

WELCOME TO
HOLY TRINITY

MASS | THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS **Sunday, December 28th 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 | Jenn Nelson & Damon Gray |
| ALTAR GUILD | Jenn Nelson & Dee Scholz-Beyer |
| LECTOR | Gayle Seaton |
| USHERS | Robin Samuel & Gayle Seaton |
| DIGITAL SACRISTAN | Tiffany Galvez |
| COFFEE HOUR | Jeff Juliar & Scott Merrell |
| GUEST ORGANIST | Dongsok Shin |
| DIRECTOR OF MUSIC | Austin Philemon |
| PASTOR | The Reverend Timothy Weisman |

GATHERING

| | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| prelude | Prelude in E-Flat, BWV 998 | J.S. Bach (1685-1750) |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------|

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.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are arranged in four stanzas, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first stanza is the main body of the hymn, and the second stanza is a continuation of the same text. The third stanza is a refrain, and the fourth stanza is the concluding line of the hymn. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes that support the vocal lines.

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
(from Martin Luther's
Deutsche Messe, 1525)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



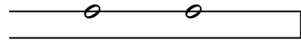
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

prayer of
the day

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



A - men.

The assembly sits.

WORD

from the
hebrew
scriptures

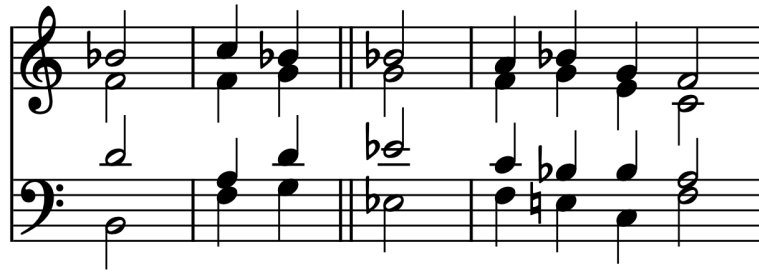
Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.
⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior
⁹ in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Silence is kept.

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

Thanks be to God.



*Hallelujah! Praise the Lord / from the heavens;
praise God / in the heights.*

Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.

Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,
who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.

Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;

mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;

Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
The Lord has raised up strength for the people
and praise for all | faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

from the
christian
scriptures

Hebrews 2:10-18

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

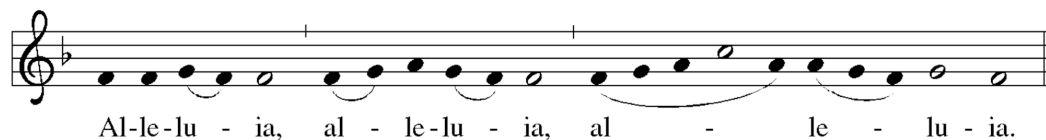
Silence is kept.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

gospel
acclamation



The cantor sings: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. (Col. 3:15-16)

from the
holy gospels

Matthew 2:13-23

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.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

sermon

The Reverend Timothy Weisman

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

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

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
(Howard Thurman)

Help us to remember, O Lord, as we begin a new year that the one who makes and breaks his New Year's resolves is at least better than the one who makes none. Deliver us from such sloth and self-satisfaction that we see no evil and recognize no possible improvement or are too lazy to attempt the good. Give us courage to fail in a good cause, and determination never to cease striving towards those dreams which God, the world, and our own hearts tell us are worthwhile, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly may bow, mirroring the presider.

the peace
(john 20:19)

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

Fugue in E-Flat, BWV 998

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

offertory
prayer

Let us pray. *Silence is kept.* God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Gather us at your table, join our hearts with the song of the angels, and strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly may bow, mirroring the presider.

the great
thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

the 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

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 in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

eucharistic
prayer

O marvelous God, as we celebrate our dear Savior's birth, we offer you our deepest praise as heaven embraces earth. The universe delights, stars dance, angels sing, and we rejoice at the wonder of your love.

When all was in chaos, you fashioned creation with light and life and declared that all was good. When your children were blanketed in gloom, you sent your dear son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to pierce the shadows, bathe creation with heavenly light, and bring us home again.

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.*

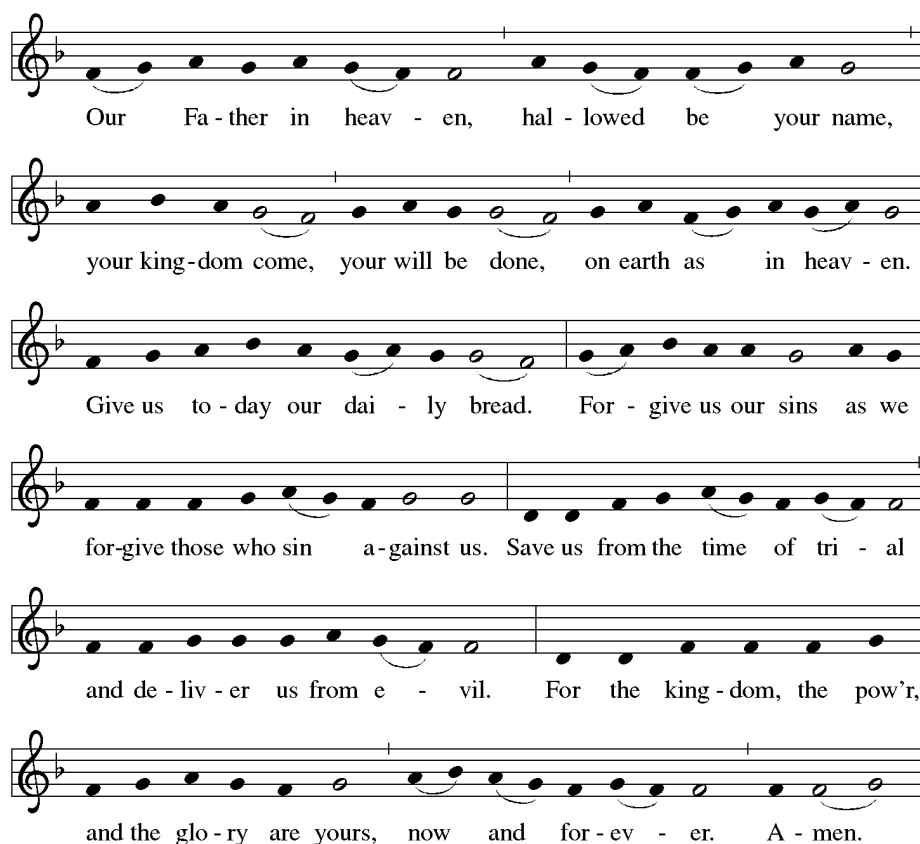
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me. *The assembly may bow.*

Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these Christmas gifts of bread and wine. Enchant us with your Christmas feast and dazzle us with your grace that we might behold your coming into our midst.

Unite our hearts with those who have celebrated the Word made flesh throughout the ages: shepherds and angels, Mary and Joseph, the saints who have done ministry in this place and those who have touched our lives. Send us out into the world glittering with wonder. Lift our voices with the heavenly chorus, singing to all the world that Christ our Savior is born.

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.

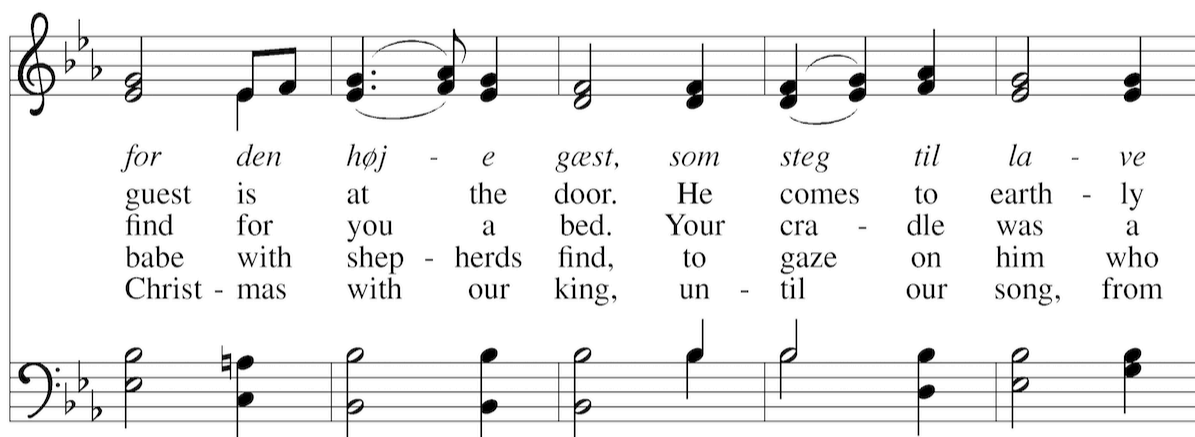
communion
music

Prelude in E Major, BWV 878

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)



Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our



for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from



hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

The assembly stands.

prayer after
communion

Let us pray. **Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

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

Allegro in E-Flat, BWV 998

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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PLEASE
REMEMBER IN
YOUR PRAYERS

Dorothy Barritt
Dolores Fernandez

John Senig
Stephen Shea
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
Marilyn Johnson
Cathay Lancaster
Jeremy Lee
Nancy McCloskey

If you would like to give
altar flowers in memory
of a loved one or in
commemoration of
an event, email
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. **And reach out to Pastor Tim** and let him know you're here today. His email is pastortim@holytrinitynyc.org.

A Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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