



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Buffalo, New York
Thanksgiving Service
November 22, 2023
6:30 p.m.

VOLUNTARY

Peaceful Meditation

Paul Fey
(b. 1998)

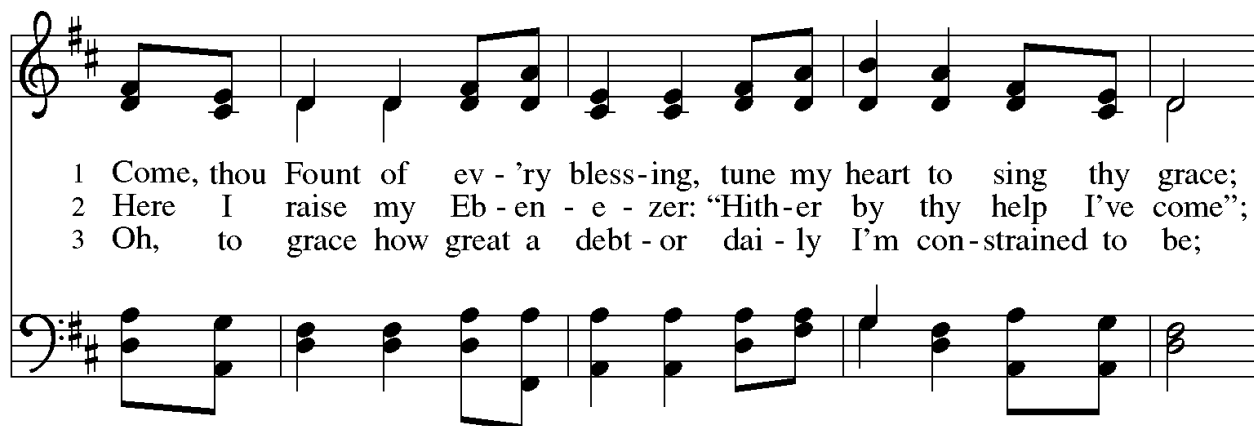
WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing "Nettleton"

ELW 807



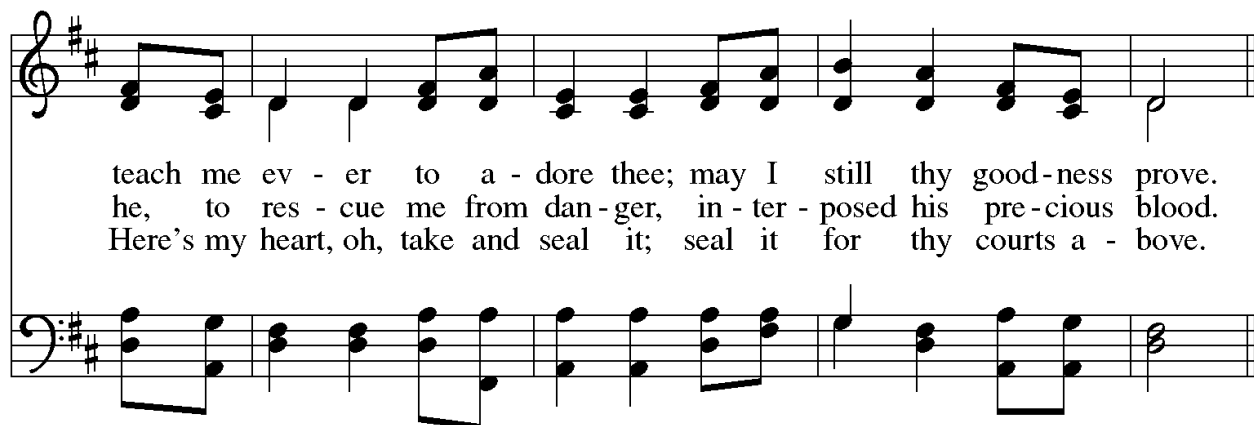
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

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.

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea:
we thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of all people, revealing the image of Christ:
we thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends:
we thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve:
we thank you Lord.

For health and strength to work and leisure to rest and play:
we thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity:
we thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice:
we thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places:
we thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord,
to him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 6:25-33

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew

[Jesus said,] ²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Jeff Wilson

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now Thank We All Our God “Nun Danket Alle Gott”

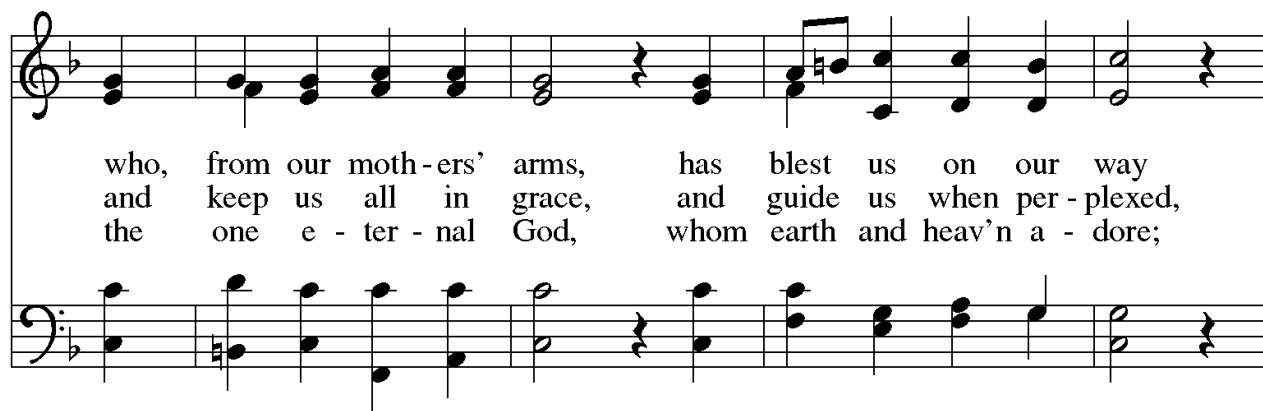
ELW 840



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 ever more.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

**We give thanks for the church in every land. Sustain the faithful with your living word. Inspire radical hospitality toward all who are searching, and call us into a more generous way of living. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the earth. Bring forth plentiful harvests and renew our commitment to share abundantly. Preserve the lands and waters that bring nourishment. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for leaders in our communities. Kindle a passion for justice and peace in every national and local elected official. Curb selfish impulses and guide us toward collaborative solutions. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for all who provide for others. Sustain caregivers, social workers, and volunteers in their efforts. Provide homes, food, employment, and medical care to all who are struggling. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for this congregation and those who plan worship. Guide deacons, pastors, musicians, and lay leaders in their creation of meaningful experiences. Instill in us a sense of joy and wonder when we come to worship you. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you. Teach us by their example and bring us with them into your loving embrace. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
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.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

As you have entrusted us with all that you have created,

now gather our gifts,

nourish us with this sacrament,

and send us to those who hunger and thirst,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

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.

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.

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.

Please stand as you are able.

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

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**We give you thanks, most gracious God,
that you have fed us with the bread of heaven
and given us a foretaste of Paradise.**

**Enliven us to be your body in the world
and to serve those who are in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

BLESSING

The God of peace,
who creates all things and calls them good,
who makes us alive in Jesus,
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

We Praise You, O God "Kremser"

ELW 870

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended; the service begins.
Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God is Our Strength and Refuge

Eric Coates (1886-1957)

Arr. J. Barnard (b. 1948)



A Blessed Thanksgiving to All!

Thank you to our guest organist, Doug Alderdice

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

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John Busch, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Charles Ryniec, *Steward of Buildings and Grounds*

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The Rev. Richard Neal, *Intentional Interim Pastor*

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