

"So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy." St. Matthew 28:8

# **RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**

March 31, 2024 -- 10:00 a.m.

#### Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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Rev. Richard H. Mueller Craig Bruce Steve Horlebein Pastor Parish Musician Parish Administrator

"Come, Celebrate with Us"

#### WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**WELCOME**, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! To assist the office staff in serving you, please sign the yellow Attendance & Communion Registration sheet included in the bulletin. We also ask first time worshippers to sign the guest book on the table near the doors.

Please direct all pastoral care concerns to Pastor, Rich Mueller at 914-388-2240.

# 

# The Preparation

A First Reading of The Resurrection Account According to St. Mark.

P: May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

#### C: AMEN!

P: Bless, oh Lord, this lighted candle and those upon whom its light does shine; that all who are partakers of these holy mysteries may be filled with heavenly blessing and that we, who were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord, may walk as children of light, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## C: AMEN!

- P: By the Mercy of God we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
- C: Rejoice all heavenly choirs of angels and celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation, for the victory of so great a King, sound the trumpet of salvation. Exult, also, oh earth, enlightened with such radiance and made brilliant by the splendor of the eternal King. Know that the ancient darkness has been banished from the world. Be glad also, oh mother church, clothed in the brightness of such a light. Let this house resound with triumphant voices!

P: The Lord is Risen! C: He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!



**GATHERING HYMN** 

369, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!"



Text: attr. Wipo of Burgundy, d. c. 1050; tr. Jane E. Leeson, 1807–1882, alt. Music: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1781–1821

#### 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.



**CANTICLE OF PRAISE** Assisting minister vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu This is the feast of ia. All 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and hon or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his. Refrain This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu ia. 2 Sing all join with the peo - ple of God in the and hvmn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be God and the Lamb for - ev-er. A to men. Final refrain This is the feast vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain of has be - gun his reign. Al le lu - ia. Al - le - lu ia. --

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

- C: And also with you.
- P: Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

# Word

#### FIRST READING

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24) Sung responsively, **Congregation-Bold Parts** 

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;

God's mercy en- | dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>Let Israel | now declare,

"God's mercy en- | dures forever."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD is my strength | and my song,

and has become | my salvation.

<sup>15</sup>Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:

#### Acts 10:34-43

"The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly! <sup>16</sup>The right hand of the LORD | is exalted! The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!" <sup>17</sup>I shall not | die, but live, and declare the works | of the LORD. R <sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely, but did not hand me o- | ver to death. <sup>19</sup>Open for me the | gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD. <sup>20</sup>"This is the gate  $\mid$  of the LORD; here the righ- | teous may enter." <sup>21</sup>I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me and you have become | my salvation. R <sup>22</sup>The stone that the build- | ers rejected has become the chief | cornerstone. <sup>23</sup>By the LORD has | this been done; it is marvelous | in our eyes. <sup>24</sup>This is the day that the | LORD has made; let us rejoice and be | glad in it. R

#### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the Risen One in the preaching of this faith.

<sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

#### **SEQUENCE HYMN**

(ACS) 933, "Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded"

(Stanza 1 is sung before the reading of the Holy Gospel. Stanza 2 is sung after the reading. Please turn and face the center aisle for the Proclamation of the Easter Gospel.)

1 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel 2 Day of de - light and beau-ty un - bound-ed, tell the news, the gos - pel spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ spread! Day of all won - der, day of all splen - dor, praise Christ dead! en from the Sing of the from dark - ness ap ris sun en from dead! Sing now of mourn - ing turned in - to ris the from bar - ren earth pear - ing; sing of the seed green ing; danc - ing; sing now the mvs t'ry, hope of our glo ry; sing of cre tion, al - le - lu - ia! Sing of the a of sing with thanks giv ing, al - le - lu ia! Sing now the Je - sus' side flow - ing; sing saints in stream from of fast ing turned in to feast - ing; sing the Lord's fa vor wa - ter made ho - ly; sing of sal - va tion, al - le - lu - ia! last-ing for - ev - er; sing, all things liv ing, al - le - lu - ia! Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: IN DIR IST FREUDE, Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556-1622 Text © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

#### **GOSPEL LESSON**

John 20:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. Glory to you, O Lord.

This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene

came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."<sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Linda Veren

#### SERMON

#### Rev. Richard H. Mueller





Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1–3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, st. 4 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708

#### 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,

we believe in the Holy spint, the Loid, the giver of hie,
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.

## **THE PRAYERS** (Stand or kneel)

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.

Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

## hear our prayer.

Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for this community of faith (*name/s may be spoken here*) and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death (*especially John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith*). Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

*P*: 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.

## C: Amen.

# PEACE

*P*: The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

## C: And also with you.

We greet one another with a gesture of peace.

Peace be with you. And also with you.

# Meal

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Your offering can be left in the baskets provided near the entrance of the sanctuary.





# **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let Us Pray.

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

## C: Amen

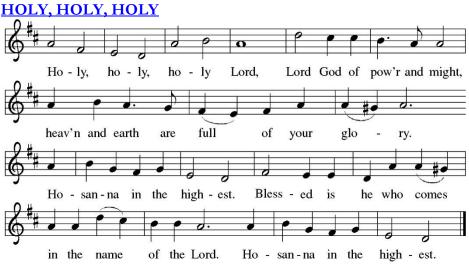


## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



The Eucharistic Prayer follows, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

*C:* 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.

#### COMMUNION

*P*: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Christ is truly present in this sacrament. We trust the Word, "The body and blood of Christ given and shed for you." By Christ's invitation, all baptized people of God are welcome to receive Christ's gift of love and mercy. Cups are available to receive wine from the Worship Assistant's pouring chalice. If grape juice is preferable, it is available in the tray the Acolyte carries.

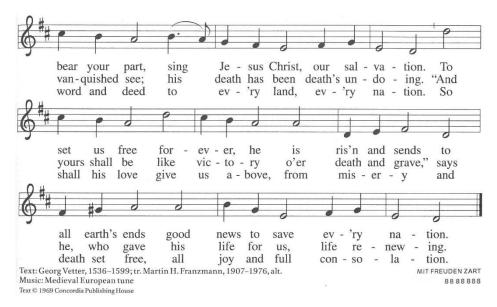
Those not wishing to participate in Holy Communion may come forward and receive a blessing. Please notify the usher if you are unable to come forward, but wish to commune

in your seat. Approach the altar from the center aisle and return to your seat by a side aisle.









## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The presiding minister may say a table blessing.

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

## C: Amen

The assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

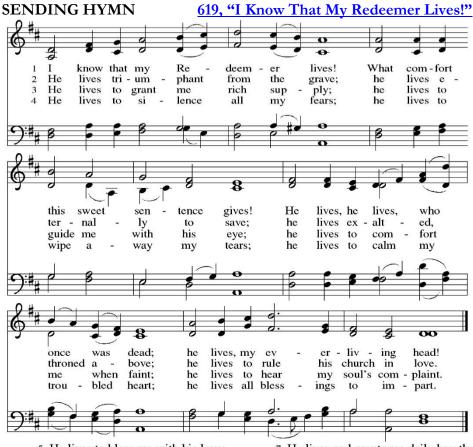
- A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.
- C: Amen.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

# FAREWELL AND GODSPEED Sending

#### BLESSING

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always.
- C: Amen.



- 5 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above; he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; he lives and loves me to the end; he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!
   Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–1799, alt.
   Music: DUKE STREET; attr. John Hatton, d. 1793
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath; he lives, and I shall conquer death; he lives my mansion to prepare; he lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same; what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

#### DISSMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

#### C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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# A MOST BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER TO US ALL!

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Announcements for Sunday, March 31, 2024

<u>To KEEP IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS</u>: Those worshipping for the first time at Holy Trinity. <u>Cancer/Illness</u>: Tammy Cain, Milissa Collins, David Durant, Jay Fassbender, Brittany Dyche Harvey, Elsie Lamb, Susan Mueller, Dot Peterson, Sheila Ross, David Scott, Charles Sharp and Joey Simon; <u>Those serving in military, firefighters & law enforcement</u> <u>including</u>: Marc Alverson, Daryl Bogle, Colter Burkey, Adam Cormier, Steve Duke, Shawn Ethington, Brent Massey, Jordan Miller, Christopher Mueller, Titus Nissen, Rich Peacock and Dylan Winslow; <u>Holy Trinity's Mission Partner</u>: New Hope Lutheran Church – Sallis MS; <u>ELCA Leaders</u>: SE Synod Bishop Rev. Kevin Strickland, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Pastor Rich Mueller.

#### Announcements

**Our stewardship last week:** Attendance – 48 Offerings – \$3,675.00

SCRIPTURE APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1--2:2; John 20:19-31

**Many thanks** to all who helped with and participated in the **special services** of this Great and Holy Week and the Easter Celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. We do it all to the glory of God, the one who raised Jesus from the dead! The Lord is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Many thanks to all who helped with and participated in the delicious **Easter Breakfast** we enjoyed before our worship service. There will be children's activities and dessert following the service today. All are welcome.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

<u>CALENDAR OF EVENIS</u>				
Today	Easter Sunday 8:00am Easter Breakfast 10:00am Service of Holy Communion 11:15am Easter Egg Hunt			
Mon., Apr. 1	Easter Monday 4:30pm – 5:30pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons in Sanctuary & Classroom			
<b>Tues., Apr. 2</b> 8:30am – 2:00pm Office Hours 3:00pm – 6:30pm Musical Beginnings: Voice Lessons in Sanctuary				
Wed., Apr. 3	<ul> <li>8:30am – 2:30pm Office Hours</li> <li>3:00pm – 5:00pm Musical Beginnings: (Piano, Drums &amp; Violin) in Sanctury, Fellowship Hall &amp; Classroom 1</li> <li>4:00pm – 5:30pm Yoga Class (Gathering Place)</li> <li>5:00pm – 5:30pm Musical Beginnings: Piano Lessons in Sanctuary</li> <li>5:30pm Church Council Executive Meeting</li> </ul>			
Thur., Apr. 4	<ul> <li>8:30am – 2:30pm Office Hours</li> <li>11:00am – 12:30pm Worship &amp; Music Board Meeting</li> <li>4:30pm – 6:00pm Musical Beginnings: Music Lessons in Sanctuary &amp; Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>			
Sat., Apr. 6	8:00am – 10:00am Men's Breakfast 8:00am – 8:45am <b>Cancelled:</b> Yoga Clin Gathering Place			
Sun., Apr. 7	10:00am Service of Holy Communion 1:00pm – 5:30pm Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, & Girl Scouts Pack Meetings			

# 🐸 <u>Birthdays</u> 🐸

Nate Manicke 04/04 Andy Veren 04/04 Jan Pierce 04/05

# 🎊 <u>Anniversaries</u> 🎊

Bob A. & Jean Patterson 04/03/2004 20 yrs

> Mike & Jenny Shrider 04/04/1992 32 yrs



Given to the Glory of God with Great Thanksgiving For: Bv: Phyllis Buchholz In memory of my heavenly family Mike & Emily Cormier In loving memory of Parents Jerry Driskell In memory of Bärbel Linda Gregg In memory of Mom, Dad & Buddy Steve & Debi Horlebein In memory of Loved Ones Dave Kummer In honor of our church family Judi Luken In loving memory of Eck Luken The Manickes In memory of Grandpa, George Eckenstaler Joan & Richard Micelli In memory of parents Pastor Rich Mueller & in loving memory of Matthew Studt and Lorraine Studt Peter Mueller In loving memory of husband, Bill, and son, Jan Pierce Blayne In memory of my Daddy Donald Ray Joy Scott Holcomb In memory of loved ones who have passed Mike & Jenny Shrider Danny & Paula Watkins In memory of family in heaven

<u>Address Change</u>

Ginny & Bruce Peterson 6400 York Avenue S #105 Edina, MN 55435

Their email address remains the same: <u>ginnylouis@gmail.com</u>

# Assisting in Worship

Presiding Minister	Rev. Richard H. Mueller
Musicians	Craig Bruce: Keyboards Steve Horlebein: Guitar
Assisting Minister	David Kummer
Acolyte	Nic Bogle
Lector	Sandy Vontroba
Cantor	Randi Patterson
Children's Sermon	Linda Veren
Altar Guild	Joan Micelli
Greeters	Jerry Driskell
Usher	Kevin Burkey
Tellers	Kevin Burkey & Jerry Driskell
Camera Operator	Eric Veren

The flowers at the Altar today are given to the Glory of God with Great Thanksgiving by Bruce & Ginny Peterson.



PURPOSE STATEMENT

God's purpose for Holy Trinity is to grow faith that moves us beyond ourselves.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- 1. Faithfully living with Christ at the center.
- 2. Prayerfully listening with open hearts and minds.
- 3. Selflessly welcoming all without preconceptions.
- 4. Courageously bearing our neighbor's burdens
- 5. Relating to one another with respect and honesty
- 6. Boldly sharing our blessings with other.

# MARCH 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY



# Christ is risen. Alleluia!

# DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 20:1-18	The tomb is empty
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	God shows no partiality
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Christ died for our sins
Wednesday	Hebrews 12:1-12	The example of Jesus
Thursday	John 1:1-5	In the beginning was the Word
Friday	Romans 5:1-5	Being acceptable to God
Saturday	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Give thanks to the Lord
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. John 20:1 (NRSV)

# PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you for your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who has conquered sin and death for us through his death and resurrection. Amen. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, for this gift of food and for the resurrection of Jesus Christ we give you thanks for your steadfast love that endures forever! Amen.

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Christ bless you with hope and joy.



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# MARCH 31, 2024

#### HYMN OF THE WEEK Jesus Christ Is

Risen Today

# · · · · · ·

# WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

taking

faith

nome

# CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you hope for but wonder if it will ever happen?
- What makes Easter important to you?

#### DEVOTIONS 🛸

Read: John 20:1-18.

Mary came to the tomb early in the morning when it was still dark. The darkness versus light theme is found from the beginning of the Gospel of John, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* (John 1:5) When we gather in worship on Easter Sunday, we expect light and beauty to fill the sanctuary. That is not the story of the first Easter in the Gospel of John. It includes more references to death and the tomb than the other three Gospels. Death and darkness are realities, even on Easter. There is confusion and misunderstanding, including Mary not recognizing Jesus and two of the disciples not understanding that Jesus *"must rise from the dead"* (v. 9). Perhaps John wants us to dwell a little longer on the reality of death and darkness that surrounds us, even today. A closer look at the frailty and sorrows of life and our own misunderstandings makes the message of Christ's resurrection stand out all the more. It might just make Easter even brighter, our hearts even warmer, and our hope even stronger. Christ is risen! Alleluia.

Discuss: What is hard for you to understand about the resurrection?

*Pray:* Almighty and everlasting God, for your glory and power over sin and death we sing your praises now and forever through Jesus Christ, the one who died so that we may live forevermore. Amen.

# SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you give hope to someone going through a tough time?

# **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Alleluia means "praise the Lord." The word Alleluia is traditionally not used and is "buried" during Lent. It is resurrected on Easter. Light all seven candles of the seven votive candles shaped like a cross that have been used during Lent. Consider using the candles as a centerpiece for Easter dinner. Write the word Alleluia on post-it notes or index cards. Place them around the candle cross.

#### Say: Christ is risen; He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

Then pray: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen. (Psalm 118:24)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**