



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

www.trinitylutheran.ca

April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday in Easter

Announcements

Trinity will offer a Sunday morning affirmation worship service to mark Pride Month on June 16. The service is intended to recognize the past wounds caused by the greater church on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and to foster healing and belonging with the community. Assistant to the Bishop Adam Snook is scheduled to preach and assist at the service.

Trinity's music program continues to expand and our offerings diversify. Classical guitarist Esther Yang joins us on April 28. She is a third-year student in the University of Windsor music program.

Coming Services

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

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

Inshallah # 40 God welcomes all
ELW # 375 Alleluiah! Christ is arisen
ACS # 937 Earth, earth awake
ELW # 611 I heard the voice of Jesus
say

Prayer of the day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading: Acts 3: 12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and

the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender ¹ of my cause;
you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and ¹ hear my prayer.

²"**You mortals, how long will you dishon- ¹ or my glory;
how long will you love illusions and seek ¹ after lies?"**

³Know that the Lord does wonders ¹ for the faithful;
the Lord will hear me ¹ when I call.
⁴**Tremble, then, and ¹ do not sin;
speak to your heart in silence up- ¹ on your bed. R**

⁵Offer the appointed ¹ sacrifices, and put your trust ¹ in the Lord.
⁶**Many are saying, "Who will show us ¹ any good?"
Let the light of your face shine upon ¹ us, O Lord.**

⁷You have put gladness ¹ in my heart, more than when grain and ¹ wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie ¹ down and sleep;**

for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.

Second reading: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Gospel: Luke 24: 36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I

have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

Sermon

Loops and swirls

When Jay and Erika were babies ... we received letters from the local police services.

In each letter, the police warned parents about the possibility ... the remote possibility ... that our children could be snatched off the street ... or that they might become lost ... if our attention wandered for just a moment.

Both times, the letters went on to tell us that we need to give the police the tools they require to properly identify our

children ... so that they can be returned home if they ever went missing.

The letter strongly suggested that we get Jay and Erika finger- and foot-printed.

The police said this would be the best way to identify the kids quickly if something were to happen to them at some unknown future date.

The letter said that police officers and volunteers would be manning a booth at a local shopping mall where their footprints and fingerprints could be taken and given to parents for safe keeping.

This was an annual service that some police departments called a "Passport to Safety."

So, Donna ... like any good parent ... took Jay ... and a couple of years later ... took Erika ... down to the mall ... and ... after standing line with all the other concerned parents ... she watched as the volunteer placed Jay's foot on an ink pad and then on a form made of heavy paper.

Then, the volunteer fingerprinted Jay.

Of course, none of the babies or the toddlers understood that they shouldn't touch anything until their hands were cleaned Both times, Donna came home with the card and a second set of tiny fingerprints on her shirt.

Hands and feet ... four ways to identify a person.

Two disciples were walking on the road from Emmaus just before this morning's passage from Luke.

They encounter Jesus ... but don't recognize him.

The two lament that they had hoped that Jesus would redeem Israel ... only to have this stranger walking with them say that what had happened is what exactly was needed to fulfill scripture.

The two invite this stranger to share a meal with them ... and ... after the stranger breaks and blesses the bread ... they recognize that the stranger is Jesus ... only to have him vanish.

They rush to tell the others ... which is where we pick things up this morning.

After hearing from the two, the disciples gather behind closed doors when Jesus appears among them.

Naturally, after the cross ... and being told about the empty tomb ... the sight of Jesus terrifies the disciples.

"What's wrong with you? What's with the doubts?" Jesus asks them.

The gathering is sure that it is a ghost ... so, Jesus offers them proof. He takes what was ... during the time ... essentially a ghost test.

Jesus instructs them to look at his hands and feet and see the wounds ... to touch him and see that he has substance.

Under the "ghost test," if a figure had hands and feet ... if the feet were on the ground ... and if there was meat on the bones ... then the person was not a ghost.

But the disciples aren't fully convinced ... they are joyous, but still didn't believe that the resurrection story was true ... living out among them ... with them.

They're still afraid and they cannot fully embrace the peace that Jesus offered them.

So, Jesus provides one last piece of proof that he is not a ghost ... he asks them:

“Got anything to eat?”

Ghosts do not eat ... so this means Jesus is present through the meal.

It is only when they serve him broiled fish that the test is done and the disciples are fully open to understanding what the resurrection holds for them.

Jesus affirms that his death and rising has fulfilled scripture... the law of Moses and the psalms.

Jesus commissions the gathering to go out from Jerusalem and bear witness to the risen Christ ... to proclaim and to share the gift of grace ... God's love ... that comes through the resurrection.

The wounds that are the marks of Jesus' suffering and of his victory over the world's injustice and over death itself because the marks of a life of faith.

In 1 John, the author reminds the audience that we are called Children of God and emphasizes that not only are we called Children of God, but that is our identity. It is who we are.

It is an identity that can be made clear through our hands and our feet ... through the wounds and marks we share ... as we go out into the world ... as we bear witness to the world.

And our hands and feet are clear signs of who we are and what we stand for ... they are signs of our identity.

Faces change over time ... mustaches or beards appear and disappear ... faces gain more creases ... wrinkles ... jowls show up ... hairlines recede ... teeth fall out ... but hands and feet tend to remain fundamentally the same.

They may show the signs of wear and tear, but the key points ... the loops, swirls and curves at the end of our fingers ... remain pretty much the same from birth to death.

They also show the results of the work we've done ... distances we've travelled ... even the type of ground we've covered.

When we look at our hands and feet, do they mark out the words of our hearts? Do they show how and where we travelled to proclaim God's love?

What about the marks we leave on others and upon the world?

Our response to sin ... how we stand against injustice ... how we work to bring people into community ... and how minister to people in their suffering and in their pain ... this is our identity that the world knows.

God's unconditional love is what marks us.

And our hands and feet are our tools to bear witness to that love ... to proclaim God's presence in the world ... to offer hope and foster peace through the practice of grace.

As Jesus leaves the disciples in the room today, he reminds them what they have witnessed during the past few days ... he calls on them to share the story ...

to testify that he has risen and that God is present in their lives.

... to let people know that the story hasn't ended at the cross and tomb.

That is our commission, as well Lutheran scholar Karoline Lewis once wrote that:

"Witnessing is not optional. It's not an intermittent activity of faith. It's not something you can decide to do one day and then resolve to take the next day off. It's constant. It's a way of life. It's who you are. And when it's post-resurrection time, it's time to get to it."

We are resurrection people living in post-resurrection time. In the uncertainty of the world and what it holds dear, God's love is where hearts and minds can be calmed and peace can be known.

It is the peace we share ... through the gift we have received.

Our hands and feet are proof of who we are ... they are instruments that bear the loops and swirls ... the unique marks ... that tell the world who we are ... what we stand for ... whom we touched ... who we stand with... and how we have been ... and continued to be ... shaped by God's love.

... they are the marks of a resurrection people.

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