



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church  
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, March 16, 2025  
Second Sunday in Lent  
Celebrating our 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 10:30 am

*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.*

*Connection Card*

*The Connection Card insert gives you a direct connection to the leaders and ministry at Holy Trinity. Ask questions, share prayer requests, and find out more about the ministry here. Please return the top portion in the offering plate or to an usher.*



*Please see back page for AED Instructions*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*

## **PRELUDE**

*Take Care* from *Hudson Preludes*

Nico Muhly  
(b. 1981)

*RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(10:30)

## **INTROIT**

*We Are All Sons* (reprise)  
from *Considering Matthew Shepard*  
Text: Michael Dennis Browne (b.1940)

Craig Hella Johnson  
(b.1962)

Tenors and Basses of the Chancel Choir

Please see text in the accompanying *Considering Matthew Shepard* document.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*All Are Welcome* "Two Oaks"

ELW 641

## **PASTORAL GREETING**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(10:30)

*Please kneel or sit as you are able.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

(10:30)

*Please stand or sit 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

(10:30)

**A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN**

The Rev. Richard Neal

## **THE FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

The first reading for the Second Sunday in Lent is recorded in Genesis, the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(10:30)

## **THE ANTHEM**

*The Innocence*

Craig Hella Johnson

from *Considering Matthew Shepard*

(b.1962)

Text: Michael Dennis Browne (b.1940) and Craig Hella Johnson

Riley Nahlik, *tenor*

Please see text in the accompanying *Considering Matthew Shepard* document.

## **THE SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17--4:1**

The second reading for today is recorded in Philippians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Chapters.

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

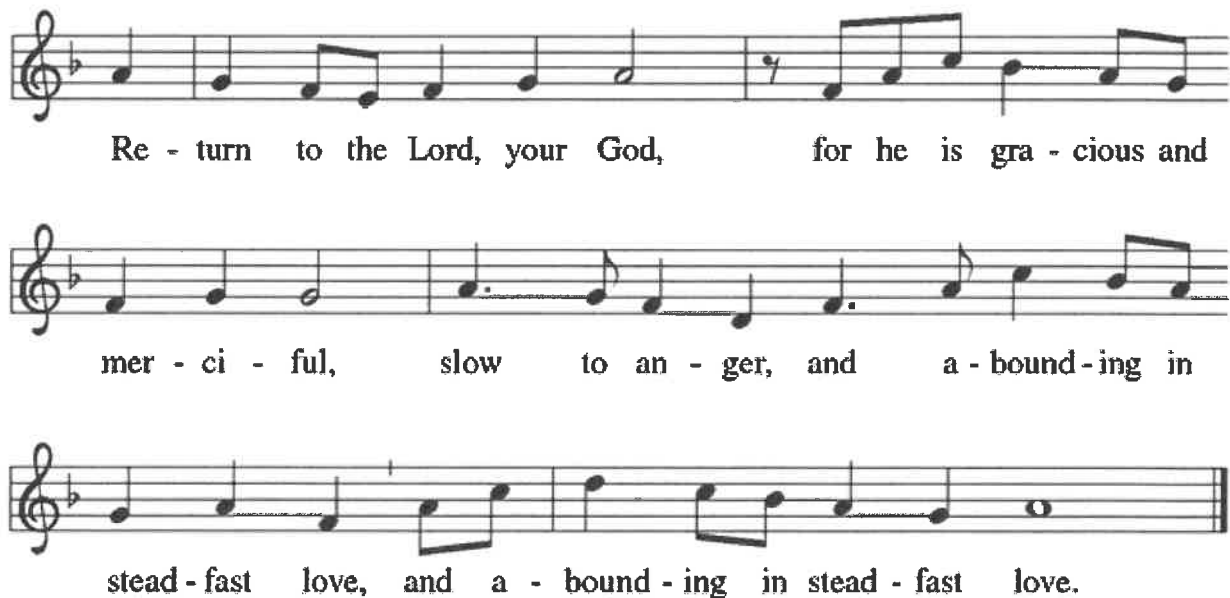
<sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE SERMON**

The Rev. Richard Neal

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult "Galilee"*

ELW 696

## **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 PASTOR AND PEOPLE**

Holy One, in the curve of our heart you have made a hollow place, a place of restlessness, discontent, and yearning. It is the cord of longing that draws us to the shelter of your wings. Open us now to that longing, as we join our spirits with yours in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call us to care faithfully for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and to safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. In our ministries, help us care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, especially Norma Horton, and for people living in fear or need and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts... . May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Help us be witnesses of reconciliation for communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, especially JoAnne and Sue. We give thanks, also, for Aidan, Ella, and Morgan, whose birthdays are celebrated through today's flower dedications. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## **THE OFFERING**



(8:30)

**THE SOLO**

*The Fence (Before)*

from *Considering Matthew Shepard*

Text: Lesléa Newman (b.1955)

Craig Hella Johnson

(b.1962)

Tim Flynn, *bass*

Please see text in the accompanying *Considering Matthew Shepard* document.

(10:30)

**THE ANTHEM**

*Fire of the Ancient Heart*

from *Considering Matthew Shepard*

Text: Michael Dennis Browne (b.1940) and Craig Hella Johnson

Craig Hella Johnson

(b.1962)

Tyler Huk, *tenor*

Please see text in the accompanying *Considering Matthew Shepard* document.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

**Gracious Provider,**

**you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.**

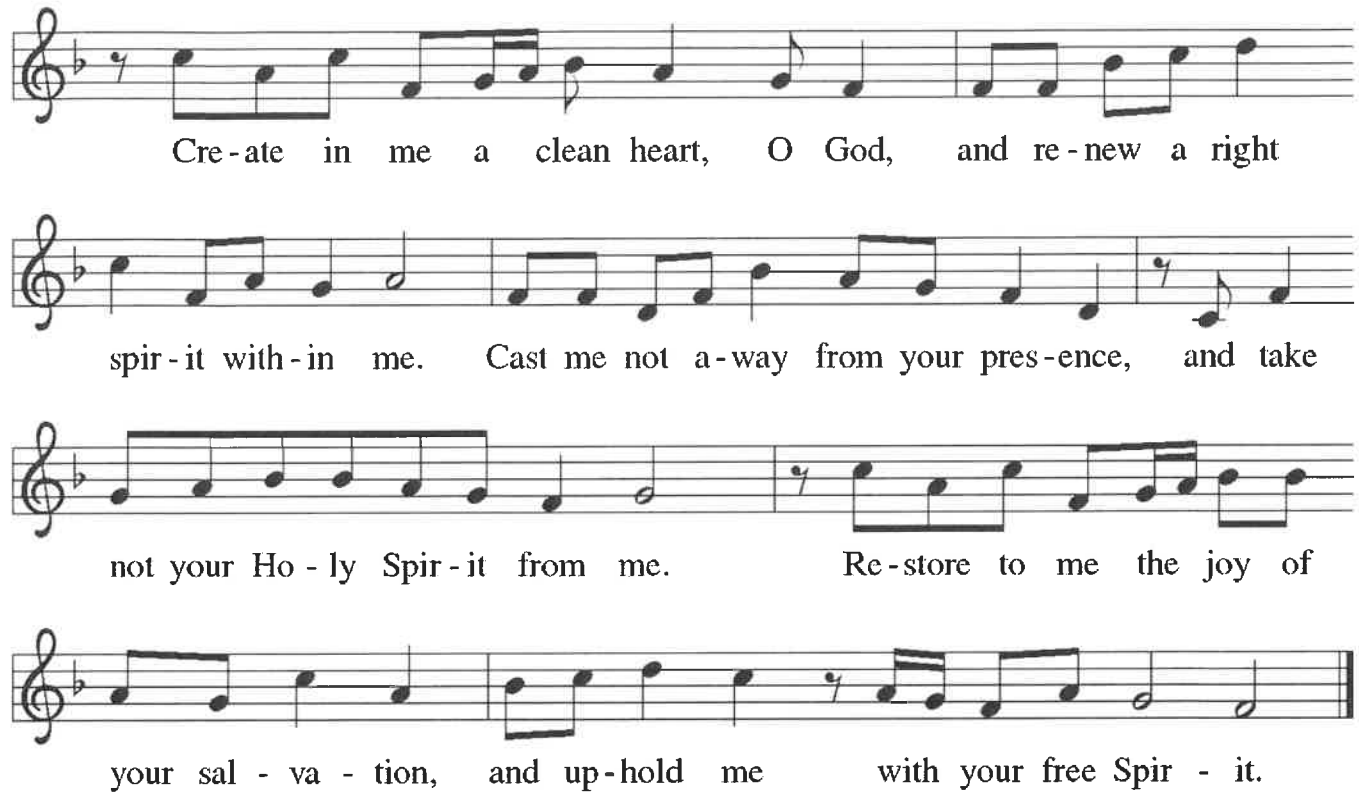
**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart* "Hillert"

ELW 186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## 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.

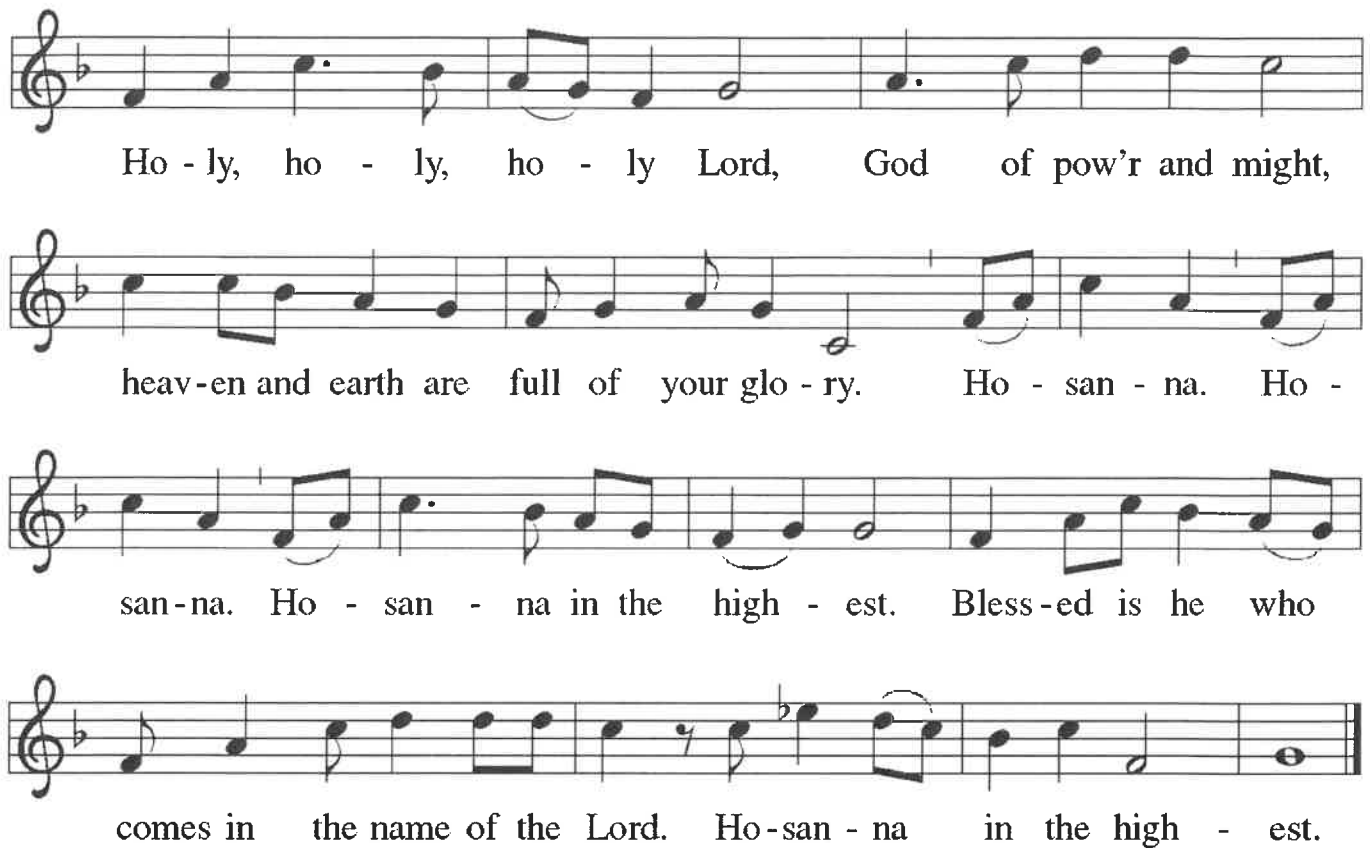
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right ...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

...

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
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.**

## 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.

*Please be seated.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### *Invitation to Communion*

*All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Come eat and drink; there is a place for you at the table of our Lord. Communion is received by "intinction" - you will be offered the wafer (gluten-free is available) and you dip the wafer into either the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice).*

*Pre-filled communion cups are also available for those who prefer less physical contact. People who do not receive communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Please advise an usher if you would like the pastors to bring communion to you in your pew.*

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

(8:30)

*The Fence (That Night)*

from *Considering Matthew Shepard*

Text: Lesléa Newman (b.1955)

Craig Hella Johnson

(b.1962)

Tim Flynn, *bass*

(10:30)

*Keep it Away From Me (The Wound of Love)*

from *Considering Matthew Shepard*

Text: Michael Dennis Browne (b.1940) and Craig Hella Johnson

Craig Hella Johnson

(b.1962)

Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano*

*Epilogue: Meet Me Here*

from *Considering Matthew Shepard*

Text: Craig Hella Johnson

Craig Hella Johnson

(b.1962)

Amie Adams, *soprano*

Please see texts in the accompanying *Considering Matthew Shepard* document.

*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.

**Generous Host,**

**you have shared your feast with us and made us new.**

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,**

**that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,**

**in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**



## **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

*We invite congregation members to share this holy meal with people who are unable to worship in person. Communion elements and a simple printed liturgy are available on the altar to guide you. Please take a bulletin with you to be able to easily share today's scripture and prayers with the meal.*

## **THE BENEDICTION**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* "Melita"

ELW 597

## **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

*The services conclude with the ringing of the bells  
throughout the Lenten season.*



*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.*



### **Stewardship – Far**

We thank all who made a donation to support  
the victims of the California wildfires.

## ***THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY***

### **SUNDAY, March 16, 2025 – Second Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30 am Service of Holy Communion (CH)
- 9:30 am Youth Choir (MR)
- 9:40 am Sunday Roundtable (FR)
- 10:30 am Service of Holy Communion (MC)
- 10:30 am Sunday School/Nursery (SS)
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour (RH)
- 1:45 pm Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus SSAA Rehearsal (CH)

### **MONDAY, March 17, 2025**

- 9:30 am Bible Study (FR)
- 6:00 pm Gamblers' Anonymous (RH)
- 7:00 pm Buffalo Niagara Choirs rehearsal (CH)

### **TUESDAY, March 18, 2025**

- 6:00 pm Finance and Investment Meeting (Zoom)

### **WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2025**

- 6:00 pm Vocalis Rehearsal (MC)
- 7:00 pm *Considering Matthew Shepard* Dress Rehearsal at WPC

### **THURSDAY, March 20, 2025**

- 10:00 am Watercolor Class (RH)
- 6:00 pm Lenten Supper and Study/Choir Dinner (RH)
- 7:00 pm AA/AL-ANON (RH)
- 7:00 pm *Considering Matthew Shepard* Dress Rehearsal at WPC

### **FRIDAY, March 21, 2025**

- 6:30 pm Pre-Concert Talk: *Considering Matthew Shepard* at WPC
- 7:30 pm *Considering Matthew Shepard* Performance at WPC

### **SATURDAY, March 22, 2025**

- 1:00 pm Wedding shower (RH)

### **SUNDAY, March 23, 2025 – Third Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30 am Service of Holy Communion (CH)
- 9:30 am Youth Choir (MR)
- 9:40 am Sunday Roundtable (FR)
- 10:30 am Service of Holy Communion (MC)
- 10:30 am Sunday School/Nursery (SS)
- 11:30 am Coffee Hour (RH)

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CH = Mansperger Chapel  
FR = Fellowship Room  
MR = Music Room  
SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room  
FI = Fireside Room/Library  
PS = Pastor's Study  
SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room  
MC = Main Church  
RH = Redeemer Hall  
YR = Youth Room

At 8:30 am the announcer and reader is Richard Lee. Ushers and altar guilds are Gail Camilleri and Heidemarie Kunz. Acolyte is Henry Flynn.

At 10:30 am the announcer is Paul Bauchle. Reader is Sarah Rider. Ushers are Paul Biesinger, Doug Alderdice, Paul and Karen Bauchle and Karen Kolb. Communion Assistant is Elizabeth Vihnanek. Chancel Care member is Martha Kutas. Acolytes are Griffin Miller, Saniyah Gilchrist, Henry Peterson, Max Peterson, Natalie Leiser, Mer'Liah Gilchrist and Maia Leiser.

Collection Counters are Paul and Karen Bauchle and Tom Johnson.

The flowers on the altar are given

In Loving Memory of JoAnne and Sue from Paul Biesinger; and

In Honor of our grandchildren Aidan and Ella, whose birthdays are in March, from Larry and Barb Wozniak; and

In Celebration of our granddaughter Morgan's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 22 from Ron and Donna Leiser.

Council Member Paul Bauchle will be at the entrance to address any questions or concerns you may have this morning.



## 2025 Lenten and Easter Worship

### **Lenten Supper and Study (Thursdays 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10)**

6:00 pm      Soup and bread supper and discipleship conversation  
“In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” God’s words to Isaiah are God’s words to us. We find wholeness and strength when we ground ourselves in our source of life and live as God created us to live, with authenticity and integrity. During this series, we’ll consider the life we are already living by God’s grace, as individuals and as a congregation, and discuss how we can embody that life more authentically.

### **Palm Sunday, April 13**

8:30 am      Service of Holy Communion with Chapel Choir  
10:30 am      Service of Holy Communion with Chancel Choir

### **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

12:00 pm      Holy Communion/stripping of the altar  
7:00 pm      Holy Communion/stripping of the altar/Chancel Choir

### **Good Friday, April 18**

12:00 pm      Tenebrae Service  
7:00 p.m.      Tenebrae Service with Chancel Choir

### **Easter Sunday, April 20**

8:30 am      Festival Service of Holy Communion  
9:00 a.m.      Easter Breakfast by the Fellowship & Hospitality Team  
9:45 a.m.      Pre-service music  
10:30 a.m.      Festival Service of Holy Communion with  
Choir, Brass, Harp and Organ

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLANT SALE:** Order forms for the annual plant sale fundraiser are now available! Copies are available on the tables outside the church and chapel or by calling the church office. **Important dates: Sunday, March 30: Deadline to hand in order form with payment. Saturday, May 17: Pickup (11:30am-12:30pm) and planting of church grounds.**

Volunteers of all ages are needed to help with the organization and distribution of the plant orders starting around 9am on May 17. If you would like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Jen Yap, Elizabeth Vihnanek or the church office.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** The Worship Committee has once again arranged for lilies to be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday. If you would like to place a lily in the chancel, order forms may be found in the newsletter, in the weekly email or on the tables at the entrance ways. The cost is \$12.00 per plant.

**LENTEN DEVOTIONALS** are available and can be found on the tables at the entrance ways. Feel free to take one.

**THE HT CARES TEAM** is hosting a Life Transition Part 2 Workshop on Saturday, March 29 from 8:30am –2:00pm. This workshop will include information on handling the stages of grief, managing funeral home and cemetery preparations, and elder life real estate concerns. A suggested donation of \$5 is payable at the door. Join us for this important conversation. Please register by using the QR code or calling the church office. We look forward to seeing you.



**NEW MEMBERS' & INQUIRERS' CLASS:** Are you considering becoming a member at Holy Trinity? Pastor Jeff welcomes you to a conversation about Lutheranism, Christianity, and membership on Sunday, May 18 at 12:30pm in the Church Office Conference Room. Those who would like to join will be received into membership on Sunday, June 1. If you have questions or would like to attend this engaging class, please contact the church office at [info@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:info@holytrinitybuffalo.org) or 716-886-2400.

**FIRST COMMUNION CLASS:** If you have a child who has not received First Communion, Pastor Jeff is planning a First Communion class. We have tentatively scheduled the class for Saturday, May 10, from 9:00am - 12:00pm in Redeemer Hall, and the tentative date for them to receive their First Communion on Sunday, May 18, at the 10:30am service. These dates will be firmed up over the next few weeks. We ask that at least one parent, godparent, or grandparent attend. To register or for questions, please contact the church office at [info@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:info@holytrinitybuffalo.org) or 716-886-2400.

**MEMORIAL BRICK** dedications are available. Our fountain terrace is the space on our north lawn alongside Main Street and provides a gathering space for the community all around us. Memorial Bricks may be reserved and dedicated in the memory of, or honor of, a loved one. Order forms for the bricks may be found on the tables at the entrance ways or by calling the church office.

**LUTHERAN CHARITIES AWARDS DINNER** will be held on Friday, May 2 at 6:00pm at Ripa's Italian Restaurant. Tickets are \$60 per person. Join us for this special event as we congratulate our own Jen Yap who will be receiving The Maji Award. **Please register and pay online by March 20** at [www.wnylutherancharities.org](http://www.wnylutherancharities.org). Please call the church office with any questions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jimmy Bigham who will turn 80 on March 23. If you would like to send a card to help him celebrate, his address is 262 ½ Summer Street, Buffalo, NY 14222.

**BLESSING BAGS COLLECTION:** Since many of you have asked to have more of these bags made to share with others, during this Lenten season we are asking Holy Trinity members and friends to contribute items so that Blessing Bags can be made available to those who are in need in our communities. The following items will be collected thru Easter Sunday and can be placed at Kahler's Korner (located near the Church Office beneath Dr. Kahler's portrait): water bottles, granola-type nutrition bars, cheese-and-cracker packets, toothbrush kits, wet wipes, small tissue packs, lip balms, small hand sanitizers and bandages. If you can, please donate any of these items. We also hope to collect \$5 gift cards from Wendy's, McDonald's or Tim Horton's to place in each bag. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. We will assemble the bags during coffee hour on Sunday, May 4, for you to take and distribute whenever you see a need.

THE HT YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE has been working hard to offer a variety of youth events over the past few months. Attendance at these events has varied and we would like to hear from families about how we are/are not meeting the needs of our youth. Your feedback is important and will help guide this ministry forward. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us regarding the activities, scheduling, and communication of HT Youth events. If you have any questions or would like more information about the survey or youth events, please reach out to Christina Ruggeri ([christina.ruggeri@holytrinitybuffalo.org](mailto:christina.ruggeri@holytrinitybuffalo.org)).





**ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING:** Holy Trinity will be hosting a 60-minute **Active Shooter Training** session on Sunday, April 27th, in Redeemer Hall starting at 12:00 noon, or after coffee hour. Dana Estrada, from Niagara University, will be our guest trainer. All are invited!

**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 date is available - Easter Sunday, April 20. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for this or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at [msmarylschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:msmarylschmidt@gmail.com) or on her cell 716-472-4194. Vases are currently \$50.00 each.

**CRISIS SERVICES:** For anyone feeling down, lonely, or depressed, Crisis Services is available. Their hotline number is 716-834-3131 and is 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.

# Considering Matthew Shepard

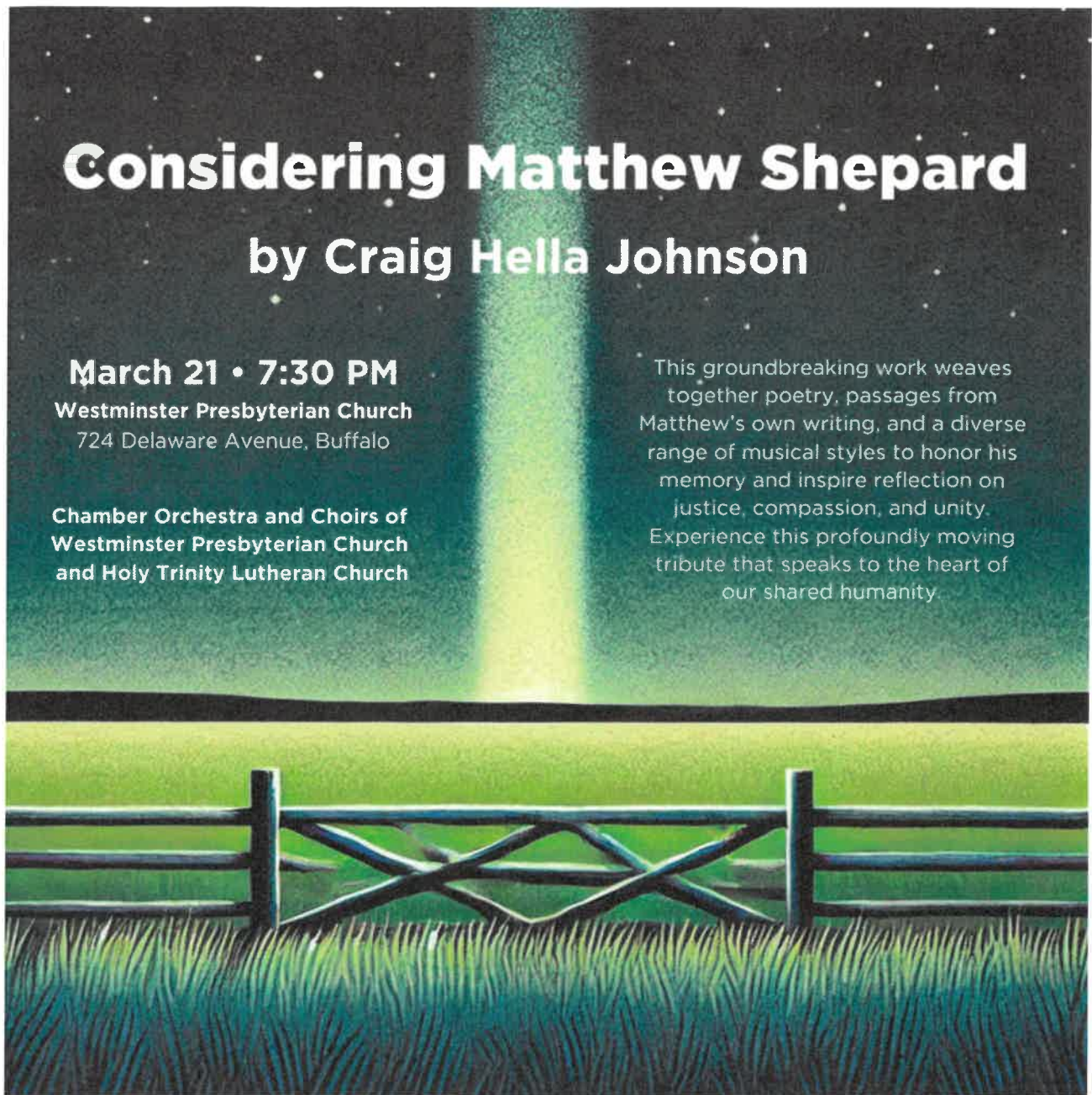
by Craig Hella Johnson

**March 21 • 7:30 PM**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
724 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo

**Chamber Orchestra and Choirs of  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

This groundbreaking work weaves together poetry, passages from Matthew's own writing, and a diverse range of musical styles to honor his memory and inspire reflection on justice, compassion, and unity. Experience this profoundly moving tribute that speaks to the heart of our shared humanity.



The Choirs of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church are combining to present the WNY premiere of the monumental contemporary oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard*.

The performance will be Friday, March 21st at 7:30 pm,  
at Westminster Presbyterian Church  
724 Delaware Avenue

The work *Considering Matthew Shepard* is a modern-day oratorio—told through music, poetry, and singing—that reflects on and responds to the devastating events that led to Matthew Shepard's heartbreaking death. His life and legacy are compassionately explored in this groundbreaking work by Craig Hella Johnson.

# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*All Are Welcome* "Two Oaks"

ELW 641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:  
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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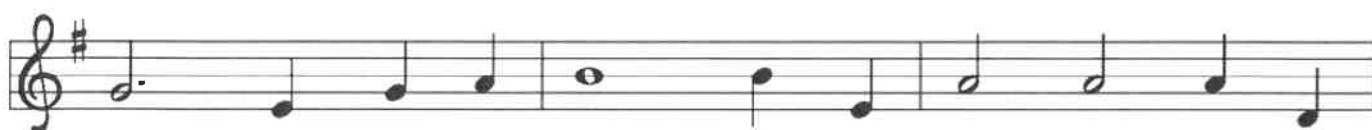
# SERMON HYMN

*Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult "Galilee"*

ELW 696



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our  
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the  
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice  
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and  
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"  
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.  
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895

Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* "Melita"

ELW 597



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

## *Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

## ***HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP***

### **Congregational Council**

Linda Horton, *President*

Kathy Crissey-Biesinger, *Vice-President*

Karen Maricle, *Treasurer*

Christopher Huber, *Secretary*

Paul Bauchle, Matthew Brown,  
Gail Camilleri, Karen Kolb, Todd Kroening,  
Martha Kryszczuk, Sally Pellnat and Raúl Saona

### **Staff Contacts for Programs and Services**

Linda Lipczynski, *Office Manager*  
info@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Carol Littlefield, *Parish Accountant*

Andrew Kraus, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*

Charles Ryniec, *Steward of Buildings and Grounds*

Johnetta Kenner, *Security*

Kristen Pomietlarz, *Organist* | Justin Pomietlarz, *Choirmaster*  
kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Erin Alexander, *Assistant Conductor, Youth Choir Director*  
youthchoir@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, *Lead Pastor*  
pastorwilson@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Richard Neal, *Pastor for Parish and Spiritual Development*  
pastor.rich@holytrinitybuffalo.org

**For CARDIAC EMERGENCIES:**

Our Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)  
is located in the Sacristy on the wall near the window.  
Look for the First Aid and AED sign near the top of the door to the Sacristy.  
Exit the Sanctuary next to the Angel Lectern.  
The Sacristy will be the first room on the left.  
Coming from other areas of our building,  
go up the stairs toward the Main Church and turn left.

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**(716) 886-2400 phone / (716) 884-7505 fax**  
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