

WELCOME TO  
HOLY TRINITY

## MASS | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025**

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the largest progressive Lutheran body in the United States. As Lutherans, we go about Christianity in a Lutheran way, emphasizing that we are reconciled with God (justified) not by anything we do, but through and because of God's love, freely given (grace). We love questions more than quick fixes (paradox), and we read the Bible in a way that honors it as the source and norm of faith, but not as a literal handbook. As Lutherans, we also lift up the gifts and capacity for ministry (vocation) that every person unquestionably holds.

As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation (and the first in the Metropolitan New York Synod), Holy Trinity welcomes all persons, including all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Holy Trinity is also committed to practicing racial equity, learning anti-racism, and modeling radical hospitality and inclusion across age, class, national origin, physical and mental health and ability, family configuration, and language.

With a heart for the city, a passion for justice, and a commitment to the arts, we seek to be a place where all God's people will know they are loved. Welcome. We've been waiting for you. There is a place for you here.

GIVE ONLINE

If you contribute to the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity through online giving, please pick up an "I give online" card from an usher to participate in the offering as the offering plates are passed.

LIVE STREAMING  
AT HOLY TRINITY

Please be aware that worship this morning is being filmed, photographed, and live streamed on our YouTube channel. Your likeness and/or voice may be captured by our equipment. Please alert an usher at the entrance if you have any concerns. Selections from this live stream may be used on our website and in our public relations materials.

PLEASE NOTE

Weapons, including firearms, knives, scissors, aerosols such as pepper spray and mace, and any hazardous materials are strictly prohibited on church property. All bags are subject to inspection upon entry into the sanctuary.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

ASSISTING MINISTERS	<b>Marlin Kinzey &amp; Susan Hannah</b>
ALTAR GUILD	<b>Susan Hannah</b>
LECTOR	<b>Scott Merrell</b>
USHERS	<b>Jeff Juliar &amp; Scott Merrell</b>
DIGITAL SACRISTAN	<b>Tom Barritt</b>
COFFEE HOUR	<b>Susan Hannah</b>
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC	<b>Austin Philemon</b>
PASTOR	<b>The Reverend Timothy Weisman</b>

Today's altar flowers are given by Susan Hannah in loving memory of her husband Ed on the 4th anniversary of his death on December 4.

## GATHERING

prelude                      Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659                      J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

confession &  
forgiveness                      In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly may kneel or stand.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The presider announces God's forgiveness.*

*At the entrance of the cross, the assembly rises in body or spirit; turn to face the cross in procession, bowing in reverence to the cross as the procession passes by.*

*During the hymn, the first two candles of the Advent wreath are lit.*

processional hymn  
#244

“Rejoice, rejoice, believers”

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

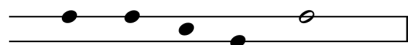
the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

greeting  
(2 corinthians 13:14)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion  
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



And al - so with you.

hymn of praise  
(by Regina Fryxell, from the  
Lutheran Hymnal 1958)

*Cantor* *Assembly*

Glo - - ry be to God on high! And on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glo - ri - fy you,

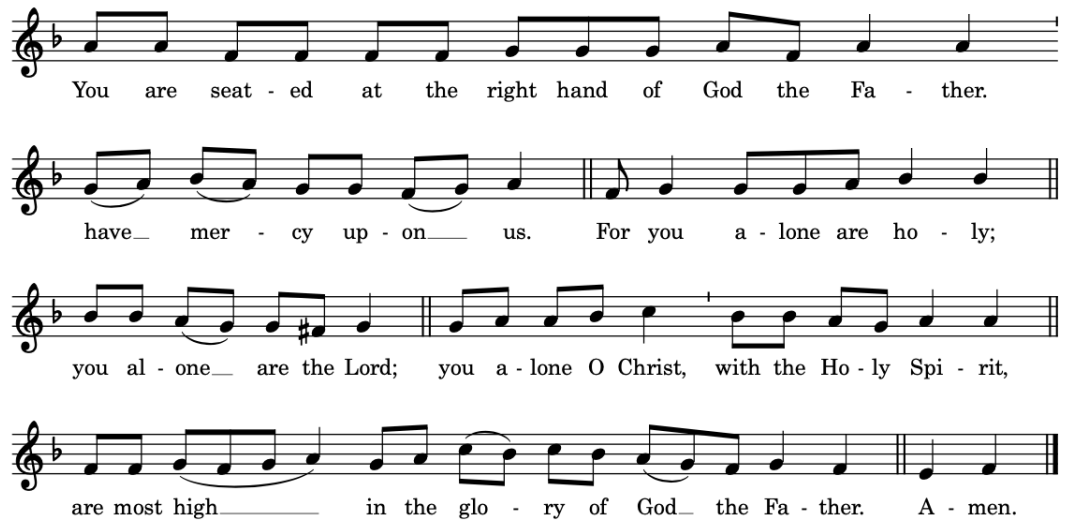
we give thanks to you for your great glo - ry, O Lord God, heav'n - ly King,

God the Fa - ther Al - might - y. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

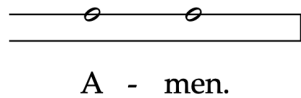
you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

You take a - way the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



prayer of  
the day

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*The assembly sits.*

## WORD

from the  
hebrew  
scriptures

Isaiah 11:1-10

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the  
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Silence is kept.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God**



*[Give the] king your jus- | tice, O God,  
and your righteousness to | the king's son;  
that he may rule your | people righteously  
and the | poor with justice;*

that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,  
and the | hills, in righteousness.

Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,  
from one generation | to another.

Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,  
like showers that | water the earth.

In his time may the | righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon | shall be no more.  
Blessed are you, Lord God, the | God of Israel;  
you a- | lone do wondrous deeds!

And blessed be your glorious | name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. | Amen. Amen.

from the  
christian  
scriptures

Romans 15:4-13

<sup>4</sup> Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the

promises given to the ancestors <sup>9</sup> and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

<sup>11</sup> and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Silence is kept.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*

gospel  
acclamation



*The choir sings:* Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4,6)



from the  
holy gospels

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The assembly is invited to make a small cross over your forehead, lips, and chest, inviting Jesus the Word into your heart, mind, and speech.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’ ”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, <sup>9</sup>and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

sermon

The Reverend Canon Cricket Cooper

*Silence is kept after the sermon. The assembly stands to sing.*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

the apostles'  
creed  
(4th century)

**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.**

*The assembly kneels or sits to pray.*

prayers of the  
people

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The assembly responds to each petition.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

prayer for  
racial justice  
(W. E. B. Du Bois)

In the midst of life and deeds it is easy to have endurance and strength and determination, but your Word, O Lord, teaches us that this is not enough to bring good to the world. For this we must endure to the end: to learn to finish things and bring them to full fruition. We must not be content with plans, ambitions, and resolves, but be set and determined to fulfill the promise and complete the task. Give us then, O God, to resist today the temptation of shirking, and the grit to endure to the end, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

the peace  
(john 20:19)

*The assembly may bow, mirroring the presider.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly is invited to pass the peace in whatever way is most comfortable to them. If you, for any reason, wish to avoid physical contact during the peace, please feel free to cross your arms over your chest to indicate your desire for a verbal greeting. Following the peace, the assembly sits.*

## M E A L

*In addition to giving towards the ministry of Holy Trinity as the offering plates are being passed, you can*

- Scan the QR code to the right;
- Venmo @holytrinitynyc;
- Send a Zelle to office@holytrinitynyc.org;
- Give to Holy Trinity through a Donor-advised Fund by searching for our EIN: 13-1685538.



offertory

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Michael Wise (1648-1687)

*Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God, ev'ry valley shall be exalted and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places shall be made plain.*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together  
And the voice said cry, (What shall I cry?) all flesh is grass, and the  
goodliness thereof is as a flower that is in the field*

*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth but the word of the Lord shall stand  
fast forever O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings get thee up into the mountains*

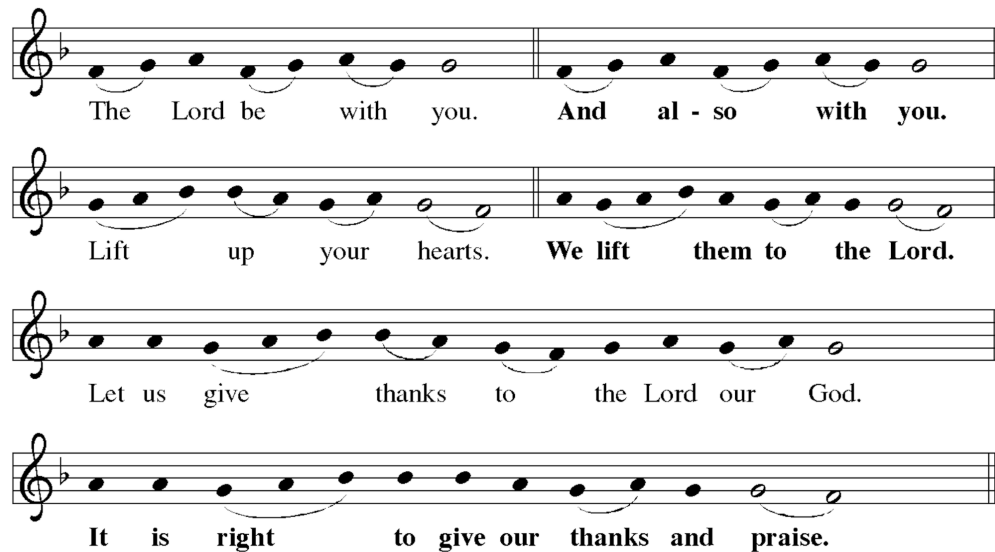
*O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings lift up thy voice with strength and say  
unto Judah, "behold thy God"*

offertory  
prayer

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly may bow, mirroring the presider.*

the great  
thanksgiving



the proper  
preface

*The presider continues: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you. . . and so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn. . .*

sanctus

(by Regina Fryxell, from the  
Lutheran Hymnal 1958)



eucharistic  
prayer

Blessed are you, O God, for you alone do wondrous deeds. You have spoken through the mouths of the prophets. You have remembered your covenant. You have prepared the way of our salvation by raising for us a Savior from the house of your servant David.

In his birth, life, ministry, and death, Jesus revealed to us the fullness of your mercy and the extent of your grace, and in his resurrection, you have given us the knowledge of our salvation so that we too might serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days.

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.      *The assembly may bow.*

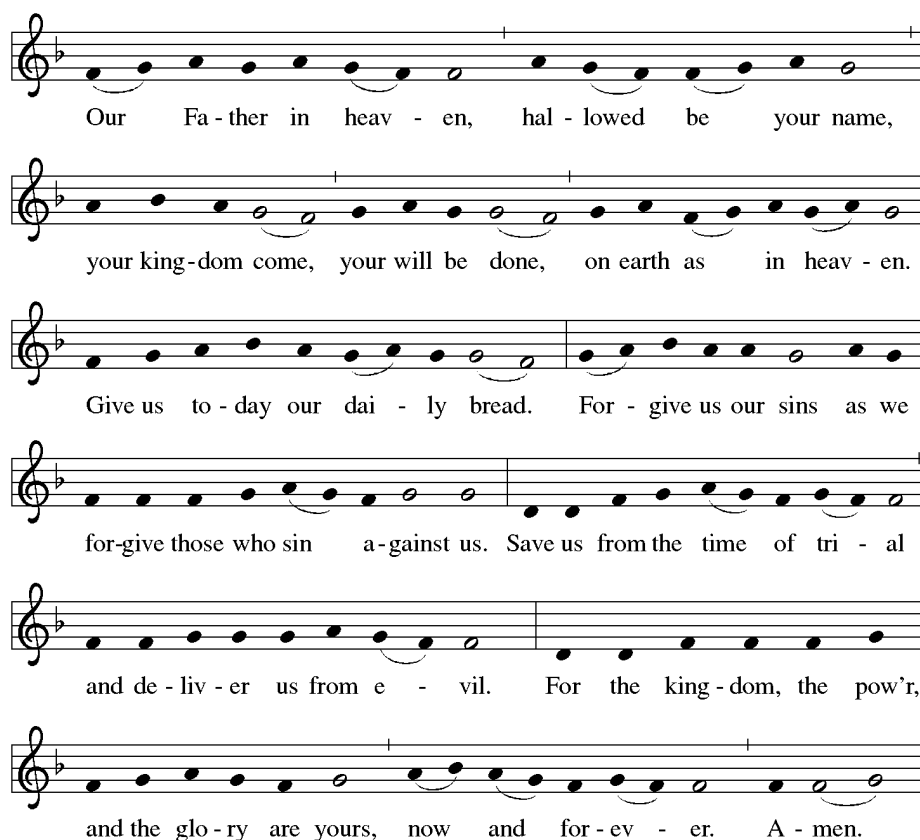
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.      *The assembly may bow.*

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

As your Spirit once rested upon your Son, send down that same Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of our Jesus Christ Lord.

Bring us to that day when the wolf and lamb will lie down together and when all of creation, from the depths of the sea to the height of the mountains, will know the peace to which your Son shall lead. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. And let the church say, **Amen!**

the lord's  
prayer  
(Matthew 6:9-13)



the invitation  
(psalm 34:8)

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good. **Thanks be to God!**

*The assembly sits until invited forward by an usher.*

*All are welcome at this table. This is not a Lutheran, Episcopal, or a Roman Catholic table; it is God's table and all are invited to receive. The small cups contain either white wine or red grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available, just ask. After receiving, you may leave your empty cup on the table near the side aisle. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing, and you may indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. You may also remain in your seat during distribution, knowing that this table is open when you are ready.*

communion  
motet

“O”: III. O Adonai, IV. O Radix Jesse

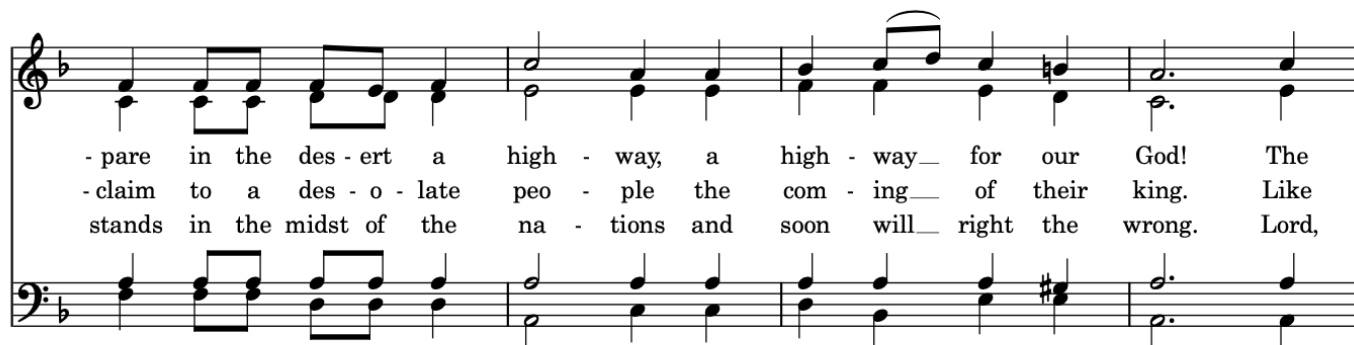
Thomas Hyde (b. 1978)

*O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:  
come to rescue us with your mighty power!*

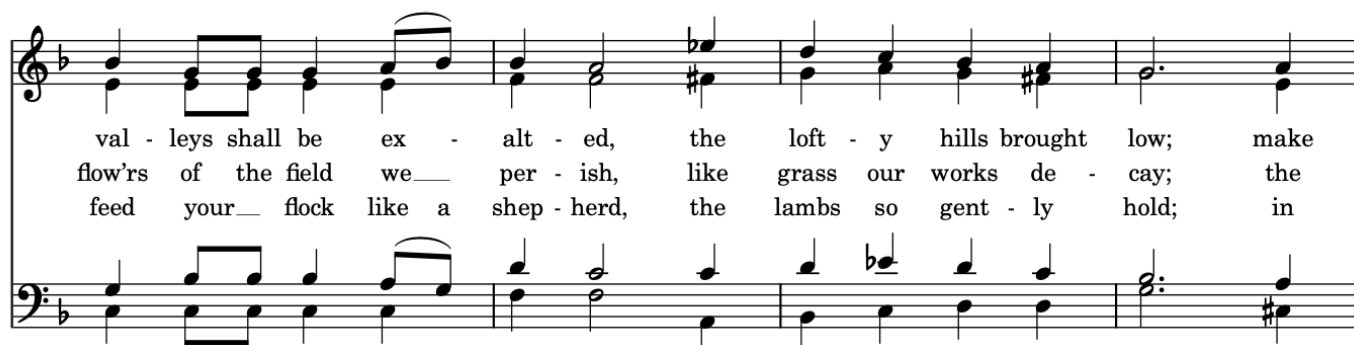
*O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people:  
come to save us without delay!*



1. There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a call from the ways un - trod: Pre -  
 2. O Je - ru - sa - lem her - ald good tid - ings, as - cend to the heights and sing! Pro -  
 3. But the word of our Sav - ior is faith - ful, the arm of our God is strong, who



- pare in the des - ert a high - way, a high - way\_ for our God! The  
 - claim to a des - o - late peo - ple the com - ing\_ of their king. Like  
 stands in the midst of the na - tions and soon will\_ right the wrong. Lord,



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the loft - y hills brought low; make  
 flow'rs of the field we\_ per - ish, like grass our works de - cay; the  
 feed your\_ flock like a shep - herd, the lambs so gent - ly hold; in



straight all the crook - ed pla - ces where God, our\_ God, may go!  
 pow'r and the pomp of na - tions shall pass like a dream a - way.  
 pas - tures of peace now lead them, and bring them\_ to your fold.



*The assembly stands.*

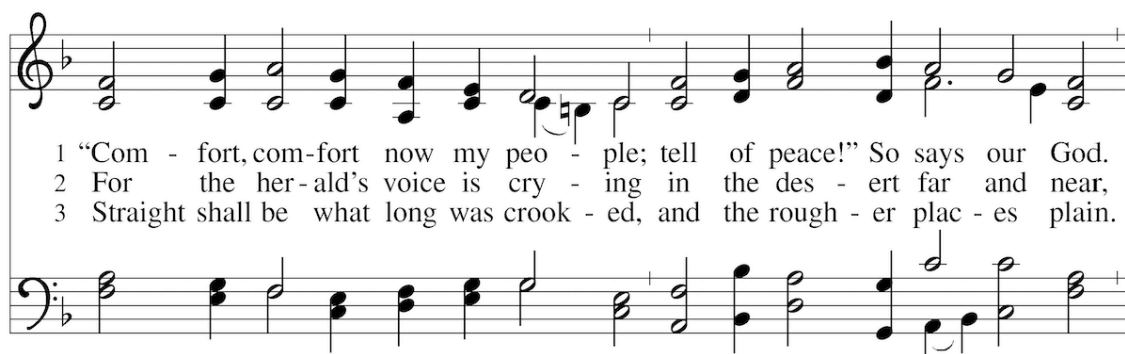
prayer after  
communion

**Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

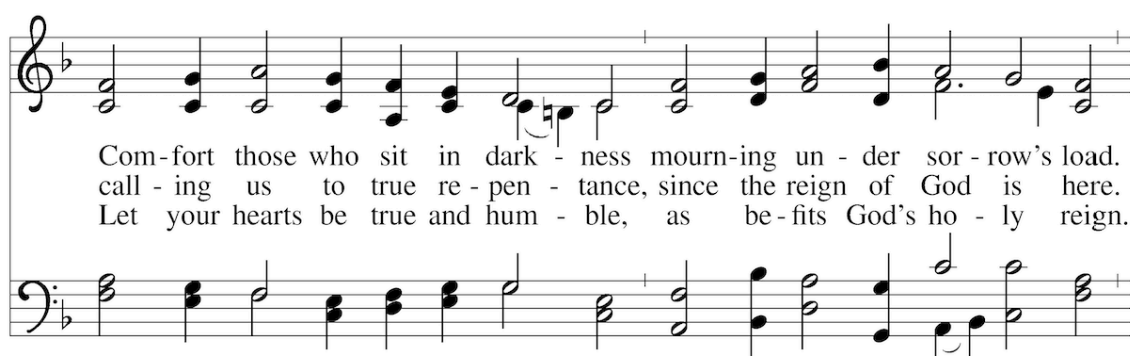
## SENDING

final blessing  
(1 Thessalonians 5)

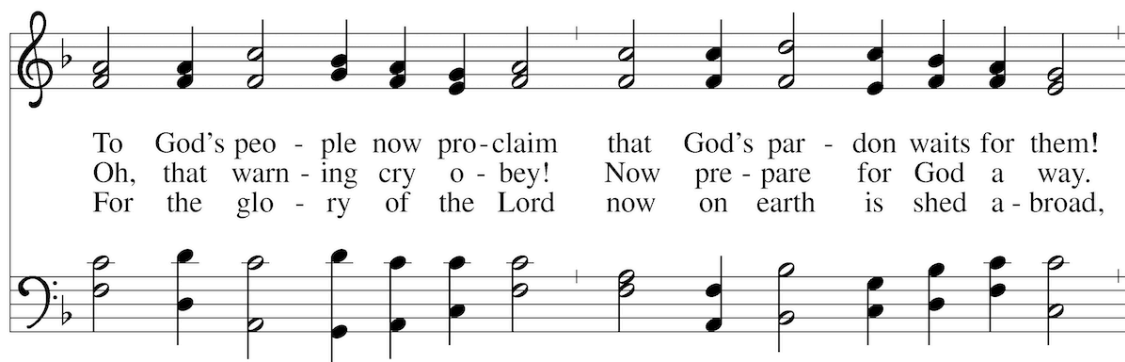
Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor everyone. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. And may the blessing of almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



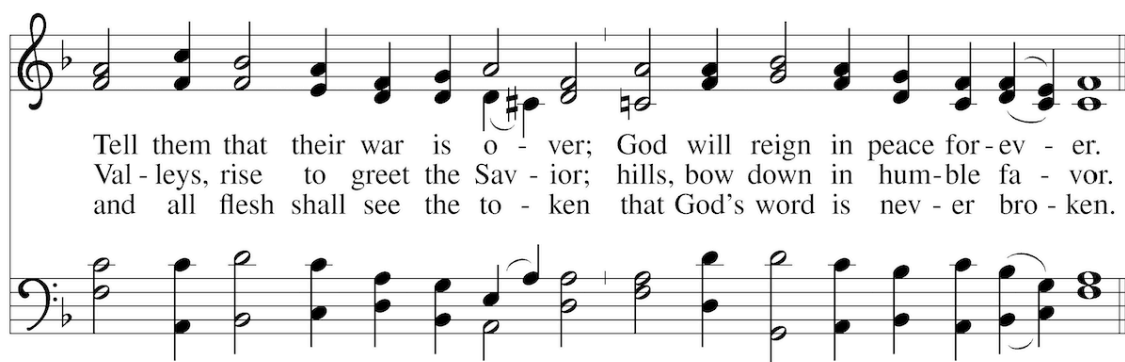
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

dismissal

The Mass is ended.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly sits for the postlude.*

postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661

J.S. Bach

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PLEASE  
REMEMBER IN  
YOUR PRAYERS

Dorothy Barritt  
Dolores Fernandez

John Senig  
Stephen Shea  
Marie Mutz  
Bonnie Minger  
John and Joe K.  
Tim Seboldt  
Dick Baumann  
Rachel Boccio  
Raphael Ruiz  
Dean Weisman  
Thorvald Slater  
Mike Rodriguez  
Barbara Taylor  
Carol Harnett  
Kathy VanBlarcum

Angel Luis  
Paul Schmidt  
Ruth Farrell  
Louise Printz  
Christine Cosmillo  
Marilyn Johnson  
Cathay Lancaster  
Jeremy Lee

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If you would like to give  
**altar flowers** in memory  
of a loved one or in  
commemoration of  
an event, email  
[office@holytrinitynyc.org](mailto:office@holytrinitynyc.org)

## WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY

If you are new to Holy Trinity, we are glad you're here. Whether you've worshiped here a thousand times or today is your first time, there will always be a place for you here.

**Restrooms** are located on the lower level.

**Please follow safe church practices** during worship and other activities at Holy Trinity. Parents and guardians, please do not allow children to go anywhere in the building unattended. Thank you for your help in keeping Holy Trinity a safe place for all people.

**During the passing of the peace**, you may greet those around you in whatever way is most comfortable to you. If you, for any reason, wish to avoid physical contact during the peace, you may cross your arms over your chest to indicate your desire for a verbal greeting.

After Mass, **please join us for Coffee Hour** in the Community Room located on the lower level.

**Find all our news and announcements** in our e-newsletter:



Sign up for our weekly newsletter at [tinyurl.com/signupHT](https://tinyurl.com/signupHT). **And reach out to Pastor Tim** and let him know you're here today. His email is [pastortim@holytrinitynyc.org](mailto:pastortim@holytrinitynyc.org).

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