



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

May 18, 2025
5th 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.

New socks are being collected for the Downtown Mission on an on-going basis. Bring them to a Sunday service or call the office to arrange a drop-off.

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

June 8 – Pentecost Sunday

June 22 – Healing & Belonging Service

June 14 – Clothing Giveaway, 10 a.m – 2 p.m.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

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

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

Thames Area Clergy: Rev. Wallace Bornhuse, Redeemer Lutheran, London

Introduction to the day

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Hymns

ELW #875 Praise, praise, praise the
Lord

ELW # 482 I come with joy

ELW # 377 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

ELW # 383 Christ is risen! Shout
hossana!

Prayer of the day

O Lord God,
you teach us that without love, our
actions gain nothing. Pour into our
hearts your most excellent gift of love,
that, made alive by your Spirit, we may
know goodness and peace, through
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 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. ⁶ As I



looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house

and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Psalm: 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord ¹ from the heavens;

praise God ¹ in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, ¹ all you angels;
sing praise, all you ¹ hosts of
heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, ¹ sun and moon;
sing praise, all you ¹ shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- ¹ en of
heavens,
and you waters a- ¹ bove the
heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name ¹ of
the Lord,
who commanded, and they ¹ were
created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast
forev- ¹ er and ever,
giving them a law that shall**

not ¹ pass away.

⁷ Praise the Lord ¹ from the earth,
you sea monsters ¹ and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, ¹ snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- ¹ ing**

God's will;

⁹ mountains ¹ and all hills,
fruit trees ¹ and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts ¹ and all cattle,
creeping things and ¹ flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth ¹ and all
peoples,
princes and all rulers ¹ of the world;

¹² **young ¹ men and maidens,
old and ¹ young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name ¹ of
the Lord,

whose name only is exalted, whose
splendor is over ¹ earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength
for the people and praise for
all ¹ faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people
who are near the Lord. ¹ Hallelujah!**

Second reading: Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth;
for the first heaven and the first earth
had passed away, and the sea was no
more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new
Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven
from God, prepared as a bride adorned
for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud
voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among
mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;



⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be
no more,
for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Gospel: John 13: 31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sermon

How we love

May God’s grace and peace be within
your hearts this day and always

For those who have good memories,
this morning’s offering from John should
sound familiar ... we had heard it during
our Maundy Thursday service.

Then, our focus was on the following
three days ... the foot-washing ... the
coming betrayal ... the looming cross.

Now, ... weeks later ... the passage
carries a different resonance for us. The
cross has moved to the background as
the disciples hear what life should look
like ... what should mark their lives as
followers of Jesus.

Judas left the room just before this passage begins. He is on his way to get the authorities and betray Jesus. Soon after this part of the story, Peter will deny Jesus three times.

Jesus knows this and loves the two men ... and all the others ... anyway.

They have shared a meal. Jesus then washed their feet ... modelling the humble service his followers are expected to practise.

There is no shame in kneeling before others in service ... to minister and model actions that connect a community.

Jesus reminds the gathering just how much he loves them ... and how much God loves them through him.

Just before Judas left, the gathering shared bread and wine ... an act that echoes in our communion with one another.

It is a sign that ... regardless of what he will do ... Judas is still considered part of the community.

During the Easter Season leading to Pentecost, we are invited to consider our own discipleship ... how we relate to the world ... how we welcome ... how we affirm ... how we listen ... how we love those around us ... a love that sometimes calls us to forgive and stand in people's anger and hurt.

Jesus says this morning:

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know

that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The funny thing is that some hear this passage and say, "Hey, wait a minute. This isn't new."

Jesus has called on the disciples to love one another before.

Even in Leviticus we hear that we should love our neighbour and that we should love the alien.

Yes, Leviticus ... the book treasured by biblical cherry-pickers who look for passages to exclude or condemn, also calls for people to love others.

So then, how is this a new commandment?

John's inclusion of the words, "... as I have loved you" changes things.

The love Jesus calls on disciples to share and experience is a divine love ... a love that calls us into service to others.

It is a love that is always to be in action.

The newness of this commandment is the source that feeds this love ... the humility of God through Jesus.

If we're being honest with ourselves, we recognize that such a love is hard to put into practice, because it is an unflinching and sacrificial love.

After all, Jesus loved us so much that he died upon the cross for us ... taking all our sin upon himself in the bargain.

Are we able to love another ... a stranger or a neighbour ... to such a degree?

Last week, I watched a sermon delivered by Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer at the Festival of Homiletics ... in case you're wondering, that's churchy way of saying "preaching festival."

During the festival's closing service, Palmer said "...listen to this bold assertion. We are never free ... never freed from the obligations and the call to love our neighbours."

Let me say this one more time ...

"We are never freed from the call to love our neighbours."

John reminds us that acts of love oriented at others is transformative ... it transforms relationships ... it transforms lives and it transforms the ways of the world because lives and approaches are changed.

This is a love that can heal wounds and close the separation between people through understanding ... contrition ... and forgiveness.

If we are to live into grace ... if we are to closely follow the model of Jesus ... then we must follow this calling ... a calling that carries us out from these walls to the places where pain and suffering are not hidden from view ... where the wounds lie open and festering.

This is an authentic love ... an honest love ... it is not a superficial love where the words are spoken, but they are anchored in sand. It is a love that is not grounded securely through actions and actions are what ultimately mark us.

This is a love by which we are recognized as disciples ... it is through such love that life is defined.

It is a love with Jesus at its centre.

In the face of the uncertainty of the world ... an uncertainty that seems to be on steroids lately ... such a love carries comfort within it ... it fosters community and emboldens to stand against hateful and oppressive forces.

I listened to some scholars and church leaders lament the division in their countries ... in their denominations and even within their congregations.

It seems fear ... hate ... suspicion ... entitlement and traditions ... have overwhelmed the call to love and to welcome.

In this morning's reading from Acts, Peter argues with the religious leaders in Jerusalem over his decision to enter the homes of gentiles and other uncircumcised folks and even share meals with them.

Peter tells these leaders that the Spirit led him into the home.

The community led by those questioning Peter has turned inward ... concerned with who belongs and who doesn't ... who's in and who's out. Peter ... emboldened by the Spirit ... looks outward and wants those leaders seated before him to do likewise. Peter wants them and the faith community to more fully and meaningfully engage with the world.

That is the call of love.

Such engagement carries risks and it sparks questions within us:

When we say we love someone, what do we mean?

Do we mean I love you because I am comfortable with your beliefs and lifestyle?

Do we mean I love you because it is easy?

Do we mean I love you until it becomes inconvenient to do so?

What limits do we place on love?

The Spirit calls us to love ... it calls us to community ... form a community marked by the love that comes through Jesus ... who calls us to love even when the world is hostile ... divisive ... and sees unconditional love as some foolish notion.

That you can't love everyone.

But it is this love that glorifies Jesus.

Jesus tells the disciples in the room "NOW the Son of Man has been glorified."

The cross and the tomb are still in the future ... his instructions to the disciples ... his life of ministry and love ... the disciples ministry during their journey with Jesus and their ministry in the time that follows his suffering death and resurrection ... are what glorifies Jesus.

The cross brings glory to God because it is an act of love.

It is an act of compassion for the world.

Such a shared love glorifies Jesus because it carries new life within it.

Through the shared gift of grace ... the old is sloughed off and discarded ... and people are made whole.

So, may we love as unconditionally as Jesus ... may we love the stranger ...

the other ... those whom cause hurt ... and those whom others say are unworthy of love.

And may such a love mark us and make us known to the world. That is our calling.

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.