

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 26, 2025 ~ 11:00 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church



195 Claremont Avenue | P.O. Box 15303

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-435-9807

www.trinityjerseycity.com

The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

Order of Service

~ Gathering ~

† Welcome

*† Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection, and self-examination.)

P: Holy God,

C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*† Entrance Hymn: "Over My Head"

*Over my head, I hear music in the air
Over my head, I hear music in the air
Over my head, I hear music in the air
There must be a God, there must be a God, there must be a God somewhere*

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

*Over my head, I hear singing in the air
Over my head, I hear singing in the air
Over my head, I hear singing in the air
There must be a God, there must be a God, there must be a God somewhere*

*Over my head, I see Jesus in the air
Over my head, I see Jesus in the air
Over my head, I see Jesus in the air
There must be a God, there must be a God, there must be a God somewhere*

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" TFBF 133

*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 evil foe, sworn to work us woe,
with dread craft and 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.
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus our Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.*

*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.
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,
wrench our life away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!*

***† Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

***† Kyrie**

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy,

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

***† Hymn of Praise**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

***† 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.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the Lord means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the Lord will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

† Psalm: Psalm 46; refrain, Ps. 46:7

Refrain: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- ³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- ⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away. R**
- ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the Lord,**

what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
 who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
¹⁰ “Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”
¹¹ The Lord of | hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. **R**

† Second Reading: 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.

*† Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th Chapter

C: *Glory to you, Glory to you, Glory to you, O Lord*

***† Holy Gospel: 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 be to you, Praise be to you, Praise be to you, O Christ

† Youth Anthem: "Oh Jesus (Glorious)"

† Adult Anthem: "I Shall Wear a Crown"

† Sermon: The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

† Sermon Hymn: "My Life Is In Your Hands"

*You don't have to worry
And don't you be afraid
Joy comes in the morning
Troubles they don't last always*

*For there's a friend named Jesus
Who will wipe your tears away
And if your heart is broken
Just lift your hands and say*

*Oh, I know that I can make it
I know that I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands. (Repeat)*

*With Jesus I can take it
With Him I know I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands*

*So when your tests and trials
They seem to get you down
And all your friends and loved ones
Are nowhere to be found
Remember there's a friend in Jesus
Who will wipe your tears away
And if your heart is broken
Just lift your hands and say*

*Oh, I know that I can make it
I know that I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands.*

*With Jesus I can take it
With Him I know I can stand
No matter what may come my way
My life is in your hands*

~ Prayer ~

***† The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.*
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,**

***Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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. Amen.

***† Prayers of the People**

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word.
Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creation knows the uniting
and transforming power of the gospel. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work
to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the
world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your
earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. Unite our politicians
with a common mission and purpose. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are
incarcerated. Give hope to people experiencing housing or employment insecurity,
oppression, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill (*especially*). Be our stronghold at all
times. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of other faiths and other Christian traditions in our community. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints (*especially Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt*). Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

***† Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***† Offering Canticle**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence.
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***† Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

~ Meal ~

***† 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.

A: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***† Words of Institution**

***† 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**

† Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

† Communion Hymn: “Thank You, Lord” TFBF 293

*1 Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,
thank you, Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.*

*2 Been so good, been so good,
been so good, I just want to thank you, Lord.*

*3 Love you, Lord, love you, Lord,
love you, Lord, I just want to thank you, Lord.*

Repeat ALL

*† Post Communion Blessing

(After all have returned to their places:)

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

C: **Amen**

*† Post Communion Canticle

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*† Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. C: **Amen.**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

*† Benediction

***† Hymn: “If I Be Lifted Up”**

If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me

If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me (repeat)

Jesus came with all His glory

To reveal the heavenly marvelous story

Jesus said “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me”

***† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday via Zoom. Next session will be October 22nd at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be November 2nd
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, November 14th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be November 1st
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, November 13th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, November 1st , 12PM – 4PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Join in the Anniversary Celebration. Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle. Contact Tina Richardson at 201-435-9807 for more info.
- ◆ **Join in our Fundraisers:**
 - ◆ **Walk in Faith – Donation:** Pledge a multiple of your shoe size (i.e. if your shoe size is a size 9, pledge \$9, or \$18, or \$90, or \$900, etc.)
 - ◆ **Operational Expenses Fund – Donation:** any amount
- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com> OR text **GIVE** to 844-930-5787 from your mobile phone
- ◆ **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**