

CONNECTED TO CHRIST, CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21, 2024 ~ 11:00 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church



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The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

Order of Service

~ Gathering ~

† Welcome

*† Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection, and self-examination.)

P: Holy God,

C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen

*† Hymn: "I Will Enter His Gates" TFBF 291

I will enter His gates

*with thanksgiving in my heart;
I will enter His courts with praise.
I will say this is the day
that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

*He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

*He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for He has made me glad.*

REPEAT ALL

***† Greeting**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***† Kyrie**

A: *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: *For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: *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 the Lord.*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: *For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

C: **Amen**

***† Hymn of Praise**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

*† Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~God's Word ~

† First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

† Psalm: Psalm 23; *refrain*, Ps. 23:1

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

¹The LORD I is my shepherd;
I shall not I be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down I in green pastures
and leads me be- I side still waters.**

³You restore my I soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways I for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they I comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence I of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is I running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days I of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the I LORD forever. R**

† Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

*† Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th Chapter

C: *Glory to you, Glory to you, Glory to you, O Lord*

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

***† Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: *Praise be to you, praise be to you, praise be to you, O Christ*

† Choir Anthem: "The Lord is My Shepherd"

† Sermon: The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

† Sermon Hymn: "He Rose" TFBF 90

*1 They crucified my Savior
and nailed him to the tree,
they crucified my Savior and nailed him to the tree,
they crucified my Savior and nailed him to the tree,
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.*

Refrain:

*He rose, he rose, he rose from the dead,
he rose, he rose, he rose from the dead,
he rose, he rose, he rose from the dead,
and the Lord will bear my spirit home.*

**Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response*

*3 Sister Mary, she came running,
a-looking for my Lord,
sister Mary, she came running,
a-looking for my Lord,
sister Mary, she came running,
a-looking for my Lord,
and the Lord will bear my spirit home. [Refrain]*

*4 An angel came from heaven
and rolled the stone away,
an angel came from heaven
and rolled the stone away,
an angel came from heaven
and rolled the stone away,
and the Lord will bear my spirit home. [Refrain]*

~ Prayer ~

***† The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.*
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

**the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***† Prayers of the People**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.
Amen.

*† **Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*† **Offering Canticle**

*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 fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence.
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

*† **Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

~ Meal ~

*† **The Great Thanksgiving**

P: *The Lord be with you.*

C: **And also with you.**

P: *Lift up your hearts.*

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*† Words of Institution

*† 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**

† Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

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.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

† Communion Hymn: "He is Lord"

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

*He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead
and he is Lord;
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.*

*He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead
and he is Lord;
ev'ry knee shall bow,
ev'ry tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord*

*† Post Communion Blessing

(After all have returned to their places:)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen

*† Post Communion Canticle

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

*† Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.
Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name.
C: Amen.

*† Benediction

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

*† Hymn: "In the Name of Jesus" TFBF 265

*In the name of Jesus,
in the name of Jesus,
we have the victory.*

*In the name of Jesus,
in the name of Jesus,
Satan will have to flee.*

*Oh, oh, oh, tell me:
who can, stand before us
when we call on that great name?*

*Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus;
we have the victory.*

REPEAT ALL

*† Dismissal

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every Thursday at 10AM. Next session will be Thursday, April 25th
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be Sunday, May 5th
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM. Contact Valerie Slack or Pastor Dianne if you like to volunteer.
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, May 10th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be Saturday, May 4th at 10AM.
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** will host their annual **Women's Day Program** on Sunday, May 19th at 3PM. Theme: "Women of Faith: Empowered by the Spirit". Colors of the Day are White accented with Red. Guest speaker will be Rev. Dorothy Patterson.
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be held Thursday, May 9th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Youth Ministry Catechism 101** will be Saturday, May 4th at 1PM
- ◆ Trinity next Double Good Popcorn fundraiser will begin on 4/25 through 4/29, just 4 days to participate and share, share, share
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Join in the 132nd Anniversary Celebration. Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle. Contact Tina Richardson at 201-435-9807 for more info.
- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings via Cash App **\$TrinityLCJC** or online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
- ◆ For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807