



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

## CHURCH AT HOME

### **Announcements:**

Welcome to Trinity's worship resource for May 08, 2022, celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Easter.

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

### **Pastor Jack will be leading the following services:**

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

**\*\* Please Contact Dena Peifer if you wish to be a reader or lead a Sunday service \*\***

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 gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

### **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 peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, 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. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me. Alleluia.

### **First Reading: Acts 9:36-43**

*Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.*

<sup>36</sup>Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. <sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. <sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." <sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. <sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

### **Psalm: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **Second Reading: Revelation 7:9-17**

*Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.*

<sup>9</sup>After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup>I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**Gospel Reading: John 10:22-30**

*Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.*

<sup>22</sup>At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.”

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

**The Sermon: Following Our Good Shepard (preached by Father Brian Wearne at Tinity on May 8, 2022)**

In the name of the true and living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

On this Fourth Sunday of Easter as Jesus gives us such wonderful insight into some aspects of our relationship with Him, it seems particularly appropriate that He teaches us from His House. Solomon’s Porch was a long walkway covered by a roof supported

on pillars on the east side of the Temple, and it overlooked the Kidron Valley. Since there was always people present at the Temple for worship, it was a good place for Jesus to converse, teach and preach.

The Jews who demand Jesus to say plainly if He is the Christ are therefore standing in God's House, yet they do not recognize that they are conversing directly with God. Is it any wonder then, that Jesus has recently said that they are blind (John 9:40-41)? Even so, Jesus gives 2 responses to their demand. "I told you, and you do not believe", is the first response Jesus gives them, and indeed, on a previous appearance at the Temple Jesus had plainly taught them that "if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, "I AM" (John 8:24,58). Using the Greek words *ego eimi*, Jesus says I AM, to identify Himself with the name by which God first revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 3:13-15). This was a direct, explicit, and unmistakable claim to perfect equality with God that Jesus had made, just as He clearly says today: "I and My Father are one".

"The works that I do in My Father's name bear witness of Me" is the second response Jesus gives to the crowd. For the works Jesus has been doing have fulfilled many prophecies of old - they have fulfilled many ancient promises God had made to His people - and therefore His works also serve as a testimony to His identity as the Christ.

Today we could wonder how this crowd could be so spiritually blind that they failed to see that they were speaking directly with God in His House, even though He had so plainly revealed Himself to them with His words and His works. But for the very same reason that this crowd does not believe in Jesus, countless more do not believe in Him today. Why do you suppose that is? How is it possible, that what seems so clear to billions of us Christians seems so unclear to billions of others? On Good Shepherd Sunday, Jesus reminds us why. "You do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. My Father has given them to Me".

This teaching points us to a previous occasion in which Jesus had said: "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him" (John 6:44). When Christians are actively persecuted for our faith as well as when we feel the sting of rejection as we try to obey Christ's Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), we should not be discouraged. For even the great Apostles felt the sting of persecution and rejection when they tried to share their faith in Christ with others, but they were not discouraged. For they heard Jesus say what we have heard Him say today. "No one

can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him". We can only do our part in the knowledge that it is not us but Christ whom many reject.

Moreover, we are reassured that just as God the Father has given us to Jesus, no one can take us from Him. The people who reject Jesus cannot take us from Him! But much more importantly - and this is why Good Shepherd Sunday falls in Easter- death itself cannot take us from Him! For as we clearly heard Jesus say, He knows every one of us who follow Him obediently as a sheep follows it's shepherd. Just as every shepherd knows each one of his flock, Jesus knows who believes in Him and who does the works He gives them, just as He does the works of the Father.

Though there will come a day when we experience a physical death, we need not fear it's shadow in that valley. For He will be there to Shepherd us safely away from the threat posed by spiritual death and guide us safely to eternal life.

In The Book of Revelation, we are given a glimpse of that eternal life in heaven - a life that is pictured as one of unending worship day and night, from which all suffering has been banished. Referring to Jesus as the Lamb of God who died on The Cross for us, we see through St. John's eyes what our life of unending worship in heaven will be like. "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; for the Lamb who is in the midst of them will Shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes".

Truly these words cannot fail but inspire us both at Easter and always. For as we gain this glimpse of heaven with its scene of the unending worship of God by the angels and saints we see as well that Jesus is there, and He is keeping the promise that He made in His House on earth to Shepherd us as well as to console us. Wiping away the tears we will my from the pain of being separated from our loved ones, and the pain of knowing that some of them may have rejected the Christ.

Yet even as we are inspired by our Easter hope of resurrection and eternal life in heaven with Jesus, the angels, and saints, we realize that we require our Good Shepherd to nurture and nourish us through this life first, just as any shepherd would nurture and nourish his sheep.

Our minds turn to the 23rd Psalm, where it is prophetically revealed to us how Jesus will nurture and nourish us unto eternal life with Him in heaven. Our Good Shepherd leads us by still waters, so that we may enter them to be Baptized into His Family The Church. There in His House, Christ prepares a Holy Table for us, that He may spiritually nourish us with His Sacramental Body and Blood, and enter into a Holy Communion with us. And as we experience the scrapes and bruises of this life, our Shepherd anoints our

heads with Holy Oil in the Sacrament of Healing, to nurture and heal us from all the spiritual wounds of life that cause us such pain and suffering.

By so bathing, feeding and healing us through His Holy Sacraments, our Good Shepherd nurtures and nourishes us unto everlasting life, so that we may dwell with Him in His House forever. Until Jesus Returns again, He has chosen human shepherds through the Apostolic Succession to "tend and feed His sheep" in this way (John 21:15-17).

On this Sunday in Easter there is much for us to rejoice in with the angels and saints in heaven. We celebrate Following Our Good Shepherd, as His obedient sheep, because we are drawn by the Father to believe in Him, and to faithfully do the works that He has given us to do. We also celebrate that our Good Shepherd knows each and every one of us personally, as we place our trust in Him to nurture and nourish us with His Holy Sacraments unto everlasting life. And we celebrate in the peaceful confidence that there is no predator in existence - neither evil nor death - that is as powerful as our Good Shepherd is. No one can snatch us out of His hand!

Following Our Good Shepherd ensures that His goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of this life. And just as He taught us these things in His House, our Good Shepherd welcomes us into His House where we may dwell with Him on earth and in heaven - Forever!

And now to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, be all might, majesty, dominion, and honour, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

### **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.*

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and

open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need, and wipe away every tear from their eyes.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding. Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. 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.**

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life.

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.**