

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org
The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission
Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director
Mr. Philip High, Organist
Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Planist
Mrs. Carol Kratz/Mrs. Stephanie Fitzpatrick, Administrative Assistants
Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton
Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

The Sundays after Pentecost, also called "common or ordinary time," constitute a season of growth in Christian faith, life, and ministry. Nearly half of the Christian year is reserved for this season, which spans the Sundays between Pentecost (50 days after Easter) and Advent (around Thanksgiving.)

Traditionally, the liturgical color of ordinary time is green. Green is the color of nature and growth. It symbolizes the need of Christians to be disciples, persons who live out the values of the gospel and share them joyfully with others. During this time, the scriptural texts, sermons, and hymns are usually directed toward the task of helping us grow as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and bear good fruit in our witness.

Today's Theme: We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's Day. Our God is the God of the living.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Activity bags for children can be found in the Narthex. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex and receive a gift of Trinity Bread from our greeters. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

HEARING ASSISTED DEVICES are located in the Narthex!

Prayer As You Enter: O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

- --Share God's love with our community
- --Serve God's children
- --Bring healing and wholeness to those in need
- --Share the Gospel in liturgy, music, and study

BY YOUR SILENCE OTHERS MAY HEAR THE STILL SMALL VOICE OF GOD!

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We call on God, who is as near as our next breath. We gather to meet God, who has promised to bless us.

God is great and greatly to be praised. Through many generations, God has acted among us.

Remember God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Make a joyful noise and break forth in song.

Our mouths will speak the praise of God. Let all flesh bless God's holy name.

Jesus invited saints and sinners to dine with him and to be his friends.

Therefore, Jesus invites us, saints and sinners, to this sacred meal, in which we can taste and see, experience and remember the goodness of our God.

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sins against God and one another.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Faithful God, you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts and bring us to new life. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT FOR TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

God of the living and of the dead, whose love embraces countless generations who have looked to you in praise and supplication, lead us beyond divisive debate to eager exploration of your truth. May our lives bear witness to your love, that all flesh may come to bless your holy name forever and ever. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Job 19:23 27a

Job suffers the loss of children, wealth, and health. Accused by his companions of wrongdoing, he knows himself to be innocent. Here, in the midst of his suffering, Job clings to the radical hope that his vindicator, his redeemer, lives and that one day he himself will see God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALTER Psalm 17:1-9

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

Guard me as the apple of the eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

This portion of the letter provides encouragement for the church at Thessalonica during a time of confusion and opposition, as some allowed their concern over Jesus' imminent return to divert them from the central teachings of the gospel.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, try to trap Jesus. They formulate the convoluted case of a serial widow who marries a succession of seven brothers. Jesus responds by teaching about God to whom all are alive and in whom all relationships are fulfilled.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"Don't Get Sidetracked!"

Pastor Rankin

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and 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.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

For the future glory of your church, we dedicate our gifts. Toward the reign of love in our midst, we consecrate ourselves, O God of all the ages, show yourself to us in our time. Work within us individually and among us as a community of faith, that we may experience resurrection and carry your good news into our world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Holy One, almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, through Jesus Christ, the only one begotten by you for all time, by whom you made the world and all things. We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people. Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us in our sin but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our savior, who is the way, the truth, and the life. In the fullness of time, you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus, who in obedience to you, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death. We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every nation to unite us in one holy church. Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, God most holy.

Holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 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, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF GOD

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements at the back of the sanctuary and commune in your pew or ask someone near you to have the pastor and assistant come to you in the pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God our Redeemer, bless your church universal and its leaders. Set all hearts on you from generation to generation in anticipation of Christ's return. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of life, we give thanks for the fruits and grains of harvest, for rivers and streams, for all that is made of rock and iron. Renew the earth's natural resources and the lands from which they come. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, we give thanks for the service of our veterans and pray for those needing support for wounds of any kind. Strengthen those charged with the governance and protection of vulnerable populations. Bring an end to war throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God who gathers us together, we give thanks for pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, musicians, administrators, and building caretakers. May they find joy in leadership as we grow in faith together. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God who leads us to belief and truth, we give thanks that you are always and already here. Nurture and support those who are unsteady in mind, unsafe in spirit, or unwell in body. Comfort those who suffer from trauma and exposure to traumatic events. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

By your word and sacraments, O God, you have given us a foretaste of the new heaven and new earth that will be ours forever. Strengthen us in this vision that we might draw others to believe in the hope that is ours, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers & The Worship Aids are given in memory of our father's (George N. Royer, Jr.) birthday from his children: Donna R. Zirkel and Rev. Harry G. Royer.

Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Lector Diane Rice

Money Counters Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller

Altar Guild Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy, Hedwig Hunsicker, Nancy

Enders

Koinonia Paula DennesBuilding Trustee Pat Sensenig

Ministries Card Trinity Preschool

Called to Care Nancy Enders Visitation JoAnn Mowrer

Attendance for Sun., November 2 7:45–18 10:30–80 TOTAL – 98

Sunday School 24

Happy Birthday!

Today – Hans Slechta, Sevi Keares

Friday – Heather Harley

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Today Following 2nd Service-Congregational Mtg.

Monday 6:00 PM—Music Committee

7:00 PM – SOT Choir/8:15 PM Bells

Tuesday 7:00 PM – Property Committee

Thursday 10:00 AM – Mercersburg Study Group

2:00 PM – CROP Walk Meeting

6:00 PM – Cub Scouts

Friday 10:00 AM—Evangelism

11:00 AM – Memorial Garden Task Force

Saturday 9-11 AM -Leadership Seminar

8:00 PM – Alanon/AA

Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist – Harvest Home

9:00 AM – Sunday School

10:00 AM - Koinonia

10:30 AM – Worship – Harvest Home

Following 2nd Service – Meals With A Mission

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Donna Zirkel Rev. Jack Esbenshade Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Ron & Donna Denlinger Rev. Dr. Carrie Call John Shelsky

Janice Jenkins Mid Gockley Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman

Rhonda Hartenstine Joann Peck Scott & Jane Owens

The Lehman family Mary Lou Shaab Carmen & Jerry Richards

Donna Wolf & Family George & Ellie Latsha Himelwright Family Sam Minder III Lori Daly Rev. Bob Musser

Pat Seachrist Erika Otthofer Danielle Huggins Holbein

Betty Fogle Betty Tyndall & family Michael McDonough
Denise Huggins Don Miller Bob & Marlyn Wible

Ron Becker Joann Garvin & Family Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline

Arlene Hoxworth Mary Lou Sturgis Pastor Harry Royer

Hank Fox Kathleen Sensenig Adams

Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen

FAMILY & FRIENDS

The family of J. Michael Hoffer (brother-in-law of Kathy Pilsner)

Terry & Carol Kratz

Don Pfeifer (husband of Denise Pfeifer)

Kelly Murphy (niece of George & Sandy DeLong)

Rev. Dr. Harry & Kathy Covert (former members of Trinity Church)

The Reed Family

Beverly Steele (friend of Joan Cash & Pastor Chris' 2nd grade teacher)

Greg Gable (husband of Rev. Sandy Morris)

Chase Heagy and Family (friend of Andrew Rankin)

Carol Feyock (friend of Carmen & Jerry Richards)

Janet Latsha (sister-in-law of George & Ellie Latsha)

Sherry Kline (former substitute organist at Trinity)

Lynnette Fritz (cousin of Betty Tyndall)

Andrew Hicks (husband of Katie Weeber)

Matthew Davis (brother-in-law of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

Marianne Gibble (friend of Trinity)

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

The Herr Family (Former Trinity Preschool Family)

David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)

James Malone & family
Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)
Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)
Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)
Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

OTHER CONCERNS

Victims of Disasters
World Peace
Church World Service & Other Faith-Based Relief Organizations

THE NOVEMBER PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

TRINITY PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER PICK-UP: Bakery items will be available for pickup on Friday, 14 from 10-11:45 a.m.

DEVOTIONALS: The October-December edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

THE OCTOBER-DECEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES are available on the table in the Narthex.

POINSETTIAS: Forms to order Christmas poinsettias are available on the table outside the office. **The deadline to order is November 16**th. The cost for each poinsettia is \$6.00.

LEADERSHP SEMINAR HAS BEEN RESCHDULED: Due to a family member's memorial service on October 11, Myka Kennedy Stephens had to reschedule our leadership seminar. It will now be on November 15 from 9-11:00 a.m. The seminar for members of the Consistory and committees/boards will focus on leadership strengths. This seminar is for all members of the Consistory and the committees/boards of Trinity Church. We are opening up the registration for the seminar. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.

HARVEST HOME will be on November 16. We will collect canned goods at both services for the Lancaster Food Hub (the children will collect the donations at the 10:30 service). The Food Hub needs the following items: Boxes or bags of rice, instant potatoes, soups (low sodium), peanut butter, canned tuna or chicken, and hamburger helper.





TRINITY'S MEALS WITH A MISSION Nov. 16, 2025

TRINITY WILL AGAIN BE ASSEMBLING MEALS FOR OUR SHUT-IN MEMBERS AND OTHER AT HOME FAMILIES. THE MEAL WILL AGAIN BE THANKSGIVING STYLE!

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP PREPARING THE MEAL OR CAN DELIVER THE MEAL, PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX. HANDS OF ALL SIZES ARE WELCOME TO HELP. WE WILL ASSEMBLE AFTER CHURCH UNTIL ABOUT 1 PM.

IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN AN HOUR.

DELIVERY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PREPARATION.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT DEB LICHTENWALNER, 717-203-9506

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: The Knit in God's Love Prayer Shawl will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 18 at 1:00 PM**. They will continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

GRIEF GROUP: The next session will be **November 19 at 1:30 p.m.** We continue to read Francis Weller's *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred work of Grief.* If you would like to participate in the grief group, contact Pastor Chris or the Church office.



It's time to have fun and play Pinochle! Everyone is invited to come on **Thursday**, **November 20 at 1:00 p.m.** There is a sign-up sheet for the gathering on the table across from the church office. Bring a snack to share. We're happy to teach if you are new to this card game.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT TEMPLE BETH EL

The East Petersburg Interfaith Council is planning a Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 p.m. The service will take place at Zion Lutheran Church (corner of Broad and Lemon Streets). Cantor Carol Chesler from Temple Beth El will be the speaker. Rev. Sandy Morris and musicians from Trinity Church will participate in the service.

An offering will be received for the Hempfield Power Packs. Worshippers are also asked to bring the following items for the Power Packs.

16 oz peanut butter

Box of macaroni and cheese (no cups)

Canned fruit

Canned vegetable – corn or green beans

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: We will have a Service of Word & Sacrament on Thanksgiving Eve (November 26) at 7 p.m. We are in need of two greeters and four ushers! Contact the church office if you are willing to help!

2025 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. We have openings for worship aids (November 16 & 30). Look for the charts and the forms on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please submit the forms to Carol! The 2026 charts are on the bulletin board in the Narthex!

THE VERONIS CROP HUNGER WALK UPDATE

The following people from Trinity Church participated in the CROP Walk on October 19: Sue Bowman, Hedwig Hunsicker, Diane Rice, Karen Olley, Mark Eyer, Kathy McCarty, Rev. Elizabeth Hambrick-Stowe, and the Rankin family.

On behalf of the CROP Walk Planning Committee, Pastor Rankin announced that the walk will now be called The Veronis CROP Hunger Walk in memory of Father Veronis and in honor of the Veronis family.

Trinity Church has raised over \$10,000 so far for the CROP Walk. You can still give money to one of our walkers (checks should be made out to CWS/CROP) or online at https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-east-pete.





"I PROMISE" FORMS are still being accepted! We hope that you will submit the forms to help us plan for our ministry in 2026. Extra forms are available on the table across from the church office!

COPIES OF THE FALL NEWSLETTER OF THE U.C.C. HOMES are available on the table across from the church office!



AMERICAN MUSIC THEATER CHRISTMAS SHOW

We have reserved seats for the American Music Theater Christmas Show on Saturday, December 6th. The cost to see the show is Adults \$43, students \$22. A sign-up sheet is available for you to reserve your seat. For more information, speak to Jeff Hackenberger.



Saturday, November 29

8:30 - 11:00 AM

We will prepare Trinity Church for the Advent/Christmas season on November 29. **The gathering will begin with light breakfast at 8:30 a.m**. After breakfast, we will decorate the church for the season. Our time will conclude with a brief service in the sanctuary.

All help in making this happen is greatly appreciated as we decorate our church for the season. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletins! Sign-up sheet for this program is on the table outside the office.

THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER'S NEWSLETTER is available in the Narthex.





2025/26

Highland Presbyterian Church

500 East Roseville Road Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601 717-569-2651 www.highlandpc.org

Highland is conveniently located off Oregon Pike just north of US Route 30.

Head north on Oregon Pike, turn right on East Roseville Road, then right into the Highland parking lot.

You are invited to enjoy the following activities sponsored by the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Speak with Anne Rankin for more information!

2025 Lutheran Camping Corporation Events

Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa! at Nawakwa - December 2, 2025 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 6, 2025 Advent/Christmas in the Barn at The Wittel Farm - December 21, 2025 Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald - January 2 - 4, 2026

Always check LutheranCamping.org for the most updated calendar!



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303
717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org





Concert/Desserts

Featuring Auscultation Brass and Trinity Church Musicians

Monday, December 1, 2025 Concert – 7:00 PM

Desserts Following The Concert

Freewill Offering Benefits
Schreiber Center For Pediatric Development
and Trinity Music Ministry







SPECIAL COMMEMORATIONS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Tuesday, November 11: Martin, Bishop of Tours, died in 397

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the army at age fifteen. One winter day a beggar approached Martin for aid, and he cut his cloak in half and gave a portion to the beggar. Later Martin understood that he had seen the presence of Christ in that beggar, and this ended his uncertainty about Christianity. He soon asked for his release from his military duties, but he was imprisoned instead. After his release from prison he began preaching, particularly against the Arians. In 371 he was elected bishop of Tours. As bishop he developed a reputation for intervening on behalf of prisoners and heretics who had been sentenced to death.

Tuesday, November 11: Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died in 1855 Kierkegaard (KEER-keh-gore), a nineteenth-century Danish theologian whose writings reflect his Lutheran heritage, was the founder of modern existentialism. Though he was engaged to a woman he deeply loved, he ended the relationship because he believed he was called to search the hidden side of life. Many of his works were published under a variety of names so that he could reply to arguments from his own previous works. Kierkegaard's work attacked the established church of his day - its complacency, its tendency to intellectualize faith, and its desire to be accepted by polite society.

FIRST READING: Job 19:23-27a

"O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! ²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the

²⁶and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, ^{27a}whom I shall see on my side,

and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Psalm 17:1-9

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, 2not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. ³Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. ⁴He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. ⁵Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

¹³But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. 14For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, ¹⁷comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

GOSPEL: Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] 28 and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; 30then the second 31and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. 32Finally the woman also died. 33 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

³⁴Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; 35 but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. 38 Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."

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