

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Service of Holy Communion

May 1, 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

+THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: In the waters of baptism,
we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ,
and we are a new creation.
For this saving mystery, and for this water,
let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister
gives thanks.*

We thank you, God, for your river of life,
flowing freely from your throne:
through the earth,
through the city,
through every living thing.
You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;
You opened wide the sea for the Israelites.
Now in these waters you flood us with mercy,
and our sin is drowned forever.
You open the gate of righteousness
and we pass safely through.
In Jesus Christ, you calm and trouble the waters.
You nourish us and enclose us in safety.
You call us forth and send us out.
In lush and barren places, you are with us.
You have become our salvation.
Now breathe upon this water
and awaken your church once more.
Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.
Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear.
To you, our Beginning and our End,
our Shepherd and Lamb,
be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving,
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

- 1 Blessing and honor and glory and pow'r,
 wisdom and riches and strength evermore,
 offer to him who our battle has won,
 whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne;
 whose are the kingdom, the crown, and the throne!
- 3 Ever ascending the song and the joy,
 ever descending the love from on high;
 blessing and honor and glory and praise--
 this is the theme of the hymns that we raise;
 this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.

SALUTATION

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

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P:** 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
 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

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and 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. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."]

John 21:1-19

The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple's love and obedience.

¹After [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. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon 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.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He 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. ⁷That 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. ⁸But 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.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So 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. ¹²Jesus 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. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶A 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." ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁸Very 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 "Stop the Funeral"

CHOIR ANTHEM **Feed My Lambs**

HYMN **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!** **#144**

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored:
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.**

+THE PRAYERS

(See “Celebrate” bulletin insert)

P: Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: Holy One of new beginnings, fill us with new life. Send us into the world as you sent your apostles Philip and James, to invite people to come and see your wondrous acts in Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Revive ecosystems along coastlands that have been devastated by natural forces and human negligence. Reestablish plant and animal life that purifies air and water and that feeds humans and other living creatures. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Accompany laborers who get little rest from their work. Give them hope when they struggle to produce what they need. Give all who labor fair treatment and just wages. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Restore all people who cry to you for help (*especially*). Turn their mourning into dancing, clothe them with joy, and put a testimony of healing and praise on their lips. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Be present to faithful ones who are persecuted for following you (*and especially the church in . . .*). Sustain them by your faithfulness, and give them strength in the name of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Join our voices with angels, creatures, and all the saints in praising Christ and bestowing upon him all blessing and honor and glory. Reveal Christ’s glory to us and through us in our worship. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: Living God,
you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together
in your peaceable reign,
and you welcome us all at your table.
Reach out to us through this meal,
and show us your wounded and risen body,
that we may be nourished and believe
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: We give you thanks, generous God,
for in this bread and cup
we have tasted the new heaven and earth
where hunger and thirst are no more.
Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection,
that through our lives, all may know life in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: God, the Author of life,
Christ, the living Cornerstone,
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN On Our Way Rejoicing

#260

1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,
hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

P: Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Musician: Jennifer Foose **Lector:** Bob Klein **Video:** Don Gulliksen

This Sunday we welcome back Jennifer Foose as our guest musician. Thank you, Jennifer for serving today!

Happy Easter! Please note that Easter is not one day, but a season of seven weeks (including Easter Sunday). Hymns, Scripture readings, and sermons all reflect resurrection themes. Rejoice in the season!

There has been a tragic house fire in Lake Telemark. The house is totally destroyed, and there has been one fatality. Holy Trinity will be collecting gift cards to enable the survivors to purchase emergency clothing, toiletries, etc. Please bring gift cards (NOT CASH) to Holy Trinity. Preferred gift cards are Walmart, Target, and Shoprite. However, any gift card of any denomination would be greatly appreciated.

The ladies of WELCA will be meeting immediately following the worship service on May 22nd in the choir room. All ladies of the church are welcome.

Volunteers are needed and appreciated for our garden beautification project. Workdays include: May 1 from 1-5pm. For details, contact Anika Zoeller at anikazoeller6114@gmail.com. This is Anika's Eagle project.

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.

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 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.)

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 Bloshek 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

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be offered again on May 4! 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

Sun., May 1 Garden Project 1:00pm -5:00pm

Five-Part Sermon Series

“What Shall We Do?”

Lessons I



Early Christians

First century Christians (in the immediate aftermath of the glorious resurrection) asked themselves, “What now?” and “What shall we do in light of the resurrection?”. Join Pastor Jack as he explores the significance of the early church’s mission to contemporary Christian living. Learn how to apply Biblical principles to your daily walk with Jesus.

- 5/8 “Stop the Funeral” - reminders of the resurrection promise
- 5/15 “Open the Doors” – exploring the inclusive nature of the church
- 5/22 “Follow the Spirit”- discerning the Spirit’s work today
- 5/29 “Loosen the Chains” – How God frees US to rejoice
- 6/5 “Feel the Power of God” – The Spirit fortifies us daily