CONNECTED TO CHRIST, CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 2026 ~ 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**

***† Greeting**

***† Entrance Hymn: "I'm Going To Live So God Can Use Me"**

1. I'm gonna live so, God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna live so, God can use me

anywhere, Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna work so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

3. I'm gonna pray so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna pray so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

4. I'm gonna sing so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!
I'm gonna sing so, God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

***† 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**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~God's Word ~

† First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!

The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."
13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

† Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12; *refrain*, Ps. 90:12

***Refrain**: So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.*

1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night; R
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R
[9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
] 12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R

† Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have
anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden
destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there
will be no escape! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to
surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are

not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep
awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get
drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate
of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for
wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another
and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter

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

***† Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who
had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more
talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But
the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his
master's money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts
with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five
more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five
more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have
been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy
of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master,
you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said
to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then
the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that
you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not
scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have
what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,
that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to

have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise be to you, Praise be to you, Praise be to you O Christ

† Youth Choir Anthem: "Way Maker"

† Adult Choir Anthem: "You Are Good"

† Lay Sermon: Mr. Willie Richardson, Jr.

***† Sermon Hymn: "I Want To Be Ready"** TFBF 41

[Refrain]

I want to be ready,

I want to be ready,

I want to be ready

***To walk in Jerusalem just like John.** (Repeat)*

1 John said that Jerusalem was four-square,

Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

I know, good Lord, I'll meet you there,

***Walk in Jerusalem just like John.** [Refrain]*

2 When Peter was preaching at Pentecost,

Walk in Jerusalem just like John.

Oh, he was filled with the Holy Ghost,

Walk in Jerusalem just like John. *[Refrain]*

~ 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, 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**

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine (*especially*). Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing (*especially*). God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams (*other specific leaders or groups may be named*). Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
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.

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: "Lord, I Want To Be A Christian" TFBF 234

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

2 Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

3 Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

***† 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. **Amen.**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

***† Benediction**

***† Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"** TFBF 232

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,

reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken, the wine is poured,

Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:
Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *[Refrain]*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *[Refrain]*

***† Dismissal**
A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday via Zoom at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073.** Next session Dec 9th
- Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be Sunday, December 6th
- Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- Trinity's *Thankful* **Food Pantry** will be Friday, Nov 20th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, December 10th at 7:30PM
- Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next session will be Saturday, December 5th at 10AM at Grace Lutheran
- Trinity offers **Math & Reading Tutoring** through the 2026-2027 school year. Time: 10AM–12:30PM | Dates: Nov 21st, Nov 28th
- Trinity will celebrate **Pastor Dianne's Birthday Celebration** on Sunday, Dec 13th
- Trinity's **Community Push** will host **A Conversation with the Rev. Dr. Annette Jones: Depression "The fog that will not lift"** on Thursday, Dec 17th via Zoom at 7PM - **Meeting ID: 884 6464 3918 Passcode: 440471**
- For *All Saints Sunday*, please remember to donate $3 per name. Your donation funds the Yvette Bolden Scholarship.
- Trinity is selling "**Faith Over Fear**" T-Shirts in 3 different designs. Short-sleeved: $20; Long-sleeved: $23. Please check our website for the designs and order info.
- Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser… 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.
- You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at http://www.trinityjerseycity.com
- **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response