



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 10, 2020 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of all the women of Trinity on Mother's Day by Lani Ludian.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the life beyond all death,
the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

Amen.

Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death,
let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**by the resurrection of your Son you make everything new.
Newness scares us, and we confess to shutting our doors in fear.
We have not listened to voices that challenge us.
We have resisted the Holy Spirit moving us in new directions.
Our hearts are slow to believe your promises.
Forgive us, O God, and renew us to embrace without fear
the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power.

Through the waters of baptism

you have been born anew by the living word of God.

Know that your sins are forgiven in ✠ Jesus' name
and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in you
both now and forever.

Amen.

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness, the passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.**

**Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and list'ning to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the glad refrain.**

**Now let the heav'ns be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen, their notes of gladness blend;
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end!**

**All praise to God the Father, all praise to Christ the Son,
all praise to God the Spirit, eternal Three in One!
Let all the ransomed number fall down before the throne,
and honor, pow'r, and glory ascribe to God alone!**

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

The refrain is introduced by the cantor.

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

Psalm



In - to your hands, O LORD, I com - mend my spir - it.

*Psalm
Tone*



¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.

²**Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.

³Be 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.

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

⁵Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

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

¹⁶Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
save me in your | steadfast love.” ☩

A reading from First Peter.

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

⁴Come to Christ, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

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

⁷To you then who believe, Christ is precious; but for those who do not believe,

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

⁸and

“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.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS' SERMON

Getting to Know God

Stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In God’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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to Abba God except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know Abba God also. From now on you do know Abba God and have seen God.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us Abba God, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus 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 God. How can you say, ‘Show us Abba God?’ ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but God who dwells in me does God’s works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in God and God is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very 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 God. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that God may be glorified in me. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

I Do Not Know. . . And That’s Okay

Stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life

#816

**Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way as gives us breath;
such a trust as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.**

**Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a light as shows a feast;
such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.**

**Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a joy as none can move;
such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Still worshipping from our homes, but with our hearts bonded into one, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "make haste to deliver us."

A brief silence.

Build us up, mothering God, that like living stones we embody the strength that only you can give. Nurse all the baptized with the milk of your word. As you provided the early church with the apostle Matthias, fill now the churches' needs for leaders to serve your holy people.

A brief silence.

God, incline your ear to us:

Make haste to deliver us.

Form us to be humble participants in your complex creation. We praise your power in evolving a magnificent earth, from flowering trees to tropical rainstorms, from black holes to beloved pets. Lead us to respect your wondrous earth with both all that creates and all that destroys.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us:

Make haste to deliver us.

Assist the leaders of nations to find and follow your ways of justice. Guide their way through the challenges of pandemic and poverty. Protect governors and legislators from sickness and burn-out. Despite our own considerable needs, keep us mindful of the needs of others, especially refugees and prisoners. We pray especially for the family of Ahmaud Arbery who was killed in an act of violence, racism, and hatred. Renew our call to work for racial justice in our communities and in our world.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us:

Make haste to deliver us.

Accompany those who are sick, sorrowful, or confused. Comfort them in suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens. We beg you to protect us from the coronavirus, and we pray for those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us:

make haste to deliver us.

Sustain those who mother infants and children. Uphold the parents and grandparents who now must school their children. Provide enough food and resources for families. Grant safe pregnancy and delivery to expectant parents, and minister to those who endure infertility and miscarriage. Bless the countless relatives, medical workers, and hospice volunteers who give to others mothering care. Embrace all for whom today's cultural celebration of mothers is difficult.

A brief silence.

O God, incline your ear to us:

Make haste to deliver us.

Always, loving God, we are bold to add our own petitions:

A longer period of silence.

O God, incline your ear to us:

Make haste to deliver us.

We remember before you all who have died in the faith, those like Stephen martyred for the faith, those struck down by the coronavirus, and those whom we name now in our hearts.

A brief silence.

At the end, bring us all to you, who are our way, our truth, and our life.

O God, incline your ear to us:

Make haste to deliver us.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Peace be with you.

 **Peace be with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today
to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.*

Sit

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, www.trinitylutheran.ws.
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright arr. by Dr. John Beckford
Tune from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, #384
John Beckford, percussion

Stand as able

OFFERTORY HYMN

Thine Is the Glory

#376

(Verse 1)

**Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won!**

Let us pray. Merciful God,
**our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,
but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives.
Feed us again at this table for service in your name,
in the strength of the risen Christ.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:

you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,

and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:

freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile,

wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness:

forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death,

the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us:

renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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.**

HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

#645

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.
To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come with all your loving-kindness, hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.
Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.
Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

SENDING

BLESSING

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life,
fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching ev'ry place and time.**

**In ev'ry insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

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