

Fourth Sunday of Easter Day

Sunday, April 26, 2026 ~ 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

*† Greeting

*† Entrance Hymn: "This is the Day" TFBF 262

This is the day, this is the day.

That the Lord has made,

that the Lord has made.

*We will rejoice, we will rejoice,
And be glad in it,
and be glad in it.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.*

*This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made.*

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.

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 God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

⁴² [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

† **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

¹⁹ It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his

body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

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

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

***† Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10**

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

[Jesus said:] ¹“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

† Adult Choir Anthem: “The Lord is My Shepherd”

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

† Sermon Hymn: "Low In The Grave He Lay" TFBF 94

1 Low in the grave He lay--

Jesus my Savior!

Waiting the coming day--

Jesus, my Lord!

Chorus:

Up from the grave He arose,

With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;

He arose a Victor over death's domain,

And He lives forever with His saints to reign:

He arose! He arose!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

2 Vainly they watch His bed--

Jesus my Savior!

Vainly they seal the dead--

Jesus my Lord! [Chorus]

3 Death cannot keep its prey--

Jesus, my Savior!

He tore the bars away--

Jesus, my Lord! [Chorus]

~ Prayer ~

*† The Apostles' Creed

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

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,
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**

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness.
Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still
waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.
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.

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" TFBB 95

*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.
Repeat ALL*

*† 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. **Amen.**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

***† Benediction**

***† Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” TFBF 232**

*1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.*

Refrain:

*Jesus lives again,
earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around:
loaves abound!*

*2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. [Refrain]*

*3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! [Refrain]*

***† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday via Zoom. Next session June 10th at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session May 3rd
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, June 12th from 2PM - 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be Saturday, May 2nd at 10AM.
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** will host a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 16th, 10AM - 12PM. \$20 donation per person.
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, May 14th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, May 30th, 12PM - 4PM
- ◆ *Save the Date:* Trinity's **135th Anniversary Gala** will be Friday, October 23rd at Pines Manor, Edison, NJ. \$125.00 donation per person. More info to come!
- ◆ Trinity is selling "**Faith Over Fear**" T-Shirts in 3 different designs. Short-sleeved: \$20; Long-sleeved: \$23. Please check our website for the designs and order info.
- ◆ Visit our **Gifts & Talents Wall** in the Fellowship Hall. Share how you would like to use your gifts and talents to serve the church.
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... 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 online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
- ◆ **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**