

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Day

Sunday, May 3, 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: "Victory in Jesus" TFBF 97

*1 I heard an old old story*

*How a Savior came from glory*

\*Congregation Standing  
**Bold Font:** Congregation Response

*How He gave His life on Calvary  
To save a wretch like me  
I heard about His groaning  
Of His precious blood's atoning  
Then I repented of my sins  
And won the victory*

*Chorus*

*O victory in Jesus, My Savior forever  
He sought me and bought me  
With His redeeming blood  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
And all my love is due Him  
He plunged me to victory  
Beneath the cleansing flood*

*2 I heard about His healing  
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing  
How He made the lame to walk again  
And caused the blind to see  
And then I cried dear Jesus  
Come and heal my broken spirit  
And somehow Jesus came and brought  
To me the victory [Chorus]*

**\*† 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

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ~God's Word~

### † First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

*Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.*

<sup>55</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" <sup>57</sup> But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup> Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

### † Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; refrain, Ps. 31:5

*Refrain: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.*

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;  
deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup> **Incline your | ear to me;**  
**make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;  
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup> **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**  
**for you are my tow- | er of strength. R**

<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup> **My times are | in your hand;**  
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

<sup>16</sup> Let your face shine up- | on your servant;  
save me in your | steadfast love." **R**

**† Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10**

*Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.*

<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—<sup>3</sup> if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup> like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

<sup>7</sup> This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,"

<sup>8</sup> and

"A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

**\*† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter

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

**\*† Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14**

*On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**† Combined Choir Anthem: “Everlasting God”**

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

**† Sermon Hymn: “Blessed Assurance” TFBF 118**

*1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

*Refrain:*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]*

*3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [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,  
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.*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick (*especially*). Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed. 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: "I Believe I'll Testify" TFBF 225**

*1 I believe I'll testify while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll testify while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll testify while I have a chance,  
for I may not have a chance anymore.*

*2 I believe I'll clap my hands while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll clap my hands while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll clap my hands while I have a chance,  
for I may not have a chance anymore.*

*3 I believe I'll sing this song while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll sing this song while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll sing this song while I have a chance,  
for I may not have a chance anymore.*

*4 I believe I'll shout for God while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll shout for God while I have a chance,  
I believe I'll shout for God while I have a chance,  
for I may not have a chance anymore.*

**\*† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday via Zoom. Next session June 10<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2PM - 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10AM.
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** will host a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10AM - 12PM. \$20 donation per person.
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Youth Friday Night** will be Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6PM - 8PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Timeless Treasurers** will host **Lunch & Politics Discussion** on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. Guest speaker will be Rex Reid.
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 12PM - 4PM
- ◆ **Men's Ministry Day** with the young men at the Somerset Patriots Baseball Game on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Trinity will celebrate **Pastor Dianne's 4<sup>th</sup> Pastor Anniversary** on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ *Save the Date:* Trinity's **135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala** will be Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- ◆ 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**