

**CHURCH OF THE TRINITY  
Coatesville  
in the  
Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania**

*Church of the Trinity is a congregation  
rooted in the faith and love of Christ,  
unified in diversity,  
seeking to grow and nourish  
the Trinity family and our Coatesville community.*



*"This fellow welcomes sinners..."*

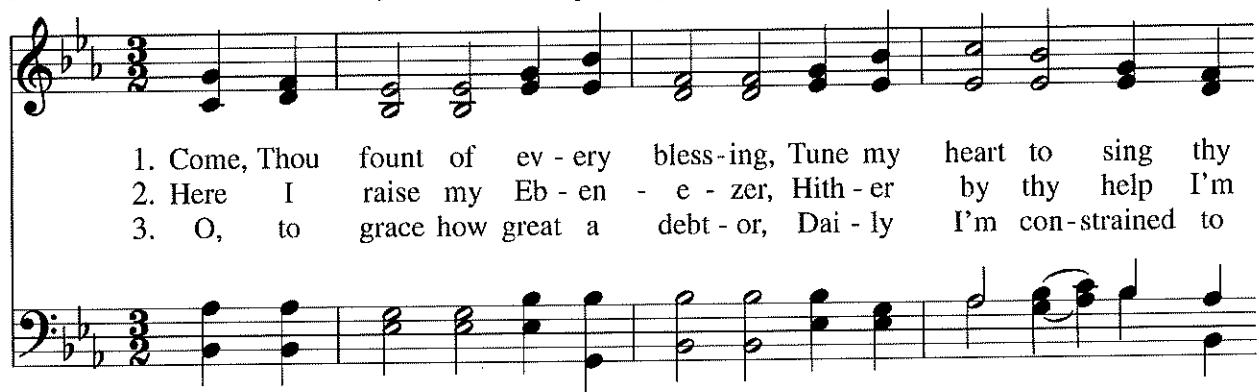
**March 27, 2022**

**9:30 AM**

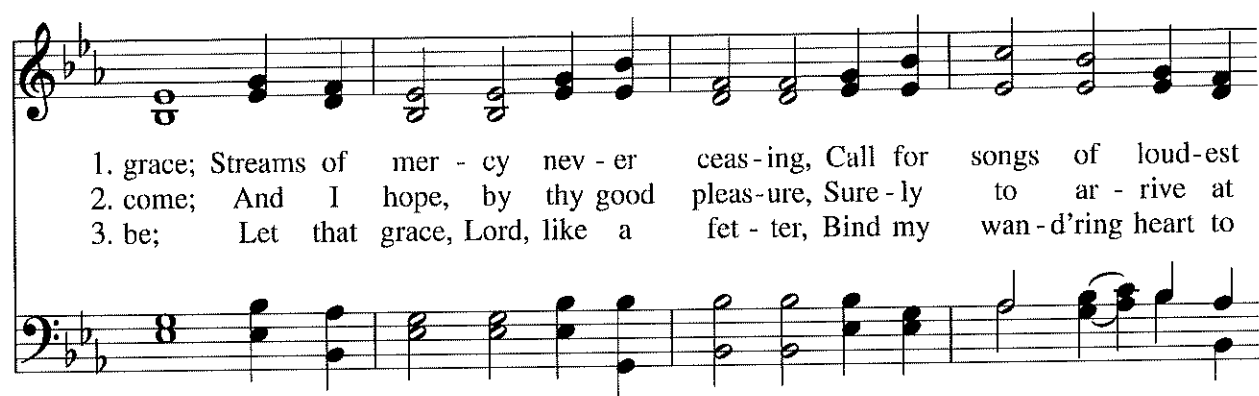
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

## PRELUDE

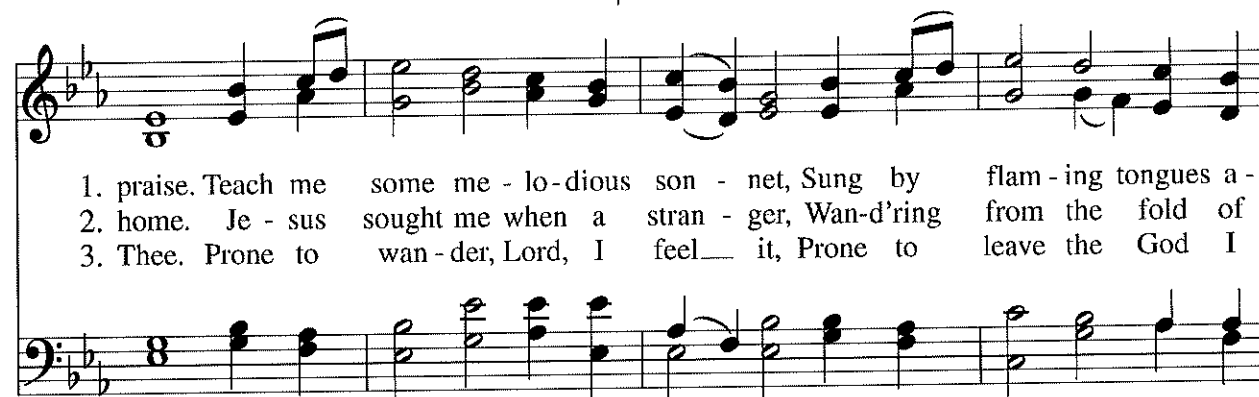
### ENTRANCE HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (LEVAS 111)



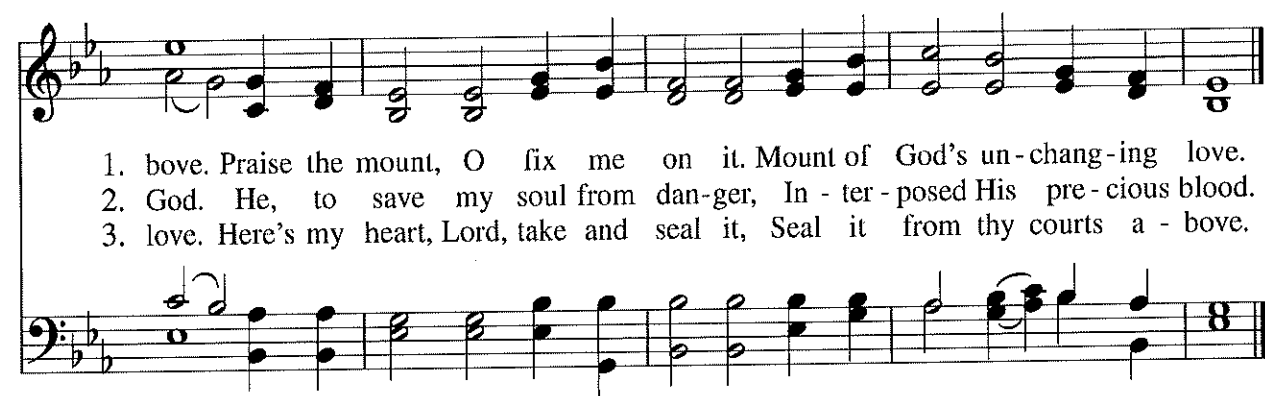
1. Come, Thou fount of ev - ery bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing thy  
2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by thy help I'm  
3. O, to grace how great a debt - or, Dai - ly I'm con-strained to



1. grace; Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas-ing, Call for songs of loud-est  
2. come; And I hope, by thy good pleas-ure, Sure - ly to ar - rive at  
3. be; Let that grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan-d'ring heart to



1. praise. Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a -  
2. home. Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan-d'ring from the fold of  
3. Thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I



1. bove. Praise the mount, O fix me on it. Mount of God's un - chang-ing love.  
2. God. He, to save my soul from dan-ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
3. love. Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it from thy courts a - bove.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

*Celebrant*      Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People*          His mercy endures for ever.

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## KYRIE OR TRISAGION *LEVAS 237 Lord, Have Mercy*

*The following is sung, all standing*

Lord, have\_\_\_ mer - cy, Christ, have\_\_\_ mer - cy.

Lord, have\_\_\_ mer - cy, have mer - cy, O Lord.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          And also with you.

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

# The Lessons

## FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of Joshua.

<sup>9</sup>The 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.

<sup>10</sup>While 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. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

## PSALM: Psalm 32

*Remain seated.*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
**and whose sin is put away!**

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

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
**because of my groaning all day long.**

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

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
**and did not conceal my guilt.**

<sup>6</sup>I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
**Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
**when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding-place;  
you preserve me from trouble; \*  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

<sup>9</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
**I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>10</sup>Do 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."**

<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
**but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>12</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
**shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Your kingdom come, O Lord* (MHSO 27)

*All stand.*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The lyrics are: "Your king-dom come, O Lord. Your king-dom come, O Lord. Your king-dom come, O Lord. Your king-dom come, O Lord." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the last line.

Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.  
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### GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*All stand.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The 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. <sup>13</sup>A 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. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But 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! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." <sup>20</sup>So 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. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But 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. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But 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.' "

Deacon            The Gospel of the Lord.  
People            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON BY THE REV. SHERRY DEETS

### THE NICENE CREED

*All stand.*

*We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*In this holy season let us turn to God in prayer, saying: Lord, have mercy.*

For the catechumens and for all the holy people of God, that we may embrace the folly of the cross and become ministers of reconciliation in a broken world, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation and all nations, that we may generously share the produce of the land, both in plenty and in want, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the alienated and rejected of this world, that all may come to know God's welcome to sit down at table, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this community, that we may learn from God to seek the lost and to rejoice when they are found, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our own needs and those of others, especially for those effected by the coronavirus, for all who are suffering in the war in Ukraine, and those listed here that are near to our hearts, and those we now name silently or out loud (a period of silence):

*Violet Armstead, Clair Armstrong, Angie Ashe, Molly Baldwin, Marsha Barley, Chrissie Belamarich, Marie Hyacinthe Bribal, Anthony Brogan, Walter Bryant, Carol, Carolyn, Lola Clarke, Violet Cole, Millie Connor, Didi, Dorothy, Andrea Dudley, Charles Emmett, Morris Ferguson, Karen Fisher, Mary Fleck, Cassie Foreman, Kyla Foreman, Jacob Furlong, Malin Gerke, Bianca Giannotti, Ruth Gardiner, Linda Graber, Samantha Griggs, Livi Guthridge, Lillian Hadler, Susan Hanft, Scott Hansberry, Margaret Harrell, Mary Harris, Esther Harvey, Matt Hess, Janice, Danyell Jackson, Jay, Diane Kitson, Jodi Lancaster, Alison Lauren, John and Lindsay, Lisa Kivett, Sye Lamar, Melanie Lifer, Olivia Lyons, Paige McClean, Mia, Mickey, Brian Miller, Adam Nolt, Jessica Nupponen, Meredith Olseski, Phil, Ben Phillips, Lynn Pullman, Arlene Purnsley, Michael Rayner, Jacob Rockoff, Flora Rutledge, Judy Skonieczin, Shane, Thomas Shanley, Mary Shidlowksi, Erma Sinsabaugh, Barb Smelter, Stephen Smelter, Calvin Smith, Colby Stackhouse, Stephanie, Linda Still, Sue, Becky Swaggart, John Symonds, Dihona Talton and children, Bill Terry, Tom, Tom Wagner, Vicki Romberger, Norman Walters, Cyndi Walters, Isaac Warnick, Sally Warren, Paul Wayne, Mary Nell Weiss, Chanel Wiest, Brendan Willauer, Ruby Williams, Art Wyatt*

that God may be our hope and consolation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who who protect and serve, as well as their families: the police, the firefighters, emergency medical personnel and those serving in the military, especially those listed here that are near to our hearts and those we name silently or out loud (a period of silence):

*Police: Sgt Lori and Jeff Kistle, Marquis Costello*

*Military: PVT Austin Combs, PO2 Jason Combs, PO3 Andrew Combs, 1CPT Corey Combs, MAJ Alex Deets, Seaman William Dowling, 1st LT Frank Furman, Jr., PFC Shane McWilliams, MGSgt Troy Meacham, PVT Kaleel Pernsley, Specialist Jason Sage, CPL Ryan Sage, CPT Jeremy Smith, LCMDR Michael Sracic MC, MSgt Rewa Price and Capt. Greg Wuestner,*

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in our parish family celebrating birthdays this week: Joseph Kirkner, III, Robin McWilliams, Nina Thompson, Evelyn Carey and Lily Fazio, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

In you, O God, do we put our trust. We entrust to you our dead, especially Beatrix Eccles, Caroline Eccles and Ella Denis deVitre, for whom the altar flowers are given, because you alone are our refuge and salvation. You alone are mighty to save. O God, we pray: **Have mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

*God of mercy and compassion, bring us back to you when we stray, and give us again the joy of proclaiming among the nations your saving deeds. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Celebrant says*

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

***God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.***

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## THE PEACE

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*             And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Holy Communion

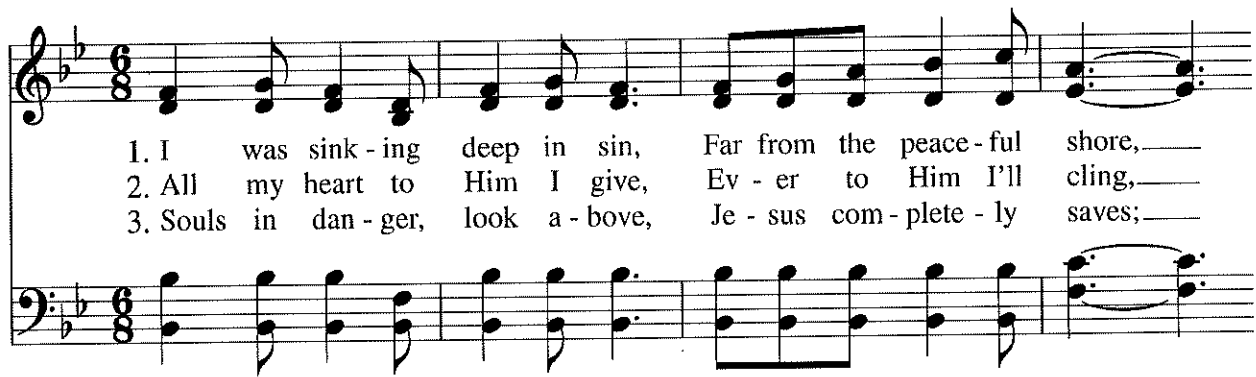
### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*The Celebrant says*

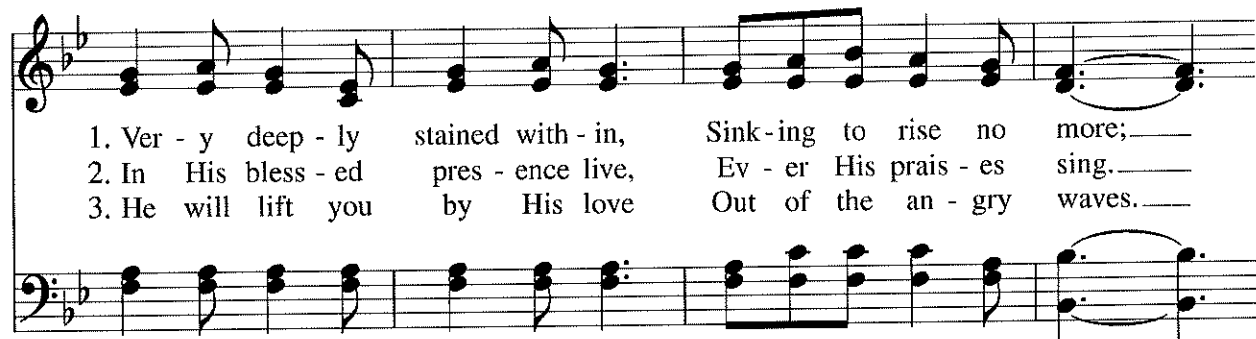
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

### OFFERTORY HYMN *Love Lifted Me* (LEVAS 198)

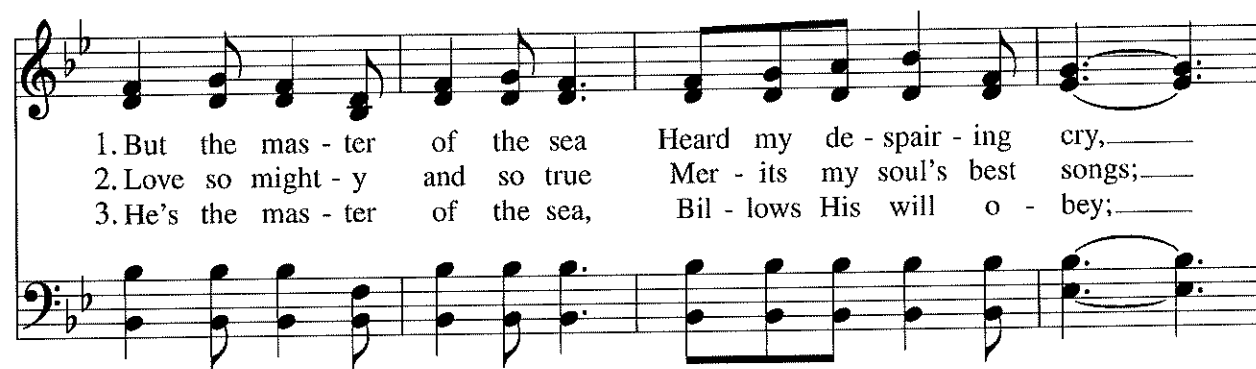




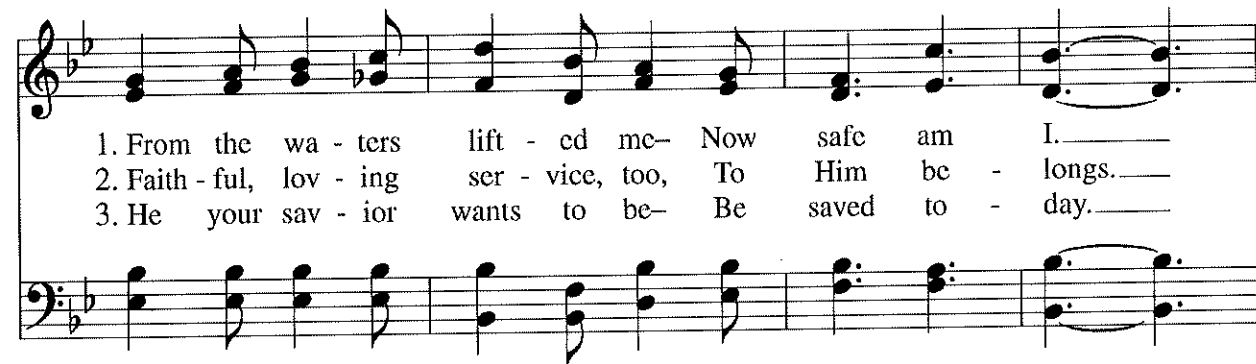
1. I was sink - ing deep in sin, Far from the peace - ful shore, —  
 2. All my heart to Him I give, Ev - er to Him I'll cling, —  
 3. Souls in dan - ger, look a - bove, Je - sus com - plete - ly saves; —



1. Ver - y deep - ly stained with - in, Sink - ing to rise no more; —  
 2. In His bless - ed pres - ence live, Ev - er His prais - es sing. —  
 3. He will lift you by His love Out of the an - gry waves. —



1. But the mas - ter of the sea Heard my de - spair - ing cry, —  
 2. Love so might - y and so true Mer - its my soul's best songs; —  
 3. He's the mas - ter of the sea, Bil - lows His will o - bey; —



1. From the wa - ters lift - ed me— Now safe am I. —  
 2. Faith - ful, lov - ing ser - vice, too, To Him be - longs. —  
 3. He your sav - ior wants to be— Be saved to - day. —

Love lift - ed me, Love lift - ed me, Love lift - ed e - ven me, Love lift - ed e ven me, When noth - ing

else could help, Love lift - ed me; Love lift - ed me.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Celebrant* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

### 1982 HYMNAL SERVICE MUSIC #S125

*Celebrant and People*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Cyril, our patron saint, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER LEVAS #264**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing.

*People and Celebrant*

***Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

# The Breaking of the Bread

## FRACTION ANTHEM

Be known to us Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

*Be known to us Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.*

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## COMMUNION HYMN *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* (LEVAS 101)

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,  
4. Oh! For the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised,

1. Call - ing for you and for me; — See, on the por - tals He's  
2. Plead - ing for you and for me? — Why should we lin - ger and  
3. Pass - ing for you and for me; — Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,  
4. Prom - ised for you and for me; — Though we have sinned, He has

1. wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me. —  
2. heed not His mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me? —  
3. death beds are com - ing, Com - ing for you and for me. —  
4. mer - cy and par - don, Par - don for you and for me. —

Come home, Come home, come home, come home,

Ye who are wea-ry, come home! Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

***Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

## BLESSING

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

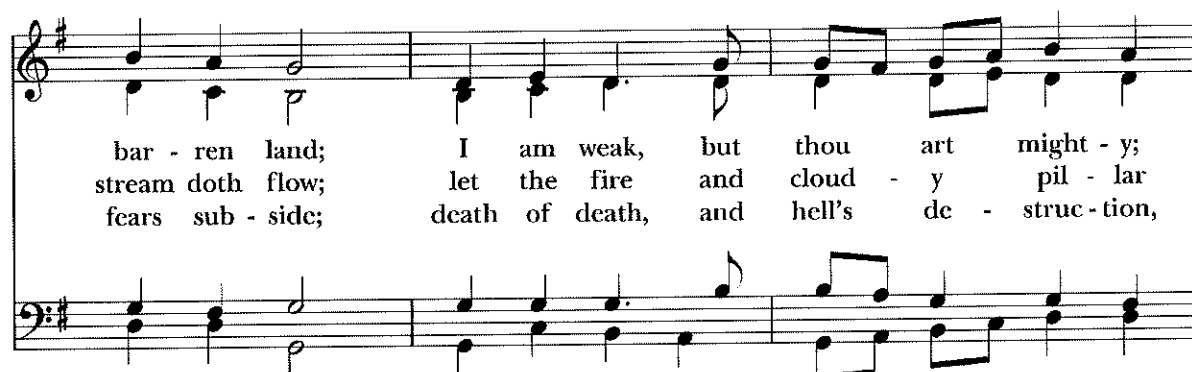
Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always. *Amen.*

*(source: from Saint Clare)*

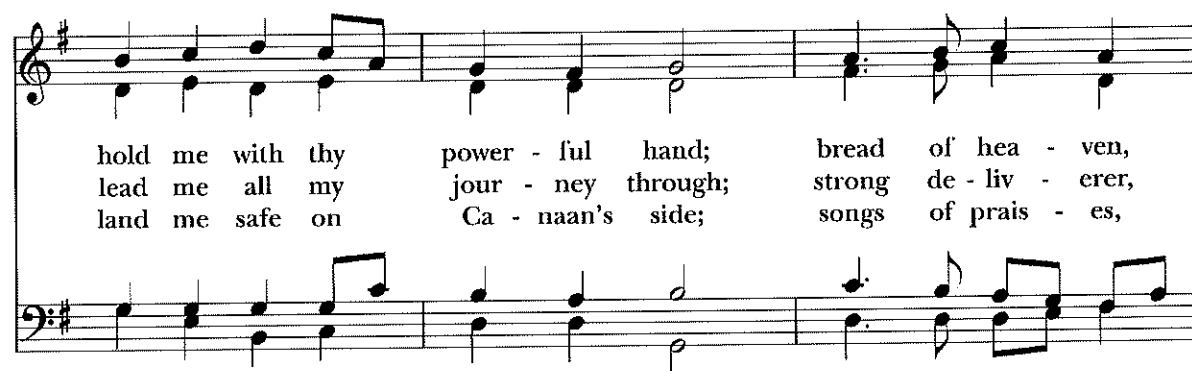
**POST-COMMUNION HYMN** *Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (Cwm Rhondda) (H 690)*



1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with thy power - ful hand; bread of hea - ven,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through; strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on Ca - naan's side; songs of prais - es,



bread of hea - ven, feed me now and ev - er -  
 strong de - liv - erer, be thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to



more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield, be thou still my strength and shield.  
 thee, I will ev - er give to thee.

## DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

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### TODAY

*Veterans Brunch-to-Go immediately after service*



The flowers are placed on the altar to the Glory of God  
and in loving memory of

*Beatrice Eccles, Caroline Eccles  
and Ella Denis deVitre*

by

Minnie Kirwin

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord; and let light perpetual  
shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the  
departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace*

## Announcements:

**Healing Service** Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at noon via Zoom. Commemorating John Donne, Priest, 1631

**Stations of the Cross, Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**Contemporary Family Service, Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:15 a.m.**

**Palm and Passion Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**Good Friday Service, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRINITY**  
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**Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320**  
**610-384-4771**

**Email: revsherrydeets@aol.com**  
**Office Email: Trinitycoates@aol.com**  
**Website: www.trinitycoatesville.org**

**Parish Administrator Office Hours:**

**Monday – Friday 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Rector: The Reverend Sherry Deets**  
**Home Phone: 610-380-0462**  
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**Organist and Choirmaster: Rachel Lee**  
**Deacon: The Rev. Joan Wylie**  
**Parish Administrator: Jamoca Harkins**

**VESTRY**

**Sr. Warden: Chris Haak**  
**Jr. Warden: Dennis Dantzler**  
**Treasurer: Minnie Kirwin**

**Robert Baynard, Sr.**  
**Greg Bentley**  
**Nora Bush**  
**Donna Fleck**  
**Jennifer Grubb**  
**Joseph Lee**  
**Vic Shanley**  
**Tom Swett**  
**Betty Sullivan**  
**Bill Terry**  
**Michael Thompson**



## **A Lenten Practice for This Week – 3/27 to 4/2**

As a Lenten prayer practice this week, consider praying for all those people in Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary and Slovakia who are helping Ukrainian refugees fleeing their country by train, car, and even on foot, carrying children, carrying suitcases or bundles.

The people from these nations are feeding the refugees, finding shelter for them, and processing them in some cases to continue onward. The most moving photo I've seen was of a train station platform in Poland with a line of strollers left by Polish families for Ukrainian mothers to use upon arrival.

Try sitting quietly for a few minutes, and find what your heart feels you would like to do if you could be there to help the refugees. Would you be walking up and down with a crying baby for a tired mother? Would you be cooking to feed them? Would you be putting an arm around someone's shoulders? Would you be taking a turn for someone already helping so that person could get some rest?

Bless all those who are helping in these countries.

A prayer you might wish to pray:

*Gracious God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer with refugees;  
that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people;  
and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ,  
offering to you their gifts and talents;  
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **And then, Part 2:**

World Central Kitchen, web address <https://wck.org>, was founded in 2010 right after the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Chef José Andrés and his non-profit organization's staff and volunteers have found ways to rapidly bring field kitchens and food into disaster areas to begin cooking and feeding people. They cook locally familiar foods. In areas that do have kitchens and restaurants, they cooperatively use them and pay the staff to cook and package up meals.

In 55 cities, both in Ukraine and in surrounding countries, over one million meals have been served. And it's not one location per city – there are over 330 distribution points for the meals.

Consider a donation to WCK: <https://donate.wck.org/give/396273/#/donation/checkout>

Deacon Joan Wylie