



April 16, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Holy Wednesday with Order of Healing
The Shadow of Death

We often define death only by medical means, but in the cross of Christ no one dies alone and death is not the final word.

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520
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The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor

The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission

Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds Of Trinity Choir Director

Ms. Karen Karosas, Organist

Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist

Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Amy Grube, Preschool Director

HOLY WEDNESDAY

THE ORDER FOR RECONCILIATION, ANOINTING, AND HEALING

Every Wednesday we will focus on a particular event in Christ's journey to the cross. The shadow of the cross looms over every interaction, to give spiritual insight. Tonight, we focus on the shadow of death. We receive the promise that none of us will die by ourselves. Christ will welcome us into eternity in much the same way that Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea cared for Jesus. Our worship includes the order of healing as a reminder that we constantly receive God's healing love.

Why no alleluias or hymns of praise during Lent? You may have noticed that the hymn of praise following the assurance of forgiveness is missing from our worship. We join other churches in omitting alleluias, glorias, and other hymns of praise as we turn again to our Lenten journey of exile and repentance. We long for the eschatological New Jerusalem "...the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother" (Galatians 4:26). We walk in darkness awaiting the city of God where... "there will be no more night; the servants of God need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever" (Revelation 22:5). Until then, we travel with our Lord Jesus into the desert to face the devil, we join him in his triumphant procession into Jerusalem, we pray with him in the garden of Gethsemane, and we follow him to the painful cross and to the cold dark tomb. We trust that our journey with Christ does not end there. On Easter we once again join the praises of the choirs of heaven: "The Lord is risen; the Kingdom has come; our joy is complete; and, in concert with the angels and saints, we greet the risen Lord with shouts of 'Alleluia!'" (http://catholicism.about.com/od/worship/f/No_Alleluia.htm).

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.



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*
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Tonight we welcome the Rev. Jack Esbenshade, a member of Trinity Church, as our guest preacher. Rev. Esbenshade, a graduate of Ursinus College and Lancaster Theological Seminary, was ordained on June 6, 1971. He currently chairs our Stewardship Committee, serves on our Preschool Board, and leads our adult VBS Class. Rev. Esbenshade served the following ministries:

- 2017 Interim Visitation Pastor, Trinity U.C.C., East Petersburg
- 2010-12 Interim Associate Pastor, Hamilton Park U.C.C., Lancaster
- 1991-10 Administrator/Executive Director, Ephrata Manor
- 1990-91 Assistant Administrator, The Lebanon Valley Home, Annville
- 1978-90 Pastor, Church of the Redeemer U.C.C., Hershey
- 1973-78 Pastor, St. Luke's U.C.C., Lancaster
- 1971-73 Pastor, Tri-U.C.C. Parish, Penn Northeast Conference

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

PRELUDE

Listen to the Lambs

Adolphus Hailstork

(Please use the prelude as a quiet time to begin worship)

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND LENTEN VERSICLES

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.

Despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

O Jesus, we adore Thee,
upon the cross, our King.

Let us pray together.

We gather to worship, O God, under the shadow of the cross, sign of human shame and divine wisdom. Help us by your grace to follow faithfully in your ways so that we may live to you and die to you. We are your people; we belong to you. Therefore, we offer you our worship and our lives. May your name be glorified in your church as we are open to your presence this night! In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Rock of Ages

#217

EXAMINATION

(kneeling or seated)

Hear the commandments of God: I am the Lord, your God, who brought you out of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. **God have mercy upon us and guide us in your way.**

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

SILENCE

You shall not invoke with malice the name of the Lord, your God.

SILENCE

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy.

SILENCE

Honor your father and your mother.

SILENCE

You shall not kill.

SILENCE

You shall not commit adultery.

SILENCE

You shall not steal.

SILENCE

You shall not bear false witness.

SILENCE

You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor. **God have mercy upon us and guide us in your way.**

Jesus said, the first commandment is: **Hear, O Israel, the Lord, our God, is the only holy one, and you shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

The second commandment is this: **you shall love your neighbor as you love yourself.**

No other commandment is greater than these.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep all these laws.

PRAYER

O God, the Father in heaven, **have mercy upon us.**

O God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy upon us.**

O God, the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful, **have mercy upon us.**

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, ever one God, **have mercy upon us.**

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, from whom come all holy desires and just works, breathe into our hearts by your Holy Spirit the gift of obedient faith, that we, knowing your will, may treasure these words in our minds and hearts, and may in all things love and serve you. Amen.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

St. John 19:31-42

Glory be to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to you, O Christ. (spoken)

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

SERMON

"The Shadow of Death"

Rev. Jack Esbenshade

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall 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.

HYMN

O Christ, the Healer

1. O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2. From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3. How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4. In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5. Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -

health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 mun - i - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -

be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

“O Christ The Healer We Have Come” words by Fred Pratt Green © 1969 Hope Publishing Company. CCLI License # 11083455

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Fugato

G. B. Fasolo

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

OFFERING RESPONSE

We Give Thee But Thine Own

#506

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, forever. Amen.

ACT OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

To bear one another's burdens in prayer is a holy privilege. It also demands a willingness to be a channel for God's power. Therefore, in silence, let us offer our confessions to God that we may be cleansed of anything that might hinder our efforts as intercessors.

(PLEASE BE SEATED OR KNEEL)

SILENT CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SINS

In the words of the psalmist, let us confess our sins before God and one another. Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY (TRISAGION)

Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy upon us.

ABSOLUTION

In Christ's name, and as one with you in the church, I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven!

In Christ's name, and as sisters and brothers in the church, we declare to you: your sins are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

THE ORDER FOR ANOINTING

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we have confessed that which separates us from God, ourselves and one another and have received the promise of healing grace, so let us pray silently for all who need special healing.

SILENT PRAYER

(name those in need of healing)

O God of all comfort, our help in time of need, we humbly ask you in the power of your Holy Spirit to enter and heal your servants. Look upon them with your mercy; comfort them with the assurance of your care and goodness; save them from temptation and despair; give them patience under affliction; and enable them to place themselves in your hands of grace so that they may know and experience the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came that we may have life and have it more abundantly. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING OVER THE OIL

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INVITATION

ACT OF ANOINTING

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you for our Lord Jesus Christ who has given us life; brought ministry, forgiveness, healing, and peace; commanded the disciples to heal the sick; and continued the healing ministry to this day. Keep us mindful of your love and mercy that we may be faithful throughout all our days. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

Lift High the Cross

HYMN

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

Harmony

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low this tri - um - phant sign. The
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, as
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise

hosts of God in u - ni - ty com - bine.
on the brow the seal of him who died.
thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry! *D.C.*

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(PLEASE BE SEATED)

MUSICAL MEDITATION

BENEDICTION AND THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE

There Is A Fountain

Carl Maultsby

Ministering This Evening

Liturgist: Rev. Dr. Christopher Rankin

Preacher: Rev. Jack Esbenshade

Building Trustee: Pat Sensenig

Ushers/Greeters: Betty Tyndall, Karen Olley, Mike & Shelley Wagner



Look for the Easter breakfast sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!

The Sunrise Service is in the parking lot, but will be moved to Isenberg Hall if it is raining. Those attending the service are invited to bring your own chair or we will have some available.

THE SERVICE FOR PAT MILLER will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the Blue Collar Restaurant in Landisville (where we had our 175th anniversary luncheon). The family invites you to arrive at 11:30 a.m. and we will begin shortly before noon.

LENTEN DENIAL ENVELOPES: The Board of Deacons decided to support the work of Church World Service (CWS) through this year's Lenten Denial offering envelope. CWS and other faith-based relief organizations have been denied government funding for the important work that they do with refugees. This lack of funding has also impacted the way these organizations put an end to hunger and poverty and respond to natural disasters in the U.S. and around the world. Our offering will be sent to both the national office and the Lancaster office of CWS. You can find that envelope in your box of offering envelopes.



**East Petersburg - Scout Troop #33
(Trinity is the charter organization)**

**Annual Pancake Breakfast FUNDRAISER
Our 34th annual breakfast!**

**Located at the East Petersburg Mennonite Church
Saturday, April 26, 2025
7:00am – 11:00am**

- ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES!!**
 - 2 SAUSAGE LINKS (\$1.00 FOR 2 EXTRA SAUSAGES)**
 - COFFEE, TEA, O.J. OR WATER**
- Pre-sale tickets - \$6.00 (2 & under, free)**
Stop by the Scout Hut (end of Pine St.) Mondays 7:00-8:00
or, the neighborhood Ticket Blitz on Saturday 4/12/25)
OR
At the door - \$8.00 (2 & under free)
Raffles Available

Donations are graciously accepted at the breakfast.



TUESDAY, April 22, 1:30 PM
Sign-up sheet on table outside office