



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday

Announcements

Trinity is revamping and adding to its roster of committees. Your voice and talents are always welcome. Please see Dagmar or Pastor Chris for more information or to discuss where your gifts would help the most.

Coming Services

April 7 - Holy Humour Sunday, 10 a.m. In some traditions, the day is known as Bright Sunday - Jesus has overcome death and the grave, so let us be joyous. You are invited to wear brightly coloured clothing and have a good joke or riddle at the ready for the service.

May 12 - Music Sunday. The Trinity Band and choir will help lead the congregation in song as part of the Mother's Day service. As well, Trinity musicians and singers will provide liturgical music during portions of the service, such as the offering and communion.

May 15 - Pentecost Messy Church, 5 p.m. A mid-week session that includes a meal, activities and a devotional. All are welcome!

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle, Dorothy, Katie, Margaret, Sharon, Vern.

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Evelyn, Connie, Judith.

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Michelle, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank

Introduction to the day

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

ACS # 1018 Deep Peace

ELW # 365 Jesus Christ is risen today'

ELW # 383 Christ is risen, shout
hosanna!

ELW # 361 The Day of Resurrection

Prayer of the day

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.

AMEN

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how 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. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in

Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures
forever."**

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and
salvation echo in the tents of the
righteous:**

**"The right hand of
the Lord acts valiantly!**

¹⁶The right hand of the Lord is exalted!

The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷**I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of
the Lord.**

¹⁸The Lord indeed punished me

sorely,

but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;

I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰"This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the Lord has this been done;

it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Second reading:

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

¹Now 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, ²through 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.

³For 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, ⁴and

that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Gospel: Mark: 16: 1-8

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a

young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Sermon

Life unexpected

Christ has risen! Alleluia!

Our Lenten journey has reached its conclusion ... we have walked with Jesus and the disciples across the region ... witnessed the healings and the teachings ... we have entered Jerusalem ... walking behind the colt as the crowds cheered ... we sat among the disciples as they ate ... we had our feet washed ... and ... I hope we have washed the feet of others.

On Friday ... we stood at the foot of the cross with the small crowd of women and onlookers ... we watched from a distance as Jesus' body was taken down ... wrapped in cloth ... and taken away ... to a small tomb carved into the hillside ... we watched as a man rolled a

large stone across the entrance and then walk past us on the road back to Jerusalem.

Yesterday, we lived in silence with the women who bore witness to the crucifixion ... anticipating what comes next ... the empty tomb.

Only that isn't what the three women were expecting. So, we need to set aside our own expectations as we continue to journey with them.

Mary Magdalene ... Mary the mother of James ... and Salome were concerned with the task at hand ... a common and ... sadly ... everyday task.

They carried the items ... the cinnamon ... the myrrh ... and the lavender needed to anoint and embalm a body in a tomb.

As they walked down the road, they might have divvied up their duties ... who has to unwrap Jesus' body ... who will apply the ointments and spices ... and who will re-wrap Jesus.

They even argue how they will get the large rock covering the tomb's entrance out of the way. If we are truly walking with the women this morning, we can imagine hearing such a conversation taking place.

The three women were dealing with common concerns ... they certainly weren't traveling with hopeful expectations.

Jesus' death has crushed all hope.

The women likely just want to get on with living and forget all the promises that Jesus made during his teachings. Death has diminished them ...

overwhelmed them. They don't know what to believe any more.

Death is the foundation of the sorrow the women feel with each step toward the tomb... it is the sorrow that is replaced at the tomb this morning ... replaced with something incomprehensible.

The women ... and us here today ... arrive expecting the tomb to be as it was left on Friday.

Instead, we are greeted by an open tomb. We have moved from the silence after the crucifixion into the mystery and paradox of the tomb.

The rock has been rolled away ... they rush through the opening and see a man in a white robe just sitting there. Is he the one rolled the rock? Did he do something with Jesus' body?

Jesus is gone ... the man points to where it had lain as proof.

The empty tomb is a fundamental sign of Easter. The absence of Jesus' body – is the first indication of the resurrection. Jesus wasn't where he had been left.

Unlike the other gospel versions, in Mark the women do not encounter Jesus ... there is no gardener ... doubtful disciples don't get to touch the wounds ... disciples don't get to hear words of commission or get to share a meal with the risen Christ.

The final chapter in Mark's gospel is marked with confusion ... questions ... and fear.

We are left to wonder about the identity of the man ... is it an angel? Is it Jesus who is now unrecognizable? Is it the man who followed Jesus when he was arrested by the authorities and who had to drop his clothing to escape?

But this man has a message for the women.

"Looking for Jesus? ... He is not here.

"Jesus has gone on ahead to Galilee. You can see him there ... just like he promised."

Go from this place of death ... go toward life.

Mark tells us that the women are left with that promise ... that wherever they go ... Jesus has already been. Jesus has not abandoned them ... death did not erase his teachings or his instructions to serve others. In fact, death is absent from the tomb.

The other gospels say that the resurrected Jesus is with the people ... but in Mark Jesus has gone on ahead. Throughout Mark's gospel, the disciples are told to follow ... to get behind Jesus. They are to follow the risen Christ.

The women are told to share the news with the other disciples, but they are too bewildered ... too frightened ... too awestruck. We are told at the end of Mark's gospel that the women were so scared by what they saw that they remained silent.

The women were overwhelmed by the unexpected.

Their sense of loss likely seemed insurmountable. Perhaps, they couldn't

put into words what they experienced ... so they remained silent.

Over the centuries, such an ending didn't sit well with scribes and editors, so they cobbled together a couple of endings that don't end on such a downer note. After all, fear and silence aren't really the uplifting ending that would attract followers to a church.

But here's the thing ... the women didn't remain silent.

At some point, the promise overwhelmed their amazement ... faith won out over fear ... and they bore witness to what they saw and were told ... and the disciples who were nowhere to be found since Jerusalem ... somehow heard and shared the news ... and on ... and on ... and on.

The journey doesn't end at the tomb.

The promise that Jesus has gone on ahead of them ... ahead of the disciples ... which means ahead of us ... had to be shared ... it *HAS* to be shared.

The empty tomb stands as a testament that God is making all things new. Even in the end, there is a new beginning. God's love overcomes death.

The promise we have received has to be proclaimed through our words ... our actions ... through our shared experiences with Christ ... through our love for one another. On Easter ... we need to give voice to the promise ... silence is not an option.

Jesus is present in the world ... wherever grace is shared ... and where there is right relationships with God and with one another.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Christ is risen ... this is only the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God.

The story continues on through our hearts...

ALLELUIA AND 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

Blessing

The God of all,
who raised + Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.

AMEN