



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

May 4, 2025
3rd Sunday in Easter

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Coming Up

Wednesday Café begins Wednesday, June 4. Come have coffee with the pastor and anyone else who happens by. Coffee, tea and juice will be available during these times of fellowship and conversation. The Café takes place from 10-11:30 a.m. in front of the main entrance (or in the Narthex if's raining). The café is planned to run for the summer, but if successful it could be offered year-round. Come, have a chat and a nosh.

Also Happening

May 10 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m.

May 11 – Gospel Sunday

June 8 – Pentecost Sunday

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan. Connie, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Ken, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Jeff

Thames Area Clergy: Our neighbours in the Anglican Church of Canada

Introduction to the day

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

Hymns

ELW #875 Praise, praise, praise the
Lord

ELW # 373 Christ the Lord is risen today

ELW # 666 What Wondrous love is this

ELW # 391 This joyful Eastertide

Prayer of the day

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6

¹ Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."



Psalm: 30

¹ I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lift-¹ ed me up
and have not let my enemies
triumph¹ over me.

² **O Lord my God, I cried¹ out to
you,
and you restored¹ me to health.**

³ You brought me up, O Lord,¹ from
the dead;
you restored my life as I was going
down¹ to the grave.

⁴ **Sing praise to the Lord,¹ all you
faithful;
give thanks in ho-¹ ly
remembrance.**

⁵ God's wrath is short; God's
favor¹ lasts a lifetime.

Weeping spends the night, but joy
comes¹ in the morning.

⁶ **While I felt se-¹ cure, I said,
"I shall never¹ be disturbed.**

⁷ You, Lord, with your favor, made me

as strong ¹ as the mountains.”

Then you hid your face, and I
was ¹ filled with fear.

⁸ **I cried to ¹ you, O Lord;**

I pleaded with ¹ my Lord, saying,

⁹ “What profit is there in my blood, if I
go down ¹ to the pit?

Will the dust praise you or
de- ¹ clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰ **Hear, O Lord, and have mer- ¹ cy
upon me;**

O Lord, ¹ be my helper.”

¹¹ You have turned my wailing ¹ into
dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth and
clothed ¹ me with joy.

¹² **Therefore my heart sings to
you ¹ without ceasing;**

**O Lord my God, I will give
you ¹ thanks forever.**

Second reading: Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of
many angels surrounding the throne and
the living creatures and the elders; they
numbered myriads of myriads and
thousands of thousands, ¹² singing with
full voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb that was
slaughtered

to receive power and wealth and
wisdom and might

and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven
and on earth and under the earth and in
the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

“To the one seated on the throne and
to the Lamb

be blessing and honour and glory and
might

forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said,
“Amen!” And the elders fell down and
worshipped.



Gospel: John 21: 1-19

¹ After [he appeared to his followers in
Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again
to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias;
and he showed himself in this way. ²

Gathered there together were Simon
Peter, Thomas called the Twin,
Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons
of Zebedee, and two others of his
disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I
am going fishing.” They said to him, “We
will go with you.” They went out and got
into the boat, but that night they caught
nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on
the beach; but the disciples did not know
that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them,
“Children, you have no fish, have you?”
They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to
them, “Cast the net to the right side of

the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him

the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Sermon

Toss in the net

Peter is standing naked on the deck of the boat.

He is dripping wet and a little cold in the morning air. He has just spent the night fishing in the Sea of Galilee with seven others.

It had been his idea to go fishing ... the lot of them had just been sitting around the house.

Even though Jesus had died on the cross and had been placed in a tomb, he had appeared to those in a locked room twice in week. The second time because Thomas had missed out the first time and wouldn't believe their story about the Risen Jesus appearing in the room.

Jesus breathed the Spirit on them and told them to go out and forgive people's sins. But no one seemed to

know what to do next ... they were waiting for God to make the next move.

Rather than stay put and ... maybe pray for some guidance, Peter decides "I'm going fishing."

It was such a good idea that seven disciples decided to join him in the boat. At least, they would stay busy while they figured out the next step.

Fishing on the Sea of Galilee is not an easy task ... it is tough and dangerous. It's a good thing the others came along, Peter thinks.

During Biblical times, the nets ... which were usually six to eight metres across ... were thrown from the side of the boat. Thrown properly, the net would open like a parachute ... there were stones attached to the edge of the net so that it would quickly sink and trap any fish that happened to be swimming under it as it sank. A rope ran along the outer edge of the net.

After the net sank, someone would dive into the water ... swim down to the bottom ... grab the rope and close off the net as the person dragged the rope back to the surface. Since he was naked, this was probably Peter's job.

Fishers had to toss their net in, then pull it back to the surface and hope their net snared some fish as it sank. ... then toss it again ... pull it up ... check it ... then repeat ... repeat ... repeat. It took patience and perseverance.

Yet, there were the disciples a hundred yards from shore ... in the darkness ... throwing a net into the deep, black water ... and Peter ...

stripped down ... naked ... diving in after it ... feeling his way along the rope ... then dragging the net back to the surface and coming up empty.... over and over again through the night.

At daybreak, they were ready to call it a day.

Then, in the dim early morning light, a figure appears on the shore and basically said "no luck, huh?"

The figure then tells them to try the other side of the boat.

They do ... and suddenly they have an abundance of fish in their net 153 to be exact ... there is so many fish that seven disciples can't even haul the net into the boat so they have to drag it back to shore. The writer of this chapter of John's gospel tells us there were fish of all types and sizes.

On the way back, the beloved disciple ... the one who first believed after looking into the tomb ... looks to the shore and proclaims "It is the Lord!" The Lord's instruction has led to the abundance in the nets.

Peter ... pulls on some clothes ... dives into the water and heads for shore. The proclamation of the beloved disciple causes Peter to spring into action.

This is the essence of ministry ... acting upon God's call.

Lamar Williamson Jr. is a professor at Union Theological Seminary.

In writing about today's Gospel lesson, Williamson says that scholars agree that the net in the story represents the church ... it gathers together a variety of fish ... a variety of people

This passage, he writes, can be seen to be about the scope, the diversity and the abundant success of outreach efforts.... of bringing people from the depths and into the community...

So, what happens when we fish ... when we cast out our nets? What happens when we gather on the shoreline ... huddled by the fire and sharing a meal and fellowship?

It's worth remembering that in the gospel stories the disciples never catch anything whenever they throw their nets ... UNTIL ... Jesus gives them guidance.

After coming ashore and catching up to Peter, the disciples notice that a fire has been struck and a fish and loaf of bread are there for a shore meal. Following Jesus' instructions, they pull the nets ashore and enjoy the morning meal in a time of community ... fed by Jesus.

The time between Easter Sunday and Pentecost is when we are to consider our own discipleship.

In each of Jesus' appearances, the disciples offer models that connect hearers with the stories.

Mary Magdalene models devotion to Jesus ... Thomas shows his insight ... and the beloved disciple ... the one who entered the tomb ... models belief. And Peter? What does he model for us?

Perhaps, he models faith at work? Or perhaps he models the effects of grace ... of being unleashed by forgiveness?

It's interesting that through all these moments when the Risen Christ has appeared ... there has been no mention

of Peter ... which seems strange for the rock on whom the church is built.

The last we heard of him, Peter had denied Jesus a third time as he stood next to a fire in Jerusalem.

This morning, we witness grace displayed after the meal. It is a grace directed squarely at Peter ... it is a grace that comes through forgiveness.

In Jerusalem ... standing by the fire ... Peter had denied Jesus three times. Now, weeks later ... by a fire on a Galilean shoreline ... Peter affirms Jesus' place in his life.

"Do you love me?" Jesus asks three times and three times, Peter answers "Yes" ... "You know I love you."

This affirmation ... this proclamation of Peter's love ... and realization that his relationship with Jesus remained intact despite his denial days earlier are liberating.

The relationship carries responsibilities for Peter ... responsibilities that take the form of ministering to others.

Jesus tells Peter to feed his lambs ... to tend to his sheep ... to feed his sheep.

Some take these words and the abundance in the disciples' net as a call to build huge churches or undertake massive ministries ... to cast the net wide.

But this story seems to point to a more intimate approach.

Peter is to love and care for the sheep just as Jesus has done during his time on earth ... to love them through their entire lives ... from birth through

adulthood. This is a love that is made known through Jesus' final two words this morning ... "follow me."

To follow the way of Jesus is to love ... to practice a love experienced through forgiveness.

Forgiveness ... the remarkable net of grace. It is a balm for broken relationships.

Like Peter and the disciples as they waited for Jesus' reappearance in the house, we live in the meantime ... as people and as a church ... we live in-between old ways and practices and the new life. In these weeks, we sit with the disciples in the room in Jerusalem.

It is a time spent in prayer ... considering our next steps as disciples and as a congregation ... considering how we place our ministry in action ... of how we bear witness to the risen Christ in the world.



How we cast out the grace-inspired net ... how willing are we to swim the dark waters to bring others out of the depths and into the love of community

... warmed by the fire of discipleship ... where their wounds and needs will be tended and where they will be nourished ... knowing that ... no matter what ... their missteps are forgiven.

Knowing that they have received the abundant ... unconditional gift of grace.

Let us cast our net.

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

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you + peace.

AMEN

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total **monthly** contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

(\$ _____ .00) per month

Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.