



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for April 24, 2022, celebrating the Second Sunday of Easter.

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

As previously indicated, Pastor Jack had a commitment to Trinity until the end of April 2022, performing services and being our emergency Pastor. At our council meeting on April 18, Pastor Jack presented to council what his commitments will be after May 1, 2022. This is what has been agreed upon:

- Pastor Jack will continue to provide Pastoral Care
- He will preach once a month (communion days, typically) on the following Sundays:

May 22, June 12, July 24, August 21, September 25, October 23, November 13, December 11 and potentially December 24

We also have been provided a list of retired Anglican Pastors in the area, whom we will be reaching out to, to see their interest and availability to preach. Dena is spear-heading this effort, so if you are interested in leading a Sunday service, please contact Dena.

The "Call Process" for a new full time Pastor is also beginning. The first step in this process is to complete what is called a Congregational Mission Profile. We will be looking for some input from the congregation – we will let you know.

Masks in Church **will continue** – there is currently no changes proposed. We will again review at our next council meeting on May 18.

### **Introduction**

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

### **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**

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the

body of your Son, 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. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe. Alleluia.

**First Reading: Acts 5:27-32**

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

<sup>27</sup>When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

**Psalm: Psalm 118:14-29**

*You are my God, and I will exalt you.*

<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.

<sup>25</sup>**Hosanna! O LORD, save us! We pray to you, LORD, prosper our days!**

<sup>26</sup>Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>**The LORD is God and has given us light.**

**Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup>You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup>**Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.**

### **Second Reading: Revelation 1:4-8**

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### **Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31**

*The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who "have not seen and yet believe."*

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

***The Sermon: I Could Be at Peace If .... (Sermon by Anne, with acknowledgements to Gregory Seltz, Donald Peterson, William Cwirla, Matthew Scharf )***

I could be at peace if..... Think about how we would finish that sentence.

There are as many answers to fill in the blank as people here this morning. And even more I'm thinking. I'm sure that each of us would probably be able to complete the sentence...I could be at peace if....with many different answers---answers that rob us of peace in our hearts.

Peace seems to be an elusive impossibility at times. But still we try, don't we? We keep looking for that peace in our lives.

We could be at peace if we felt more secure for the future.

We could be at peace if our families realize how much we are doing.

We could be at peace if we could forget the past and just move on.

We could be at peace if forgiveness came easier to us.

We could be at peace if we could see some noticeable improvement in our health.

We could be at peace if we didn't worry about the future.

We are all in the same boat. At times, we all have felt the emptiness in our hearts. We all have felt grief, heartbreak, guilt, dashed dreams, worry. We all have lost the peace in our hearts.

Imagine being in the room with the disciples that night!! Agitated, anxious, doubting,

despairing----during the previous week, they had been on an emotional roller coaster. From the joy and triumph of Palm Sunday--to the heartwarming evening of Maundy Thursday--to the pain and agony of Good Friday---and now the reports of the empty tomb--I'm sure the disciples were anywhere but at peace.

The women were in hysterics saying they had seen Jesus. Peter and John had seen the empty tomb but could not grasp the meaning of it yet. The disciples had walked and talked with Jesus---what did all this mean now? Each of them had abandoned Jesus in His hour of deepest need. And so, when peace seemed most elusive, the disciples did what comes naturally---they hid. They isolated themselves. They locked themselves among the ruins of their dreams, their grand plans and promises of loyalty and faithfulness to Jesus---anxious, alone and afraid.

But then---Jesus showed up and said "Peace be with you."

"Peace be with you."

With those words, Jesus brings peace to his troubled disciples. He didn't say "oh things might get better". Jesus gave them the promise that the barrier of sin that stood between them and God had been removed. Into their fear and bewilderment, Jesus brings the news that because He lives, peace with God is a true, present reality!!

Jesus barged through those locked doors because He loved His disciples too much to let them keep going, trying to find peace and security in the wrong places. Those locked doors and their thoughts of the last week couldn't bring them peace---only Jesus could--only Jesus did.

In His grace, Jesus does the very same thing for us. The doors we build around ourselves will never provide the peace and security we are looking for. If we are trying to find God's peace by looking somewhere within ourselves or by looking at others for help---then we are doomed. We are standing side by side, shoulder to shoulder with those disciples in that locked room.

But Jesus loves us too much to leave us in our locked rooms. With His resurrection, Jesus breaks down the doors, the walls that we think provide us peace and security--but they really don't. Jesus gives us what we truly need----He gives us love and peace; true, lasting, blood bought love and peace with God.

"The Creator looked around the hill and saw 3 figures hung on 3 crosses.

Arms spread. Heads fallen forward. They moaned with the wind.

Men clad in soldier garb sat on the ground near the 3 crosses.

Men clad in religious garb stood off to one side--arrogant and cocky.

Women clad in sorrow huddled at the foot of the cross with tear streaked faces.

All heaven stood to fight! All nature rose to rescue! All eternity poised to protect!

But----the Creator gave no command. It must be done.

Just then an angel spoke up--" But You can stop this--it would be less painful!!"

The Creator interrupted softly---"but it wouldn't be the love and peace I wish to give."

(author unknown)

His love and peace is what we need to help us deal with a crisis--to help us calm down.

His love and peace is what we need to help us to live through difficult situations and times of uncertainty.

The peace of Easter is to know that the anxiety and the worry and the fear that drain joy from our lives, that drains peace from our hearts, that drains sleep from our eyes---that is not all there is. With Jesus' resurrection He promises us --Peace. The peace and love of Easter is to know that Jesus lives--and He is alive for us!!

But not all the disciples were present on that evening. Thomas missed out. He'd missed "church" that evening--the evening when the disciples were all gathered in that locked room---the evening when Jesus appeared to them--the evening when Jesus spoke peace and breathed on them and said "receive the Holy Spirit."

The disciples were overjoyed to tell Thomas what had happened. But Thomas didn't believe them. Who could blame him? Thomas was a sane rational man. Ok-----maybe they thought they saw Jesus.

But--Thomas had forgotten the words of Jesus. All the disciples had including the women. Mary Magdalene was literally staring at the risen Jesus in the garden and thought He was the gardener. Peter and John had run to see the tomb for themselves because they couldn't believe the report of the women. They too had forgotten the words of Jesus.

Jesus told them He would die and on the third day rise. He spelled it out for them very plainly at least three times. The disciples had spent three years with Jesus. They saw Him heal the sick, drive out demons, raise three people from the dead. They'd heard what He said and still they didn't believe Him. They were huddled in fear in a locked room. They didn't believe the words of Jesus. The problem with all of them was not that they were doubtful--but that they were unbelieving.

Same with Thomas. Of course he wants to see Jesus for himself. Of course he wants to touch the wounds to be sure. Thomas isn't wrong for saying "show me the Jesus with holes in Him and let me touch Him for myself." Thomas' problem is that he thinks he will believe when he sees. Thomas thought he was on his own----but then Jesus shows up!! And what did He say--"Peace be with you". What grace and love Jesus shows!!

He could have grabbed Thomas by the shoulders to knock some sense into him. Instead Jesus meets Thomas where he's at and gives him all the proof and peace he could ever want.

Jesus didn't appear to Thomas to gloat--He came to Thomas to impart love, grace and peace. Jesus showed up in the midst of Thomas' doubt and He led him to believe.

He came then--and He comes now.

Jesus is here--with us now through His word to give us the gifts of love, faith and peace in Him. Look at what He did for us. He took our struggles and sins to the cross and gave His life to save us! He broke the power of death and rose from the grave! He comes to us through His living word. He enters our lives by giving us His Holy Spirit in baptism. He shows up in our high points and low points in the bread and wine of the Lord's supper. Jesus didn't come to gloat. He came to impart His grace and love and peace in our lives. He comes to forgive us and give us the gift of everlasting life.

That's why Jesus said--"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed."

We are blessed when we believe. We are blessed when we trust in Him.

In our desperation, Jesus scoops us up in His arms. God looks at us in the eye and says in love "Do you trust Me?" We can be assured and convinced of God's continued help and strength. We may never see our struggles completely come to an end this side of heaven. But we know that the spirit of God will carry us through. We will receive the blessing of relief in eternity.

True blessing is life in Him that lasts--forgiveness, salvation, resurrection. Jesus blesses us with the best. He forgives our sins , gives us the gift of eternal life and frees us from burdens that weigh us down. He loosens the past hurts and personal failures. He pays the price for the damage we've done to others. He pays the price for the pain that has been inflicted on us. Jesus carried all of that so that we can be free and have new life now and forever!

We are God's precious children. And as His children,we have the peace that comes from knowing that we are forgiven. We are at peace because we are forgiven. The disciples initially didn't feel this peace until they saw the risen Saviour. We don't get to see Jesus physically. But we look to Him with eyes of faith.

Jesus knew what Thomas needed to believe. And Jesus knows what we need too. Jesus has given us the signs in our baptism, in His supper and in His word.

We, as believers, are blessed because we have a Saviour who is relentless with His love and grace and peace. What Jesus promised was the peace and love knowing that we are in a secure relationship with Him. We are held by the peace and love of God--a peace



and love that is greater than every situation we have to live through----a peace and love that is greater than every problem that we have to face----a peace and love that will never let us go!!

That's all we need---**THANK God that Jesus left us His peace and love and grace!!**

### **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

### **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.*

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renew your people's commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold your children who cry out to you. Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise. With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy, **hear 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...  
God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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.**