

God Invites us to the Table

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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We Join Earth and Heaven in Song

Holy, holy, holy,

Lord, God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name

In earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy,

Merciful and mighty

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

We Proclaim the Mystery of Our Faith

Christ has died!

Christ is risen!

Christ will come again!

God Feeds us at the Table

We Share Praises and Requests and We Pray Together

We Share Announcements

God Sends Us

We Sing the Doxology

Our opening prayer is from "A Liturgy of the Hours" (*Every Moment Holy*, Volume 1). Our prayer of confession is from the Book of Common Prayer.

The Early Service at Trinity

February 23, 2025 - 8:30 am

The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

God Gathers Us for Worship

Candles, Bible, Water, Towel, Bread, and Cup

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

We Pray to our Eternal King

Leader: O children of the Living God, what is your Father's greatest desire for you this day?

People: **That we should love our eternal King with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds, and with all our strength.**

And how would you show this love?

By remembering him at all times.

**By cultivating thankfulness for his many blessings,
and trusting his good providence for the meeting of our needs.**

By loving all whose lives intersect our own.

By choosing to serve rather than be served,

to be wounded rather than to wound,

and by bearing patiently with the failings of others,

extending the same kindness, mercy, and compassion

that God in Christ has so graciously offered us.

We open our hearts anew to you this morning, O Lord,

that the love of the Father,

and the life of Christ,

and the breath of the Spirit

would quicken within us a greater affection for your ways.

Work your will in us, Lord Christ.

We Sing a Hymn of Praise – “Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me”

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer
There is no more for Heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior, He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley, He will lead
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future's sure, the price, it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus, now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me"

We Affirm our Faith (using the Belgic Confession)

Article 27: The Holy Catholic Church

**We believe and confess
one single catholic or universal church—
a holy congregation and gathering
of true Christian believers,
awaiting their entire salvation in Jesus Christ,
being washed by his blood,
and sanctified and sealed by the Holy Spirit.**

**This church has existed from the beginning of the world
and will last until the end,
as appears from the fact
that Christ is eternal King
who cannot be without subjects.**

**And this holy church is preserved by God
against the rage of the whole world,
even though for a time
it may appear very small
to human eyes—
as though it were snuffed out.**

**For example,
during the very dangerous time of Ahab
the Lord preserved for himself seven thousand
who did not bend their knees to Baal.***

**And so this holy church
is not confined, bound,
or limited to a certain place or certain people.
But it is spread and dispersed
throughout the entire world,
though still joined and united
in heart and will,
in one and the same Spirit,
by the power of faith.**

***1 Kings 19:18**

We Hear a Call to Confession

Frederick Douglas (19th century) wrote in his autobiography:

“Between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference – so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt, and wicked. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ; I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land. Indeed, I can see no reason, but the most deceitful one, for calling the religion of this land Christianity.”

We Confess Our Sins

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and
by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
Amen.**

Prayers of silent confession

We Hear God’s Assurance of Forgiveness & Call to Faithfulness

With everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer. I, I am he who blots out transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. - Isaiah 54:8; 43:25; 44:22

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8

We Pass a Sign of Christ’s Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

God Speaks Through the Word & Spirit – Ecclesiastes 11:7 – 12:8

⁷ Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

⁸ Even those who live many years should rejoice in them all, yet let them remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

⁹ Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart and the desire of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

¹⁰ Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

12 Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years draw near when you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; ² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; ³ in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; ⁴ when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; ⁵ when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and the caper bud falls; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; ⁶ before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it.

⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.