



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for April 17, 2022, celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day.

Pastor Jack Dressler (519-250-7210) is our interim Pastor. Please contact him for any pastoral needs.

Thank you again for your support for Trinity. Please continue to mail in cheques, or drop them off in the church's mailbox or make your donation either through PAR or through the Donate button on the church's website, at "[www.trinitylutheran.ca](http://www.trinitylutheran.ca)".

### **Introduction**

"The last enemy to be destroyed is death," Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Worship**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!      **And also with you!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast.  
*Alleluia.*

### **First Reading: Acts 10:34-43**

*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>Peter began to speak to [the people]: "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.”

**Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

*This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let Israel now declare, “God’s mercy endures 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:**

**“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.**

<sup>18</sup>The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over 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 of the LORD; here the righteous may enter.”

<sup>21</sup>**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me**

**and you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup>The stone that the builders 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.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

*Paul describes the consequences of the resurrection, including the promise of new life in Christ to a world that has been in bondage to death. He celebrates the destruction of evil and the establishment of God’s victorious rule over all.*

<sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. <sup>21</sup>For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; <sup>22</sup>for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in

Christ. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18**

*This morning began with confusion: the stone was moved and the tomb was 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.**

**The Sermon: Taking the Risk Out of Dy(e)ing (Pastor Jack Dressler)**

Quite a few years ago a newspaper carried an unusual headline. It read, “Test Takes Risk out of Dyeing.” Now, obviously, it was talking about dyeing hair. An expert was being quoted as saying that before dyeing your hair, you should test one strand to see how it works. Now that seems to make good sense to me. But it was the headline which attracted my attention: “Test Takes Risk out of Dyeing.”

Another old article intrigued me even more. It was a report that archaeologists in the Holy Land had uncovered the tomb of the High Priest Caiaphas. It was Caiaphas, you remember, who presided over the plot to have Jesus arrested, convicted, and crucified. Do you know what they found when they opened his tomb? They found Caiaphas, or I should say, they found the decayed bones of the man who instigated Jesus’ death.

I could not help but be struck by the fact that archaeologists found the high priest’s decayed body in the tomb – but nobody has ever found the body of Jesus. Why? Well, you and I know, don’t we?

Remember what happened? Journey back with me for a moment to that first Easter morning. While it was still dark, through the deserted streets of Jerusalem, three men run along, hurrying to the residence of the High Priest Caiaphas. In the courtyard, a guard stops them. “See Caiaphas now? Impossible! You’ll have to wait until dawn at least!” Later, after the sun has risen, Caiaphas meets with the three soldiers, and hears the incredible news that the tomb they were charged to guard is empty.

Caiaphas at first is puzzled, then angry, then thoughtful, for the men have no explanation. Repeated questioning will not shake their story. No, they had not fallen asleep. There had been some strange stirring in the garden, an earthquake had shaken the ground, the stone was dislodged, and the tomb was empty.

And so Caiaphas, the consummate politician, came up with an idea. The Scriptures tell us, “When the chief priest had met with the elders and devised a plan, they met with the soldiers and gave them a large sum of money, telling them, ‘Say that his disciples came during the night and stole him away while you were asleep.’”

But nothing could have been further from the truth. For while this whole charade was going on, the despair and disillusionment of the disciples were almost complete.

Take Simon Peter for instance. His heart was filled with despair over his own shameful denial of Jesus, and his mind was clouded with disillusionment over the fate of Jesus. The One in whom they had placed their hopes was now dead. All chances were gone.

And so Peter says, "I'm going fishing." What else is there to do? Life has to go on, and perhaps they can pick up the pieces where they were dropped when Jesus came along and called them from their nets to follow him. Perhaps they could get away. Perhaps they could forget. Maybe the sting of the sea wind on their faces, the rough nets sliding through their fingers, the tug of the fish could help them forget – forget that certain face, that voice, that smile. Perhaps they could start again.

The women, too, were dealing with their grief the only way they knew how. They had watched as his dead body had been lowered from the cross, hastily anointed, and placed in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. And so now, on that first Easter morning, they made their way to the tomb. But as they walked to the tomb, they were preoccupied with one problem: "Who will roll aside the stone; that we may go in?" They did not go to greet a risen Saviour, but to complete their duty toward a dead man.

The women had no grandiose plan to deceive humanity for centuries to come. They had been there at Calvary. They had seen him die. And now all they wanted was to complete the final acts of love and respect for their dead leader.

We can't blame them for their reaction that Easter morning, can we? You know what they did. They ran for their lives! Time and time again in the Scriptures, the announcement of the resurrection is preceded by the words, "Don't be afraid." The angel who greeted the women at the tomb said that. "Don't be afraid. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. See the place where he lay? He is not here. He has risen. Go and tell the disciples."

Mary Magdalene, unable to understand, unable to bear the pain, so filled with grief and despair that she could not even run, returns to the garden and meets a man there who asks her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" "Because they have taken my lord away, she says." And then the voice of the One who holds life and death in his very hands, the One who had forgiven and restored her, makes himself known to her – with just one word – as he says her name, "Mary."

And just as suddenly as the new day dawns, Mary understood. She knew. She knew then that life is no brief candle that flickers and goes out. That by the power of God Almighty, Christ had risen, and brings with him the promise of life everlasting. That for all who turn to him in faith, that same light of a new day, the light of Easter, will dawn, bright and glorious.

For that is the message of Easter – that in the resurrection of Jesus a new day dawns for all of us. How many of us have stood or dreaded standing where those faithful women stood before the dawn of Easter morning – there in the valley of the shadow of death? How many of us have experienced the fear and dread that is ours when tragedy occurs or when sickness comes calling or when a loved one or someone near us dies?

It is then that we need to hear the words of the angels, “Don’t be afraid. He has risen!” That’s the message of Easter. It says: “Stop! Stop and listen. Stand still long enough in the presence of God to hear God calling your name.” That’s what Mary did.

Stop. Not when death trips you up or the grave stands in your way, and certainly not before you reach the empty tomb of Jesus. Stop and hear Jesus call your name. Remember the words we speak at baptism, saying, “Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with cross of Christ forever.” Stop and hear God calling you.

Hear the words the Gospel writer Luke records, of the angels saying as they ask, “Why do you seek the Living God among dead things?” Why do you return to places of death? Why go back to sin and wrongdoing? Why go back to habits of life that bring pain and heartache to you and those around you?

Stop and hear God speak to you today. Hear God call you forth from places of darkness and death into the light of the resurrection. Let Easter dawn upon you. Let the resurrection fill you with faith and hope and obedience to the voice of God.

There was a humorous little news item in the magazine *Newsweek* one March. It was a letter written from the Greenville County, South Carolina, Department of Social Services to a dead person. The letter said, “Your food stamps will be stopped effective immediately because we have received notice that you passed away. Thank you for your attention to this matter. You may reapply if there is any change in your circumstances.”

Well, I don’t know about you, but there is only one person I know of who has ever had that kind of “change of circumstance” and that is Jesus Christ our Lord. He lives and because he lives, we also will live eternally. As Mary Magdalene stood in the garden and heard Jesus call her name, she made a discovery that would change her life forever. She knew then that God was in control and that Jesus lives forever. She knew then that God was with her and that no matter what road she would travel from then on God would accompany her.

And that, my friends, is the gift of Easter. The gift that God longs to give you and me. The promise – the assurance – of God’s love and care for us. The promise that as Christ is resurrected from the grave, so you and I may experience new life in him. God is in control. Death is defeated. **HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! AMEN.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

## **The Prayers of Intercession**

*On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.*

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants, and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of presence, bless those of this community who cannot be with us this morning, and those who walk with them, especially:

***In Residence:*** Margaret; Maria; Stan; Katie; Katherine; Cordelle; Dorothy

***Needing our prayers:*** Ed; Pastor Mike & Patti, Donna; Sharon B

***Friends of our Members Needing our prayers:*** Audrey; Greg; Paul; Hilda; Mary

**...and all members who may have needs unknown to us**

And all those we name in our hearts...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**



Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:*

**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.**

### **Benediction**

God, the Author of life, Christ, the living Cornerstone, and the life-giving Spirit of adoption, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
Go in peace. Tell what God has done. **Thanks be to God.**