

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Commissioning
Licensed Lay Minister Robert Thomas
August 23, 2026 2:00pm

Announcements And Welcome

Pastor Chris: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

Pastor Chris God of all mercy and consolation,
come to help of your people,
turning us from our sin
to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness,
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

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

Pastor Chris: Most merciful God,
**Congregation: we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
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.
For the sake
of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

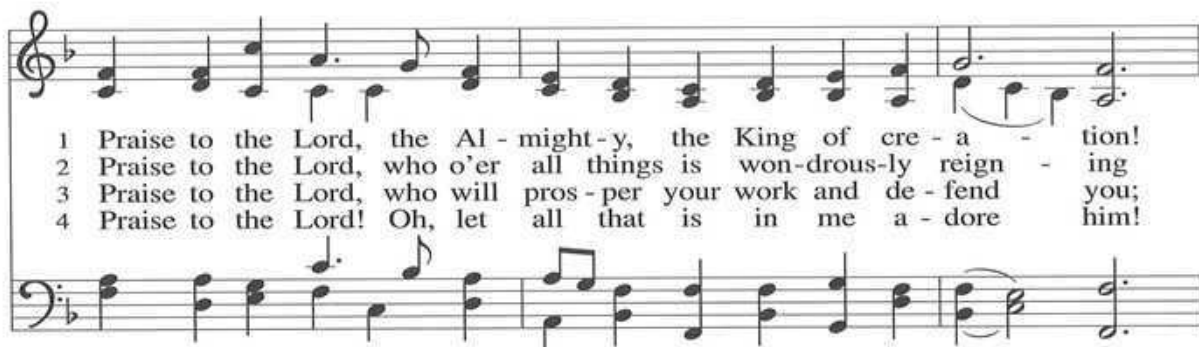
Pastor Chris: In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake
God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

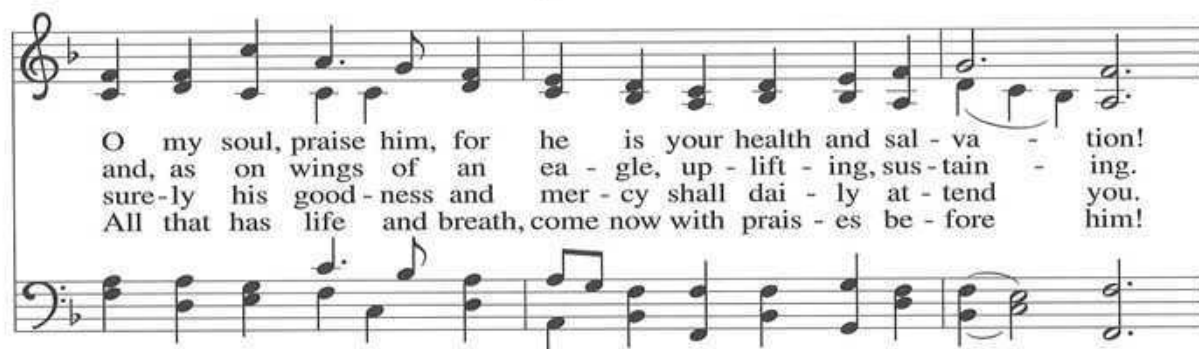
Prelude: Voluntary on Ein Feste Burg

Gordon Young

Entrance Hymn: # 858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
 Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 if with his love he be - friend you.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Greeting

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Kyrie

Worship Asst.: In peace, Let us pray to our Lord

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Asst: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to our Lord

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Asst: 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 our Lord.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Asst: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to our Lord:

Congregation: Lord, have mercy.

Worship Asst.: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Congregation: Amen

**Congregation: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to
be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are
his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign, Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Prayer of the Day: Let us pray.

Gracious God, you call us to lives of faith and service. Bless your servant
as he is commissioned as a Licensed Lay Minister. Fill him with your Holy
Spirit, strengthen him to proclaim your Word, and guide him in faithful
service to your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-9

Psalm 116 (Read Responsively)

Leader: What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Leader: I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

People: Truly I am your servant, Lord; you have freed me from my chains.

Leader: I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

**People: I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-16

**Congregation: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia.
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Pastor: The holy gospel according to Saint Luke the 10th Chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-9

Pastor: The gospel of our Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Bishop deForest

Hymn of the Day: #579 Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your ser - vice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bod - y,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



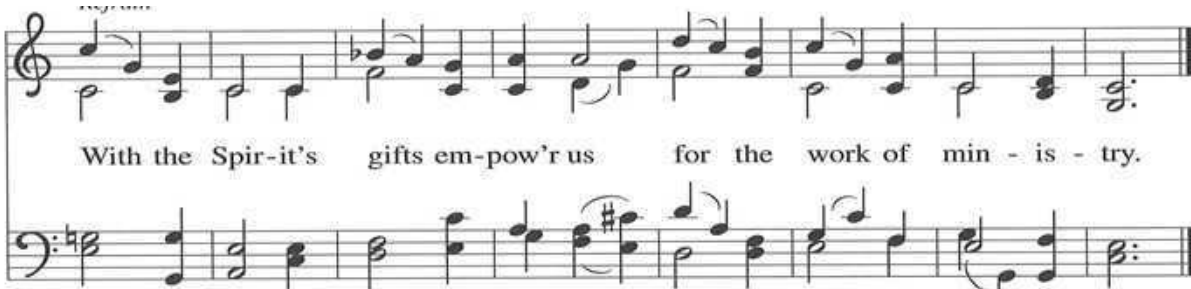
preach the word." Lest the church ne - glect its mis - sion,
 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 this my blood." Let us all, for earth's glo - ry,
 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



and the gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness
 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new
 dai - ly lift life heav - en - ward, ask us that the
 all that you so free - ly give, May your care and
 may we serve as you in - tend and, a - mid the



to your pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty:
 fer - vor, draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty:
 world a - round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty:
 mer - cy lead us to hold a just so - ci - e - ty:
 cares that claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty:



With the Spir - it's gifts em - pow'r us for the work of min - is - try.

Rite of Commissioning of a Licensed Lay Minister

Presentation

The assembly stands.

Council President: I present Robert Thomas, who has been prepared, examined, approved, and authorized by the bishop to serve as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated.

Address and Questions

Bishop: All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ's ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.

As you continue to minister through acts of love and service, you have also been entrusted to share in the licensed ministry of word and sacrament within this congregation

[St. Paul writes.] "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all." (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

Questions to Candidate.

Bishop: Before almighty God, to whom you must give account, and in the presence of this assembly, I ask:
Will you assume the role of Licensed Lay Minister, and be faithful in that call from God and the church as you share in the licensed ministry of word and sacrament?

Candidate I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: The church in which you are to be licensed confesses that the holy scriptures are the word of God and are the norm of its faith and life.
We accept, teach, and confess the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds.
We also acknowledge the Lutheran confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the holy scriptures.

Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Will you be diligent in your study of the holy Scriptures and faithful as you share in ministering the use of the means of grace through your licensed ministry?

Will you pray for God's people, share in nourishing them with the word and sacraments, and help to lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living?

Candidate: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Bishop: Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

All: Amen

Questions to the Mentor

Bishop: Pastor Chris Rotharpt, will you continue to support Robert Thomas as mentor according to the covenant you have entered into together? Will you pray for him and sustain him as he shares in the ministry Christ has entrusted to the Church?

Pastor Chris: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Questions to the Congregation

Bishop: Will you, the assembled people of God in this place, receive Robert Thomas as a Licensed Lay Minister in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, together serving Jesus Christ and proclaiming the Gospel of hope and salvation?

Assembly: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Bishop: Will you pray for him, work with him, and strive together to live in the peace and unity of Christ?

Assembly: We will, and we ask God to help us.

Declaration

Bishop: Let it be acclaimed that, by the authorization of the Bishop, Robert Thomas is a Licensed Lay Minister, in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville.

He is licensed to proclaim God's Word and administer the Sacraments in the congregation to which he has been licensed, serving God's people as together we bear Christ's redeeming love to the world.

Assembly: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Spirit equips your Church with many gifts. We thank you for calling Robert Thomas to this ministry. Strengthen him through your Holy Spirit, guide him in wisdom and humility, and bless his preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and administration of the Sacraments.

Grant that through the Holy Spirit the knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; may be made known through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Anthem: Walk Worthy Joseph Marin
Senior Choir

Offertory Response: #182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be filled with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us foretaste of the feast to come.

Prayer Hymn-#752 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

**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.**

Prayers

- A:** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- A:** For the holy catholic church, that, filled with your love, it may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness: God of mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A:** For the peace of the church, that our divisions may be overcome, so that, united in Christ, we may serve you with true and godly hearts and we may serve the world bearing witness to your good news: God of mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A:** For Robert Thomas, commissioned as a Licensed Lay Minister at Trinity Lutheran Church, that, sustained by your Holy Spirit, he may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of bold trust, serve your people, build up your church, and glorify your name: God of mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A:** For all pastors; deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry; for Yehiel and Christopher, our bishops; that, together with all those responsible for the care and nurture of your people, they may support one another in serving Christ: God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

- A:** For the nations of the world and their leaders, that they may work for justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person: God of mercy,
hear our prayer.
- A:** For the whole creation, that everything you have made may fulfill your purpose and that we may exercise care for your diverse gifts: God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation:(sung) And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation:(sung) We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation:(sung) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection open to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

Congregation:(sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.
Congregation: And also with you.
 Pastor: Greet one another with the peace of the Lord.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Hymns during communion:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Have mercy on us.

Bread of Life from Heaven

474

Refrain



Bread of life from heav - en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,



we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;		giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass a - way;		set your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love for you;		gave him -
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells in you;		make your
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de -	clare his death;		eat this



thanks,	hun -	gry	ones,	gath -	er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en -	dure.	Come,	learn	the	true	and	the
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one	who	is
home	in	the	life -	giv -	ing	Word.	Know	on -	ly	Christ,	Ho -	ly
bread	and	be -	lieve	Eas -	ter	morn;	trust	his	re -	turn	and,	with



sat -	is -	fied;	in	Christ's	pres -	ence	the	loaves	will	a -	bound.
liv -	ing	way,	that	the	full -	ness	of	life	may	be	yours.
food	for	you,	that	your	hun -	ger	and	thirst	be	no	more.
One	of	God,	and	be -	lieve	in	the	truth	you	have	heard.
ev -	'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re -	born.

Refrain

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Strengthen You and Keep You in His Grace. **Amen.**

Post Communion Canticle Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'rone what God has done.

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear God's holy name.

Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

Pastor: 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.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Dismissal

Worship Assistant: Go in peace to Love and Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn: #504 A Mighty Fortress is our God

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

*God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.*

Organ Postlude: Epilogue

Gilbert M. Martin

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***There will be a reception immediately following this service
in Trinity Halll.***

Thank you for joining us today.