

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion

March 27, 2022

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

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE

THE CONFESSION

P: In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: **Amen.**

P: Holy One,

C: **we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.
In **✝** Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: **Amen.**

- 1 Jesus, refuge of the weary,
 blest redeemer, whom we love,
 fountain in life's desert dreary,
 Savior from the world above:
 often have your eyes, offended,
 gazed upon the sinner's fall;
 yet upon the cross extended,
 you have borne the pain of all.
- 2 Do we pass that cross unheeding,
 breathing no repentant vow,
 though we see you wounded, bleeding,
 see your thorn-encircled brow?
 Yet your sinless death has brought us
 life eternal, peace, and rest;
 only what your grace has taught us
 calms the sinner's deep distress.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you
 embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with
 garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

SERMON "Released from Prison"

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Were you There?"

Soloist: Andy Grilk

Accompanist: Barbara Selland

HYMN Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#315

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

+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.**

+THE PRAYERS

(See “Celebrate” bulletin insert)

P: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict (*especially*). Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation (*especially*). Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: 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 PRAYER

P: Extravagant God,
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.
Now we gather at your feast
where you offer us the food that satisfies.
Take and use what we offer here, come among us,
and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,
in whose name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

(Offering baskets will not be passed around. At the conclusion of the service, please place your offering in designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.)

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, 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN Glory Be to Jesus

#95

1 Glory be to Jesus,
who, in bitter pains,
poured for me the lifeblood
from his sacred veins.

2 Grace and life eternal
in that blood I find;
blest be his compassion,
infinitely kind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Musician: Richard Piluso **Lector:** Marga Conn **Video:** Jonathan Bollard

Today we welcome Richard Piluso as our guest musician. Thank you Richard for blessing us today.

Thank you for your generosity! We collected \$470 to create Easter baskets for our local impoverished families. You will put smiles on many faces!

Now is the time to sponsor Easter flowers to decorate our sanctuary. See our add in this week's bulletin.

New Designated Parking Areas. In light of the growing number of worship attendees with medical conditions, the Council has now designated all upper lot parking places (in front of the main entrance) for handicapped parking and/or parking for those who are medically challenged and can not climb the stairs connected to our rear parking lot entrance. Please be courteous and park in the rear parking lot if you are not medically challenged.

Our choir is coming back to life! Special thanks to Dr. Joanne Schaper and Barbara Selland for their work in keeping our choir "in tune" for the Spring season, even in the absence of a Director of Music. Today Andy Griik will offer a solo and the entire choir will bless us in the weeks ahead!

Do you enjoy fish and chips? Join our friends at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Sparta on Sunday April 3 from 4-7pm. Chicken dinners will also be offered, as well as a "take out" option. The meal is catered by a reputable restaurant from Bergen County. Tickets are \$20, but \$18 if purchased in advance. Pastor Jack has tickets. Contact him if interested. The church is located at 246 Woodport Road, Sparta.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is coming soon! Join us at noon on the church grounds Saturday, April 16. Meet the Easter Bunny, too! For more information contact Erin at: eosterhout@optonline.net or call 973-615-1026

You can help give our flower beds a facelift! As part of her Eagle Scout Project Anika Zoeller will re-face the flower beds adorning the back entrance of our church. Donations are now being received to defray the cost of the pressure treated wood and other supplies. Please place your donation in the designated collection box in the rear of our sanctuary.

Opportunities to provide humanitarian aid to refugees from the Ukraine. Send your contributions to Lutheran Disaster Response (see the ad in today's bulletin).

Join us for our traditional "Son-Rise" Easter service at Nor-bu Lodge at 7:00am. Details to follow in future bulletins

We are now in the liturgical season of Lent...a time to reflect on the cross and the salvific work of Jesus!

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

Offering envelopes are now available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. We will not be printing individual boxed envelope sets this year. Please feel free to take some of the preprinted envelopes from the back and write your name in the space provided.

We are no longer accepting donations for Dolly's Room. If you have something you would like to donate, please save it until the fall. Please do not leave items in the vestibule.

Lectors (readers on Sunday mornings) are needed and appreciated. Read the assigned Scripture for the day! Sign up sheets are located in the rear of the sanctuary, or ask Pastor Jack for details: jackspartan79@gmail.com

Volunteers are needed to count the offering after church on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact Joan Cosgrove at (973-691-1705) or speak to her in church. No experience necessary!

Did you know...approximately two hundred viewers “tune in” each week through our internet streaming of the worship experience. We are reaching viewers as far as Texas, Florida, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Maine and now China! Thanks to modern technology we are living out Jesus’ great commission to proclaim God’s Word near and far (see Matthew 28).

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again on April 6 in person or via ZOOM video link only from noon – 1:00pm. .. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Clothing Donations: Please DO NOT drop off clothing at our church vestibule or lobby area. Instead, please place all donated articles in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens are accepted as well! For more information, contact Ellen Crane at 973-625-1353.

Food Collections. Please note: Please donate only NON-PERISHABLE food items. Do not drop off milk, bread, or various dairy products as these items may spoil prior to public distribution.

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. Still not sure? Please contact Donna Gulliksen at: Donna.Gulliksen@gmail.com or call her at 973-697-1895. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Looking Ahead

Every Friday During Lent Music meditations at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways, 1 Hoagland Ave., Rockaway Boro (noon – 12:45pm)

Thurs., April 14 Maundy Thursday worship with Communion – 6:00pm

Fri., Apr. 15 Community Good Friday service – noon; United Methodist Church of the Rockaways, Hoagland Ave

Fri., Apr. 15 Worship at Holy Trinity- 6:00pm

Sun., April 17 Easter Sunrise worship – 7:00am;
Worship in our sanctuary – 11:00am

Lenten Friday Noontime Music & Meditation

Richard Hanson, Director of Music Ministries at the Rockaway and Teabo United Methodist churches, will be offering a special time for meditation and reflection each Friday during Lent at 12 Noon. (3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1, 4/8). Rich will be providing 30 – 40 minutes of reflective music on both organ and piano and give us the opportunity to come in, listen to some music, pray and reflect on the Lenten season. "Come as you are, stay as long as you like!"

The music meditations will be offered each week at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways, 1 Hoagland Ave, Rockaway Boro.

This Lenten series will conclude with our traditional Ecumenical Good Friday service held at the United Methodist Church of the Rockaways on April 15, 2022 also beginning at noon.

This music series, as well as the Good Friday service will also be live streamed. If you aren't able to join in person, please join us using the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistChurchOfTheRockaways>



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

RISE UP is preparing to assemble relief kits (primarily toiletries) to assist our neighbors in need as we continue to deal with the current difficult times we are facing as a community. Would you please consider donating items from the following list:

Tooth brushes	Deodorant	Toothpaste
Hand sanitizer	Body Wipes	Comb/Brush
Granola Bars	Bottle Water	Socks
Sunscreen	Feminine Hygiene Products	

Where you can drop off items Until April 30th:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (24 hr. – front door vestibule)
508 Green Pond Road, Rockaway Township

St. Cecilia's RC Church (morning hours)
90 Church Street, Rockaway Boro

White Meadow Temple (morning hours)
153 White Meadow Rd., Rockaway Township

Together we can make a difference.



Humanitarian Relief for Refugees Fleeing the Ukraine

In response to the Russian invasion, one million refugees have already left the Ukraine and are seeking humanitarian relief in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova. Half of these refugees are children. Many more are expected to follow.

Lutheran Disaster response is partnering with relief agencies in these areas to provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

They are accepting monetary gifts, and 100% of all donations collected will go directly to support the families.

You can donate on the web by visiting ELCA.org and then clicking "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" or you can mail checks to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

(Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line.)

There is also a way to give via your phone by calling:

800-638-3522 (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. ET)

Please be as generous as you can!

Rise Up Rockaway Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

When: Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 10 am - 3 pm,

Where: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
508 Green Pond Rd, Rockaway, NJ 07866

Vendors, Crafters, Food and More!

Free Admission
Free Raffle

For more information please email:
Natasha.Routhier@riseupnj.org

All proceeds go to benefit Rise Up Rockaway

Donations of new, unopened toiletries will
be collected at the event. Donations are
not mandatory but very welcome.



Order Lilies for Easter

Help to decorate our Church for Easter!

The cost for each plant is \$11.00
Please submit all orders by April 3, 2022

*Make a gift of a Lily in **memory** of,
in **honor** of, or in **celebration** of . . .*

Your Name _____

In _____ of _____

In _____ of _____

In _____ of _____

of Plants Ordered _____

Check/Cash Enclosed \$ _____

*Please return this form with the your check or cash to the
Church Office or place in the offering plate.*

