

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion**

October 26, 2025

(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 JEFF WALTERS

CHILDREN'S SERMON/SONG "The Lord Liveth"

PRELUDE "Who Am I" Soloist Jennifer Jessen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: In the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

+HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" #229

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
- 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
- 3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
- 4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

+THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of the lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you**

+THE KYRIE

+THE HYMN OF PRAISE

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

+THE GOSPEL VERSE

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

+THE GOSPEL READING

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON "Reformation Sunday"

HYMN OF THE DAY "Built on a Rock" #365

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling--
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

2 Not in our temples made with hands
God, the Almighty, is dwelling;
high in the heav'ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet he who dwells in heav'n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.

3 We are God's house of living stones,
built for his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Were two or three to seek his face,
he in their midst would show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

+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.**

+THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **And also with you**

THE OFFERING

THE CHOIR ANTHEM "In Christ Alone"

+THE OFFERTORY

THE OFFERING PRAYER

- P: Let us pray,
C: **God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts. That we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

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.**

+THE PREFACE *"It is indeed right and Salutory....."*

+THE SANCTUS

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

+THE LAMB OF GOD

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION "Now we Join in Celebration" #203

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen**

THE POST COMMUNION HYMN

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P: Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace..

C: Amen, amen, amen

+ SENDING HYMN “The Church’s One Foundation” #369

1 The church's one foundation
 is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
 she is his new creation
 by water and the word.
 From heav'n he came and sought her
 to be his holy bride;
 with his own blood he bought her,
 and for her life he died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
 yet one o'er all the earth,
 her charter of salvation
 one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 one holy name she blesses,
 partakes one holy food,
 and to one hope she presses,
 with ev'ry grace endued.

5 Yet she on earth has union
 with God, the Three in One,
 and mystic sweet communion
 with those whose rest is won.
 Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
 Lord, save us by your grace,
 that we, like saints before us,
 may see you face to face.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P; Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
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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 (10/26)

Lector: *Al Buechler* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove*
Offering/Usher: *Marilyn Lapham & Joan Cosgrove*
Counters: *Joan Cosgrove & Carol Schutz*
Altar Guild: *Barbara Samuelson & Tina Uffer*

Serving Next Week (11/02)

Lector: *Carol Schutz* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Communion Assistant: *Elida O'Hara*
Offering/Usher: *Joyce Maul & Marilyn Lapham*
Counters: *Raena Scherwa & Carol Schutz*
Altar Guild: *Ruth Leonard*

Weekly Announcements (10/26)

We welcome the Rev. Jeffrey Walters to the pulpit today while Pastor Jack is away on vacation. Thank you, Pastor Walters.

Thank you to our Brass Ensemble Zachary Grilk, Linda Gathen, Andy Grilk, Ridhard Gathen, Jennifer Jessen

Pastor Jack will be away on vacation until November 3. In case of pastoral emergency, call Rev. Fred Becker at 617-642- 6557.

Thank you to those who worked hard in the planning and volunteering to make our pancake brunch a success.

As part the All Saint's service (11/2), the names of those departed since last All Saint's service(11/1/2024) will be read to the congregation. If you wish to recognize someone recently departed, please complete the form enclosed in the bulletin and place in the offering plate or email htl.church@gmail.com for names to be included before noon on October 30.

Choir Cantata practice (Christmas choral program rehearsals) will be offered each Sunday after worship. If interested, please see our Music Director, Kathy Sacchiero.

Rehearsals for our Children's Christmas program "Where His Star Led" have begun and will meet every Sunday at 10:00am in the sanctuary. Only students who have received an introductory letter will be needed.

An Adult Education class is offered on zoom and meets every Wednesday for the month of October at 7pm. The topic for this 5-week class is "Scriptures that Didn't Make It". The zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89411022376> or it can be found in the weekly email.

Lunch and Learn In-Person Bible Study November 5, at noon in the choir room. Our new semester topic will explore the New Testament Book of Hebrews. Can't make it "in person"? Then please ask Pastor Jack for the online ZOOM link. The class meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at noon.

Choir Rehearsal every Sunday, 10am. New voices always welcome!

Council meeting Tuesday, October 28, at 6:45pm

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service is scheduled. Mark your calendars for Monday, November 24 at 7:00pm at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways, 1 Hoagland Ave. Participants are invited to bring non-perishable food donations to support our Rockaway Food Closet. A cash offering will also be encouraged to benefit RISE UP Rockaway.

Parsonage Repairs As many of you have been made aware, the Church Parsonage is in immediate need of repairs, most importantly the deck which is rotting as well as doors and door framing. The Parsonage is part of the Church's valuable assets and the Pastor's home which needs to be maintained. An anonymous member of the Congregation has offered to donate up to \$10,000 as a matching fund to be specifically designated for these repairs. Please consider a donation which will be matched by this fund. Please write "Parsonage" on memo line. Thank you for your generosity that is much appreciated. Watch the giving thermometer rise towards our goal.

Time and Talent volunteer sign-ups are now in progress. Please complete your sign up online or use the paper version found on the usher's table. Thank You!

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, simply go to www.riseupnj.org or grab a flyer on the table in our glass enclosed vestibule. Thank you for your support.

Voting members of council
2025 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 Joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Vice President	Bob Klein, 973-902-4596 Bob.Klein@cit.com.
Treasurer	Gerry Lauro, 201-803-2501, Gerry.Lauro@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Vacant
Recording Secretary	Erin Osterhout, 973-615-1026 eosterhout@optonline.net

Voting Members of Council
TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Worship & Music	Ron Mathewson 201-602-8887 Rhmathewson@yahoo.com
Christian Education	Erin Osterhout, 973-615-1026 eosterhout@optonline.net
Membership	Vacant.
Giving	Vacant
Community Relief	Vacant
Activities	Vacant
Property	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Marketing	Marilyn Lapham, 973-725-0868 marilynapham@gmail.com
Finance	Gerry Lauro, 201-803-2501 Gerry.Lauro@gmail.com

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