



“People coming together to be The Church,
not just attend one.”

Trinity Lutheran Church is an open and inclusive
church, welcoming all who seek God.

69 Griswold Street • Hillsdale, Michigan
517-437-2647 • tlchillsdale.org

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022



Service of Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP THIS MORNING! We invite you to join us regularly for worship and in a variety of activities and opportunities in our congregational life. If you are new here, we welcome you; if you are a member of longstanding, we celebrate your gifts and your ministry among us. Our order of worship is printed on the following pages of this bulletin.

MISSION STATEMENT - The Mission Statement of Trinity Lutheran Church is to nurture faith through proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ by word, sacrament, deeds and loving relationships, to ALL people.

VISION STATEMENT - As proclaimers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Vision of Trinity Lutheran Church is to maximize our gifts and resources to reach out with God's love and serve the global community.

COMMUNION PROCEDURE - The communion table of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is open to all baptized Christians who believe that our Lord Jesus is truly present in the forms of bread and wine

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated weekly throughout the year. No one is ever required to participate in the sacrament, but it is offered to nourish and sustain God's people. This is in accordance with Lutheran teaching:

Background 35A: The Church celebrates the Holy Communion frequently because the Church needs the sacrament, the means by which the Church's fellowship is established and its mission as the baptized people of God is nourished and sustained. This practice was reaffirmed in 1989 by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We continue to need "consistent pastoral encouragement and instruction relating to Holy Communion...pointing up Christ's command, his promise, and our deep need." For a variety of historical reasons, Lutherans in various places moved away from the weekly celebration of the sacrament.

Application 35C: Participation in the sacramental meal is by invitation, not demand. The members of the church are encouraged to make the sacrament a frequent rather than occasional part of their lives.

(Excerpts from: The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 35)

Sunday, March 27, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #807

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



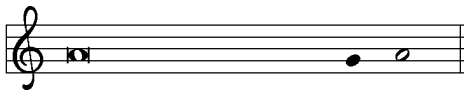
teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

GREETING

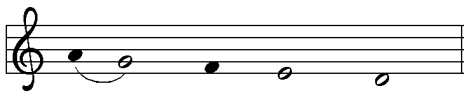
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



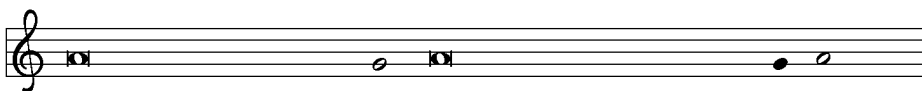
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



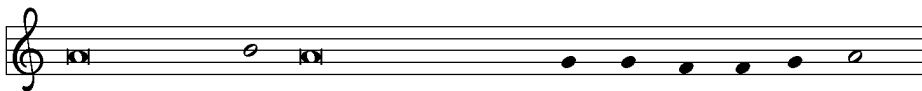
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy.
By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your
love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

A A reading from Joshua

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

A A reading from 2 Corinthians

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter.

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

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3.

11b-32

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

Sit
SERMON

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #606

Our Father, We Have Wandered

This hymn is not included in our license so we cannot put on website

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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant C sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict (*especially*). Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

A Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

P Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Please do not leave your pew, pass the peace to those in your family group as you wish but to others by waves or other hand signs

Sit

OFFERING

Fourth Sunday: Barnyard Boxes- ELCA Good Gifts

Each week, our congregation collects a general offering for the church and our ministries. Additionally, we collect an offering for special projects. If you would like to make a regular gift to the church, please place it in the offering plate. If you are looking to support our special project (noted above), please place your offering in the barnyard boxes or noisy offering buckets. The plate will be presented to the altar by an ushers at this time

OFFERING HYMN

ELW #184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble

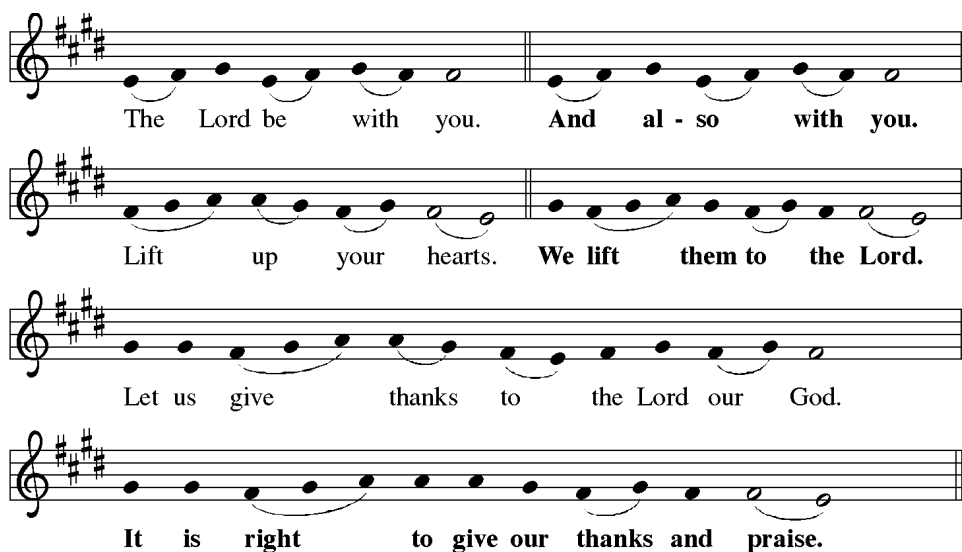


with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

- A Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.
- C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

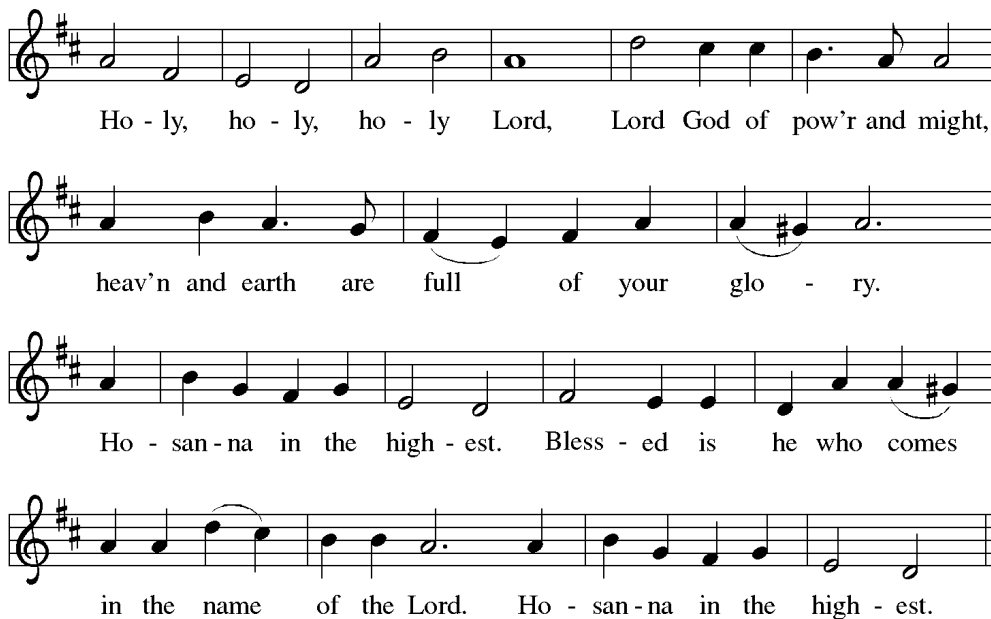
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right our duty and our joy, ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

+EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word
take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on
earth..

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the
Most High, one God, now and forever..

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C **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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The presiding minister and the assisting ministers receive the bread and wine and then give them to those who come to receive. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say "Amen."

Follow the usher's instructions to approach the altar. Communion will be by individual cup, the communicant stands before the Pastor to receive the bread, then Assisting Minister will hand you the cup the cup of wine. Gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request. Simply tell the pastor at the time of communion. If you are unable to consume alcohol, please inform the assisting minister when it is your turn to receive the wine, and you will be given a wine substitute. There is a basket on the front pews for the used cups

SILENT MEDITATION

While others are receiving communion you are invited to reflect on the readings, the sermon and the music of the day.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way
 C Thanks be to God.

SERVING AT TRINITY

Ministers: Every member of the congregation **Council President:** Terry Vear
Pastor: Rev. Dennis Smith **Vice-President:** Suzanne Sponsler
Piano/Keyboard: Paul Lucas **Treasurer:** Chris McNamara
Parish Secretary: Chris McNamara **Secretary:** Sandra Dufur
Council Members: Warren Bartels, Johncie Langston, Brad Otterbein, Joe Painter, Gene Stockford-Shively, and Patti Weber

SERVING TODAY:

Assisting Minister: Cathy Shively
Ushers: Thomas Stockford- Shively and Jay Sponsler

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

Altar Guild: Tom Stockford-Shively
Offering Counters: Keith Otterbein and Sandra Dufur
Videographer: Gene Stockford-Shively

FLOWERS – The flowers on the altar today are given by Phyllis Klingler to celebrate Mark's 9th birthday.

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