR = Music Room	PS = Pastor's Study	RH = Redeemer Hall
	SC = Sacristy	SS = Sunday School	YR = Youth Room



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer and reader is Todd Kroening. Usher and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Max Hakansson.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Linda Horton. Reader is Timothy Flynn. Ushers are Ron Leiser, Mike Day, Alan Heiss, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Marty Wright. Acolytes are Tim Yap, Ellie Yap, Morgan Leiser and Rowan Leiser.

Council Secretary Linda Horton will be at the Main Street entrance to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Hannah Dittmer and Hayden Domanski.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A big **Thank You** to everyone who helped with the Haiti Bake Sale. We want to give everyone who baked and bought items a heartfelt thank you. We were able to raise \$620.00 and we will be working with Caribbean Children's Foundation to determine best use for these funds. This would not have been possible without everyone's generosity. We have an amazing congregation, and this is yet one more example of how wonderful the HT family is! The Haiti Mission Team appreciates each and every one of you!

2023 MONDAY BIBLE STUDIES (9:30 a.m. session only) will continue tomorrow with our own David Ulrich who will present a multi-week program – "America's Sacred Texts: the divine and the profane in our civic religion." How religious thought and political realities have shaped many of the most important documents in United States history. Tomorrow's program will be "Examining the American Creed." All are welcome.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following dates are available - February 5th and 12th -1 or 2 vases. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for this or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at <u>msmarylschmidt@gmail.com</u> or 716-835-3325. Vases are \$50 each.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is available. 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 Mr. Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Jennifer Yap, President Kathy Crissey, Vice-President Fred Howard, Treasurer Linda Horton, Secretary

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown, Gail Camilleri, Christopher Huber, Karen Kolb, Pat Lonergan, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster <u>kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org</u> Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Richard Neal, Intentional Interim Pastor richneal@together.net

The Rev. Miranda Hammer, Part-Time Interim Pastor for the Nurturing of the Congregation <u>pastormiranda@holytrinitybuffalo.org</u>

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