Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion

November 29, 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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Reader: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight.

Congregation: When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight.

Reader: In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope.

Congregation: In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope.

Reader: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Congregation: May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.
ALL: Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

HYMN "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

PRELUDE "Pastorale" by F. Schubert

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 calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.
C: Amen.

P: A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
C: Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.
P: "Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

+HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway" #26

1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain
Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

4 His is no earthly kingdom;

it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

SALUTATION

P**:** The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its
leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know
that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these
things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the
Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on
a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands
the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of
the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find
you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON “Is It Me …or Is Time Flying By?”

Weekly Topic: “Trusting God in Difficult Times”

HYMN OF THE DAY “While We Are Waiting, Come”

1 While we are waiting come
While we are waiting come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

2 With pow'r and glory come
With pow'r and glory come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

3 Come Savior quickly come
Come Savior quickly come
Jesus our Lord Emmanuel
While we are waiting come

+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 "Say He Will Come"

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: Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 "The Advent of Our God" #22

1 The advent of our God
shall be our theme for prayer;
come, let us meet him on the road
and place for him prepare.

2 The everlasting Son
incarnate stoops to be,
himself the servant's form puts on
to set his people free.

3 Come, Zion's daughter, rise
to meet your lowly king,
nor let your faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
and all his scattered saints unite
with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Providing God,
you feed your flock like a shepherd
and gather your people in your arms.
We praise you for the care and sustenance
you give at this meal and always.
As we leave your table, carry us near your heart,
and send us with confidence in the way
of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

P: God our provider,
God our feast,
God our companion,
☩ bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.

3 In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,

so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted
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 (11/29)
Lector: *Finn Lodato* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Communion Assistant: *Paula Zeliff-Murphy*
Offering/Usher: Matt & Elin Maitilasso
Counters: *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Acolyte: *Levi Leifken*
Altar Guild: *Ruth Leonard*

Serving Next Week (12/6)
Lector: *Raena Scherwa* **Video:** *Don Gulliksen*
Communion Assistant: *Matt Maitilasso*
Offering/Usher: *Joan Cogrove & Elida O'Hara*
Counters: *Joanie O'Connor & Raena Scherwa*
Acolyte: *Elin Maitilasso*
Altar Guild: *Joan Cosgrove*

Weekly Announcements (11/29)

Assisting with the Lighting of Our Advent Wreath Today: The Lodato Family. Thank you for participating.

Help is needed after worship today for Greening of the church and moving the pews for the Christmas Bazaar. Remember, many hands make light work.

Welcome to our newly renovated sanctuary! Special thanks to Eunice MacKenn, who left a generous portion of her estate to Holy Trinity so that we could install new carpeting, a choir loft, freshly painted walls, and bright lights. Special thanks also to **several** volunteers who did the planning, prep work, clean-ups, and rearranging. Your labors were all blessed by God.

Our annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6, following our worship service. Agenda items will include adopting the proposed 2027 budget and electing new/returning Council nominees.

Holy Trinity is offering an Orientation Class for those considering membership... or even if you simply want to learn more about the congregation; this class is for you! Join Pastor Jack in his office on Sunday, December 13, after the worship service for this informal 45-minute conversation.

Holy Trinity is sponsoring 15 local underprivileged children this year for the Rockaway Holiday Wishes gift drive. If you would like to help make a child's holiday brighter, please choose a gift or two from the board at the back of the sanctuary. Deliver them back to church by 12/6, unwrapped and with the tag attached, so we can make sure it gets to the correct child. Direct any questions to Erin Osterhout at 973-615-1026 or erinosterhout1@gmail.com.

Have you completed a 2027 Pledge Card yet? Pledge cards are located on the usher's table. When completed, simply place your card in an envelope and place the envelope in the offering plate. Your financial pledge is confidential. Please pledge as generously as you can!

Save the Date:
December 5 - Annual Christmas Bazaar 10:00am - 2:00pm
December 6 - Congregation Annual Meeting 12:15pm
December 13 - Children's Christmas Play
New Member Orientation Class - 12:15pm
December 20 - New Member Reception during worship
Choir Christmas concert - 3:00pm
December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship - 5:00pm

Christmas Program: Rehearsals for this year's Christmas program, Christmas Is Calling! will continue every Sunday at 10 AM until our performance on December 13. Children in second grade and older should attend.

Christmas Program: A dress rehearsal for our Christmas Program will be held on Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.-noon. All children are needed to attend. If you cannot attend rehearsal, please get in touch with Ruth Ann Grewiner (973) 366-3922.

"Lunch and Learn", our Adult Bible Study, next class will be December 1, 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: 12/16.

WELCA (Women's group) Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 5, 10am – 2pm. We are in need of donations of new items or gift cards (any value) for the chance room. Please see Peggy Hon with any questions. Thank You!

Cantata Rehearsals meet after worship in the choir room.

Cornerstone Co-Op classes are held 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.

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

“Trusting God in Difficult Times”
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
Treasurer	Gerry Lauro, 201-803-2501 Gerry.Lauro@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Erin Osterhout, 973-615-1026 Erinosterhout1@gmail.com
Worship	Ron Mathewson 201-602-8887 Rhmathewson@yahoo.com
Christian Education	Erin Osterhout, 973-615-1026 Erinosterhout1@gmail.com
Property	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Marketing	Marilyn Lapham, 973-725-0868 marilynlapham@gmail.com
Finance	Gerry Lauro, 201-803-2501 Gerry.Lauro@gmail.com
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