

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion

October 11, 2026

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE "Be Thou My Vision"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.
Turn our hearts back to you.
Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.
Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

+HYMN “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
 glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
 place in my hands the wonderful key,
 that shall unclasp and set me free.
 Silently now I wait for Thee,
 ready, my God, Thy will to see;
 open my eyes, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
 voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
 and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
 ev'rything false will disappear.
 Silently now I wait for Thee,
 ready, my God, Thy will to see;
 open my ears, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!
- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
 gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;
 Open my heart, and let me prepare
 love with Thy children thus to share.
 Silently now I wait for Thee,
 ready, my God, Thy will to see;
 open my mouth, illumine me,
 Spirit divine!

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

SERMON "Keeping Your Mind in Christ Jesus"

Weekly Topic: "Spiritual Growth and Meditation"

HYMN OF THE DAY "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.

+THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM "That Judgement Morning"

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION “We Place Upon Your Table, Lord” #217

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Sustaining God,
 with this bread and cup,
 you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
 By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
 Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
 following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: The God of love
 draw you into full accord and one mind,
 in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of hope
 grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
 through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace
 ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
 oh, what needless pain we bear--
 all because we do not carry
 ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
 We should never be discouraged--
 take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Can we find a friend so faithful
 who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--

take it to the Lord in prayer.

- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
"Making a Difference"
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Staff

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Jack DiMatteo
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Melissa Sturtevant
Director of Music	Mrs. Kathy Sacchiero
Assistant Director of Music	Ms. Jennifer Jessen

Serving Today (10/11)

Lector: *Carol DeMeo* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Communion Assistant: *Elida O'Hara*
Offering/Usher: *Marilyn Lapham & James O'Hara*
Counters: *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Acolyte: *Austin O'Hara*
Altar Guild: *Barbara Samuelsen & Tina Kristiansen-Uffer*

Serving Next Week (10/18)

Lector: *Joyce Maul* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove*
Offering/Usher: *Matt & Elin Maitilasso*
Counters: *Joanie O'Connor & Joan Cosgrove*
Acolyte: *Dlyan Marks*
Altar Guild: *Barbara Samuelsen & Tina Kristiansen-Uffer*

Weekly Announcements (10/11)

WELCA Women's group meets today after worship.

Christmas Program – Rehearsals for this year's Christmas program, [Christmas Is Calling!](#) will begin on October 25 at 10AM in the sanctuary. They will continue every Sunday, **except November 1**, until our performance on December 13. Children in second grade and older should attend.

Volunteer Needed with a Pickup Truck - to transport a puppet theater from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church ([246 Woodport Road](#), Sparta) to Holy Trinity. The theater is about five feet tall and four feet wide, but can be folded for transport. If you can, please see Pastor Jack.

"Lunch and Learn", our Adult Bible Study, next class will be October 21 at noon in the choir room. We will base our study on the hit video series "The Chosen." Bring a bag lunch... beverages provided. Classes will meet on the following Wednesdays from noon – 1:00 pm in the choir room: 11/18, 12/1, 12/16.

The NJ Synod Northwest Cluster is offering an online course each Thursday evening in October. Join us weekly at 7:00pm for the class, "Mental Health and Radical Hospitality". Learn how our faith community can offer hospitality to those struggling with mental health issues. The Zoom link can be found in the weekly emails.

Nor-Bu Lodge would like to invite HTLC to a Norsk Bunad Fashion Show. October 17, 2026, 5:30 pm at Nor-Bu Lodge. You do not need to be a member to come and enjoy a great night with friends, soup, and the show. RSVP: Contact Deb Landvik-Larsen 201-317-3459 or djfrmnj@aol.com

Cantata Rehearsals have begun after worship in the choir room.

Cornerstone Co-Op classes have begun every Friday. For the students' safety, do not use the building between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm.

Join the Choir! New choir members are always welcome. Choir meets at 10 am every Sunday.

Why is the baptismal font always "front and center"? Many congregations place the font there to remind everyone that baptism is the sacrament of initiation into the family of the church, and the font is situated in close proximity to the pulpit and altar to emphasize the primacy of Word and Sacrament in every worship experience. Some people dip their fingers into the water and make the sign of the cross on their forehead as a remembrance of the baptismal covenant with God.

Did you know? Each week, Pastor's weekly days off are Fridays and Saturdays. Of course, exceptions are made for urgent matters, emergencies, weddings, and funerals.

Ever wonder where we obtain the "wording" for our worship liturgies? For several years, we have had a subscription to receive materials from "Sundays and Seasons", an organization fully endorsed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This group provides our varying confession litanies, prayers, responsive readings, texts, hymn suggestions, and more.

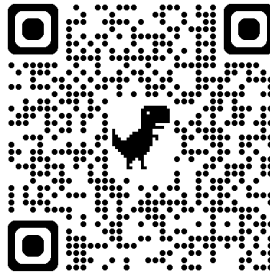
Did you know that RISE UP is a not-for-profit interfaith corporation to serve the needs of the local impoverished? "RISE UP" is an acronym: Rockaway Interfaith Services to Empower the Unemployed and Powerless. To find out how you can support RISE UP, go to www.riseupnj.org or grab a flyer from the table in our glass-enclosed vestibule. Thank you for your support.

Want More insight on today's topic? Check out past sermons on this topic on our YouTube channel under the playlist titled "Spiritual Growth and Meditation"

Open your phone's camera app

Point it at the QR code below

Then click on the pop-up banner that appears on your screen



Voting Members of Council
2026 COUNCIL OFFICERS & MEMBERS

President	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 Joycemaul1705@gmail.com
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Youth Representative	Kacey Osterhout

Non-Voting Team Representatives

RISE UP Liaison	Ellen Crane, 973-461-3002
WELCA (Women's Group President)	Ruth Ann Greiner, 973-366-3922 ragreiner@verizon.net