Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion

March 26, 2023

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

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE **"**Be Thou My Vision" *Arr. Eleanor Whitsett*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
C: we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

P: Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
C: Amen.

+HYMN Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

SALUTATION

P**:** The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead.

St. Paul writes,

[6]To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. [7]For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, [8]and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

[9]But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10]But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11]If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

LENTEN DIALOG "The Parades Passing By" by Ruth Ann Greiner
Narrator: Carol Schutz
Performers: Alan Buechler, Ruth Ann Greiner

GOSPEL READING

John 11: 17-26

Jesus arrives in Bethany to perform one of the greatest miracles of all…the resurrection of Lazarus.

[17]When Jesus arrived [at Lazarus' tomb], he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. [18]Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, [19]and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. [20]When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. [21]Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [22]But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." [23]Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." [24]Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." [25]Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, [26]and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

SERMON "Seeing is Believing?"
Part 2 "Do You Believe This ."

HYMN **I Know That My Redeemer Lives!** **#352**

1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

+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.

CHOIR ANTHEM **"**His Father's Plan" *Paul Williams and Jim Ailor*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ♫ **p. 86**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of Blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
Fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
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

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: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.
C: Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

P: God, the giver of love,
☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
C: Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness #302

1 Jesus, your blood and righteousness
my beauty are, my glorious dress;
mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
with joy shall I lift up my head.

3 Lord, I believe your precious blood,
which at the mercy seat of God
pleads for the captives' liberty,
was also shed in love for me.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.
C: Thanks be to God.

Weekly Announcements

Serving Today

Lector: *Ruth Ann Greiner* **Video:** *Jonathan Bollard*
Usher: *Joyce Maul* **Altar Guild:** *Peg Hon*
Communion Assistant: *Matt Maitilasso & George Leonard*
CPIC: *Matt Maitilasso* **Counters:** *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *Joan & Joyce*

Serving Next Week (4/2)

Lector: *Shannon Leifken* **Video:** *Jonathan Bollard*
Usher: *Carol Schutz* **Altar Guild:** *Judy Randazzo*
Communion Assistant: *Joan Cosgrove and Jpyce Maul*
CPIC: *Joan Cosgrove* **Counters:** *Carol Schutz & Joan Cosgrove*
Offering: *Joan & Joyce*

Special thanks to our guest musician for today, Lisa Wichman.

Special thanks to Ruth Ann Greiner, composer and director of her Lenten play ,"The Parades Passing By", which will be presented at our worship today. Also, thanks to one of the presenters, Al Buechler!

SAVE THE DATE!! - After three years, WELCA is proud to be bringing back the Mother/Daughter Banquet on Friday, May 12, at 6PM. Tickets will go on sale soon.

EASTER LILY order forms are located on the usher's table. The last date to order lilies is April 2nd.

There will be a pot-luck covered dish dinner AFTER the Holy Thursday worship service. For more information, please contact Joan Cosgrove at 973-691-1705 or email her at: kikkired@verizon.net .

Want to use our church building for your group or organization? Please submit your request(s) to our Congregation Council in writing or in email form to our President Joan Cosgrove at least one month in advance of intended building usage. Joan's email is: kikkired@verizon.net Groups are required to complete a Building Usage Agreement form and provide proof of liability insurance coverage listing Holy Trinity as "additionally insured".

Pastor Jack has tickets to the Fish and Chips dinner in Sparta on 3/26/23. Please see him if you wish to order tickets in advance (at a discounted price…see display ad).

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again on 4/19-at noon, in-person and via ZOOM conferencing. Please contact Pastor Jack (jackspartan79@gmail.com) about the ZOOM link.

Our 2023 Lenten Schedule is now established. Please see attached flyer for details.

Communion Note: The communion trays are configured in a certain way. Cups containing grape juice are in the center of the tray, and cups containing wine are near the edges of each serving tray.

Did you know that Congregation Council meetings are open to the general public? Non-Council visitors may have voice, but not vote as per our Constitution. Come see what your leaders are up to lately! The meetings are conducted monthly on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in the choir room.

Do you prefer to receive a gluten free wafer for communion? These wafers are available in the candy dish in front of the organ.

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

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.

Collections Update-

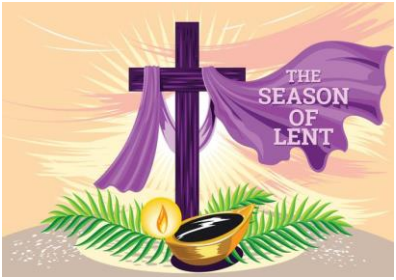
Winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves are now being collected.

For more information of these various clothing collections please contact Ellen Crane (973-625-1353).

Please note: Any clothing other than sweaters and flannel shirts should be deposited in our outside red clothing bin, located in the rear parking lot.

Non-perishable food items can be dropped off inside our front entrance vestibule. Please do not donate perishable goods, such as milk, eggs, bread, and cheese.

Join Us for Lenten Observances and Holy Week



Every Friday from 2/24 – 3/31 (noon – 1:00pm):
Lenten Lunch and Devotions
At First Presbyterian Church
Church St., Rockaway Boro

Holy Thursday (4/6) **Instructional Seder Dinner – 5:00pm**
Worship – 6:00pm
Dinner- 7:00pm
and worship at
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
246 Woodport Road, Sparta at 8:00pm

Good Friday Community Service (4/7) – Noon
at Methodist Church
1 Hoagland Ave., Rockaway Boro

Good Friday Evening Service: 6:00pm at Holy Trinity
and worship at
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,
246 Woodport Road, Sparta at 8:00pm

Community Easter Egg Hunt at Holy Trinity (4/8) at noon

Easter Sunday Worship: Outdoor "Sonrise" Service
At Nor-Bu Lodge, Lake Telemark – 7:00am;
Festival Service at Holy Trinity – 11:00am

8th Annual Night of Fish & Chips

Sunday, March 26th

4:00 pm – 7 pm

Featuring **The Thistle Catering**

Family Owned, established in 1958

***Serving* Dine-In 4-7*or* Curbside Takeout 4:30-6:30**

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

Or See Pastor Jack

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

246 Woodport Road, Sparta NJ 07871

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 2, 2023

*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.