

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

April 7, 2024

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE Fanfare on Easter Hymn ... J. Vandertuin

+THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C: Amen

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.
Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Look, here is water!

C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20:19-31

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

SERMON

"A Healthy Doubt"

- 1 Now all the vault of heav'n resounds
 in praise of love that still abounds:
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear!
 Repeat their song of glory here:
 "Christ has triumphed! Christ has triumphed!"
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
- 2 Eternal is the gift he brings,
 therefore our heart with rapture sings:
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
 Now still he comes to give us life
 and by his presence stills all strife.
 Christ has triumphed! He is living!
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

+THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the
 dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+ EXCHANGE OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

(Please wave to your nearest worship neighbors)

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *"In the night in which he was betrayed..."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Shepherding God,
 you have prepared a table before us
 and nourished us with your love.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 to proclaim your goodness
 and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
 our redeemer and friend.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power,
 the Christ of unending joy,
 and the Spirit of Easter hope
 ✠ bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN I Lay My Sins on Jesus

#305

1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
 the spotless Lamb of God;
 he bears them all and frees us
 from the accursed load.
 I bring my guilt to Jesus
 to wash my crimson stains
 clean in his blood most precious
 till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
 all fullness dwells in him;
 he heals all my diseases;
 my soul he does redeem.
 I lay my griefs on Jesus,
 my burdens and my cares;
 he from them all releases;
 he all my sorrows shares.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P; Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Weekly Announcements

Serving Today (4/7)

Lector: *Cindy Alvarado* **Video:** *Johnathan Bollard*
Usher: *Carol Schutz* **Altar Guild:** *Judy Randazzo*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove & Joyce Maul*
CPIC: *Sig Samuelsen* **Counters:** *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *Volunteer*

Serving Next Week (4/14)

Lector: *Ron Mathewson* **Video:** *Johnathan Bollard*
Usher: *Carol Schutz* **Altar Guild:** *Judy Randazzo*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove & Joyce Maul*
CPIC: *Sig Samuelsen* **Counters:** *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *Volunteer*

Special thanks to Lisa Wichman who is serving as our guest musician today!

Congratulations to those celebrating their first holy communion this Sunday:

Natalie Hornos
Christian Randazzo
Sebastian Randazzo

Dylan Scherwa
JT Scherwa

Considering Membership at Holy Trinity? Pastor Jack will be offering orientation classes on three consecutive Sundays beginning May 5 at 12:30pm in his office. See Pastor for details.

Our sister congregation in Sparta is inviting us to join in their activities. See the insert in upcoming bulletins for more details.

Pastor Jack has tickets for sale to attend the Fish Fry at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Sparta. Date of the event is April 14. Adults - \$20; kids- \$12.

Lunch and Learn Bible Study meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at noon in the choir room. This is an in-person event. However, if you wish to attend via ZOOM internet conferencing please contact Pastor Jack to request a ZOO link at jackspartan79@gmail.com.

LADIES - The Women's Group (WELCA) will be meeting April 14 in the Blue Room immediately following the church service. We will be finalizing the plans for our annual Mother/Daughter Banquet.

Keep those Random Acts of Kindness reports coming for our Sunday School project :-) email Erin at eosterhout@optonline.net or call/text her at 973-615-1026.

How to order flowers to be placed on the church altar. Let Donna in the church office know no later than the Monday before you want the flowers in church and let her know what you would like printed in the bulletin. Donna orders the flowers and they deliver them and bill the church at \$30.00 per arrangement. The cost to you is \$30.00. Contact information for Donna in the church office: Phone number 973-625-0110.

A Praise Band is Starting at Holy Trinity! If you play the guitar, drums, or another musical instrument. Come on board! Youth are encouraged. See Jennifer Foose for more information: jdfoose@gmail.com.

Want to have your announcement appear in this bulletin? Please email your blurb to the church office no later than Tuesday at 10:00am for the upcoming Sunday announcement. Email is: htl.church@gmail.com

RISE UP is collecting toiletries to aid our locals. Did you know that food stamps do not cover basic toiletry items like soap and shampoo? Please donate items in the special bin located in our church vestibule. For more information, contact Angela Bloshuk at 973-476-0101 or email her at: riseupangela@gmail.com

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the "donate" button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Four-Part Sermon Series is Coming Soon



“Love Letters From God”

Each week our assigned Scripture passages reflect God’s great gift of love. Join Pastor Jack as he unpacks these beautiful themes centering on God’s love for us and our command to love one another.

- 4/21 Love is Self-Less
- 4/25 Love is God Centered
- 5/5 Love is Action Oriented
- 5/12 Love is Choosing YOU

9th Annual Night of Fish & Chips

Sunday, April 14th

4:00 pm – 8 pm

Featuring **Thistle Catering**

Family Owned, established in 1958

Serving **Curbside Takeout 4-5pm** or **Dine-In 5-8pm**

Meal includes **New England Cod Fish & Chips**
or **Chicken Fingers, Coleslaw, Dessert &**
Non-alcoholic beverage

Join us as we raise money to benefit
the Outreach Mission of Shepherd of the Hills
serving & supporting God's children
locally and globally

Pre-Sale Tickets: **Meal: \$20 Adult & \$12 Child**

Door Tickets: **Meal: \$22 Adult & \$14 Child**









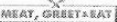

Call **Judi Wolff**
973-224-0986



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
246 Woodport Road, Sparta NJ 07871

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246 Woodport Road, Sparta NJ 07871 * (973) 729-7010
2024 EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW TO SAVE THE DATES:

 <p>Blood Drive – Jun 27th (Thu) 1pm-7pm Coordinator: <u>Janine Shugan</u></p>	 <p>Volunteer Job Fair Coordinator: <u>Rick Erck</u></p>
 <p>Sep 08TH (Sun) – “Rally Day” Picnic/Brunch. Coordinator: <u>Maryann DiCola</u></p>	 <p>Blood Drive – Aug 29th (Thu) 1pm-7pm Coordinator: <u>Janine Shugan</u></p>
<p>Oct 05TH (Sat) 10am - Blessing of the Animals Coordinator: <u>Pastor Jack</u></p> 	<p>Sep 28TH (Sat) 6-8pm – Line Dancing Preceded by Chili Cook Off at 4:30pm Coordinator: <u>Judi Wolff</u></p> 
 <p>Nov 17th (Sun) Immediately after Worship and PSS Thanksgiving Food Delivery Coordinators: <u>Judi Wolff / Barbara Osborne</u></p>	<p>VENDOR & GREAT FAIR Oct 26TH (Sat) 10am-3pm - Fall Vendor Fair Coordinator: <u>Barbara Osborne</u></p>
<p>Blood Drive – Dec date TBD Coordinator: <u>Janine Shugan</u></p> 	
<p>Meat, Greet, and Eat! – 4x during the year - Host homes & dates to be determined Coordinator: <u>Diane Hassa</u></p>  	

If you have any ideas for an activity and would be willing to coordinate – see **Judi Wolff**
See Volunteer Sign-up Sheets on Bulletin Boards in Narthex

2024 HTLC CHURCH OFFICERS

President	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Vice President	Currently Vacant
Treasurer	Sig Samuelsen, 973-586-8454 ssamuelsen@aol.com
Financial Secretary	Shannon Leifken, 973-570-2136 shannonleifken@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Cindy Alvarado Cindy.alvarado@gmail.com

2024 HTLC TEAM REPRESENTATIVES

Worship & Music	Ron Mathewson 201-602-8887 Rhmathewson@yahoo.com
Christian Education	Ron Mathewson 201-602-8887 Rhmathewson@yahoo.com
Membership	Bob Klein, 973-902-4596 Bob.Klein@cit.com.
Giving	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Community Relief	Cindy Alvarado 973-518-3349 Cindy.alvarado@gmail.com
Activities	Shannon Leifken, 973-570-2136 shannonleifken@gmail.com
Property	George Leonard, 201-341-7531 geojleo@yahoo.com
Marketing	Megan Hatem, 973-580-2710 meganehatem@aol.com Kjell Stefani, 973-668-5820 steponesigns@gmail.com Shannon Leifken, 973-570-2136 shannonleifken@gmail.com
Finance	Karren Parrish 314-637-6682 Parrish.karen64@gmail.com Bob Klein, 973-902-4596 Bob.Klein@cit.com.