# Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024

THERE-IS-FORGIVENESS & SINS-FOR-ALL-WHO-TURN-TO-ME



# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

8781 Brunswick Road Minocqua, WI 54548

(715) 356-2255

E-mail: Trinity@trinityminocqua.org Website: www.trinityminocqua.org

# TRINITY Ev. LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

Third Sunday of Easter April 14, 2024



# Resurrection Reality We Have a Meaningful Message to Share

A platitude is a statement aimed at helping sooth some sort of emotional unease. "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." Or "Life is a mystery." Or "Good things come to those who wait." While platitudes may be well-intentioned, at best they come off as trite. And since platitudes provide no real help, they can actually make a situation worse. Tell the one whose heart is shattering, "Life is a mystery." They won't appreciate your platitude or you.

The resurrection gives believers the ability to offer more than platitudes. We have a meaningful message to share—of repentance, of forgiveness, of peace, of power. The reality is we have something important to say to every single person that God brings into our sphere of influence. And our risen Savior gives us the courage and power to share that meaningful message.

He lives!

Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

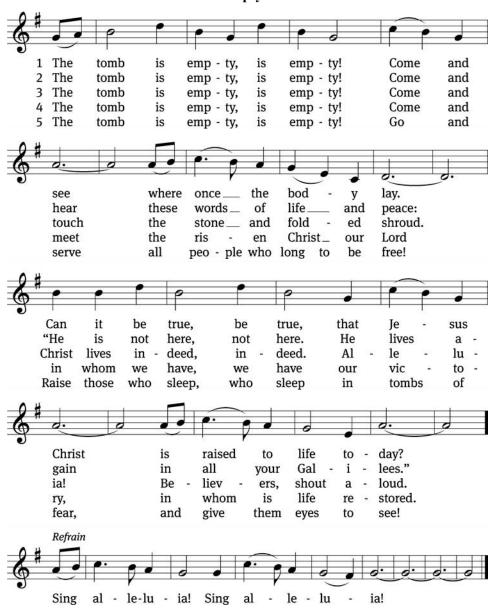
1. W. Letter

Welcome to all—both guest and member alike! May our gracious God fill your heart with joy, peace, and hope through the message of forgiveness in our living Savior, Jesus Christ!

- If you are in need of restrooms, they are located on the left as you leave church.
- Parents please use the welcome center or church fellowship hall to quiet an upset child.
- Please silence all cell phones and devices before worship.
- Please limit your conversations in the sanctuary and narthex.
- Please do use the welcome center to greet one another.

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP: SETTING TWO

# **OPENING HYMN: 453 "The Tomb is Empty"**



Text (sts. 1–4): Sylvia Dunstan, 1955–1993, alt.; (st. 5): David Haas, b. 1957; Tune: David Haas, b. 1957
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Please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### **CONFESSION**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.** 

# LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



# GLORIA—"O Lord, Our Lord"



Text: Christian Worship, 1993 Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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#### THE WORD

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

# PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON Acts 3:11-20 (EHV)

Peter healed a crippled beggar, drawing a large crowd. Peter used that opportunity to share a meaningful message about the one the people of Jerusalem asked Pilate to crucify.

<sup>11</sup> While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people came running toward them in utter amazement in the area called Solomon's Colonnade.

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us, as if by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> And on the basis of faith in his name, it is the name of Jesus that has strengthened this man, whom you see and know. This faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

<sup>17</sup> "Now brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just like your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But in this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through the mouth of all the prophets: that his Christ would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Therefore repent and return to have your sins wiped out, <sup>20</sup> so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 150B

# Refrain





Praise God in his sanctu- / ary; praise him in his mighty / heavens. Praise him for his acts of / power; praise him for his surpassing / greatness. *Refrain* 

Praise him with the sounding of the / trumpet, praise him with the / harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and / dancing, praise him with the / strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of / cymbals, praise him with resounding / cymbals. Refrain

Let everything that has breath / praise the LORD. Praise / the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit, as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: Walter L. Pelz

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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#### SECOND LESSON

St. John summarizes the meaningful message we have heard and been called to declare: God is light.

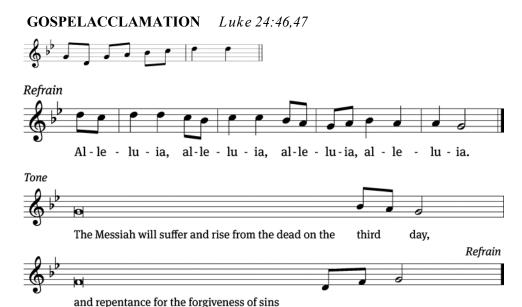
<sup>5</sup> This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ<sup>1</sup> his Son, cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup> My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup> He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Please stand



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will be preached in his name to all

tions.

The risen Savior gives us peace. He also gives us a mission. We are to share the message of repentance and forgiveness.

<sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.

<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. <sup>43</sup> He took it and ate in front of them. <sup>44</sup> He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

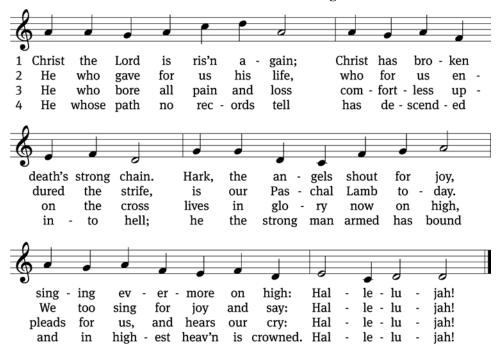
Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

# HYMN OF THE DAY: 459 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Again"



- 5 He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save; now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of kings. Hallelujah!
- Now he bids us tell abroad how the lost may be restored, how the penitent forgiv'n, how we, too, may enter heav'n. Hallelujah!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534, abr.

Tune: Latin, c. 1100, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON Acts 3:11-20

### This is the Theme of a Christian Life

- 1. We Killed the Author Of Life
- 2. Therefore Repent and Return

Please stand

#### APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Please be seated.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS

Please sign the friendship registers at the ends of the pews during the musical selection.

HYMN: 713 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

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Please stand

#### **PRAYER**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

#### 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

# CLOSING HYMN: 746 "I Love the Tell the Story"



Text (sts. 1, 3): Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835–1912, refrain Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912
Text and tune: Public domain

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# Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Glenn Schwanke
Organist: Miss Lynn Schmidt

# Last Weekend's Worship Attendance

• 169 (Sunday—139; Monday—30)

# **Stewardship Encouragement from Scripture**

"When you bring injured, crippled or diseased animals and offer them as sacrifices, should I accept them from your hands?" says the Lord. "Cursed is the cheat who has an acceptable male in his flock and vows to give it, but then sacrifices a blemished animal to the Lord. For I am a great king," says the Lord Almighty, "and my name is to be feared among the nations" (Malachi 1:13,14).

# **Lessons for Next Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter)**

"Resurrection Reality: The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding"

- Acts 20:28-32
- 1 John 4:1-6
- John 10:11-18

**Prayers:** If you would like your name on the prayer list, or you have a friend you would like to add, please call or e-mail the church office.

**Offerings:** You may leave your offering in the offering plate as you walk out today. You may continue to mail in your offering, give online at www.trinityminocqua.org, or on the Vanco Mobile app. On the app, search for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran or search for Minocqua.

**Book Club:** Trinity Book Club will have their next meeting on Tuesday, April 16, from 12:00-1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing the book, "Angels of the Pacific" by Elise Hooper.

**Friends Network**—Abby Micheel: A few weeks ago, Abby Micheel visited Trinity and gave a brief presentation regarding Friends Network (formerly Friends of China). Abby is hoping to get enough funding through Friends Network to serve her Lord by sharing the Good News about Jesus with the souls in Japan as part of the mental health/disability ministry that currently exists in Mito, Japan. If you are willing to help support her in this ministry, please pick up a flyer on the table in the fellowship hall which has the step-by-step directions on how to donate.

**Fellowship Friends:** Are you ready for spring? On Tuesday, April 23 from 1:00-3:00 pm, following a devotion, we will have JJ's Acres here to present tips on "Gardening in the Northwoods". Plenty of time will be devoted to answering questions from beginning a garden, container gardening, maintaining healthy soil to improve harvest, seed and plant selection, landscaping and much more. Bring a list of gardening questions, a snack to share and an empty cardboard egg carton if you are interested in joining the school children in a seed starting project. Everyone is welcome!

Calendar Date Change: Please note that Trinity School's Entertainment Evening has been rescheduled. The date of April 26, which was on the calendar included with the church newsletter, has now been changed to Friday, May 10. The time is still the same at 6:00 pm. We hope that you mark your calendar for this special event and come to support the students of Trinity Lutheran School.

	Opportunit	ies to Grow & Serve at Trinity This Week
Sunday	9:00 am	Worship
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship
Tuesday	12:00-1:00 pn	n Book Club
•	4:30 pm	<b>Budget Committee Meeting</b>
	5:30 pm	School Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	<b>Church Council Meeting</b>
Wednesday	8:15 am	Midweek Chapel
•	9:30 am	Quilters
	12:15 pm	Lunch Break Bible Class
	4:00 pm	Public School Confirmation & Bible History
Sunday		Worship w/Holy Communion—Christian Education Sunday
•	10:30 am	Bible Class & Sunday School
Monday	6:30 pm	Worship w/Holy Communion

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**The Easter season** finds us working through the theme: "Resurrection Reality"

- April 21/22 = **Resurrection Reality: The Risen Savior Provides Good Shepherding** Sermon Text: John 10:11-18 Theme: "Counting Sheep: The Good Shepherd at Work"
- April 28/29 = **Resurrection Reality: The Living Lord Produces Active Faith** Sermon Text: 1 John 3:18-24 Theme: "Love Without Limits"
- May 5/6 = Resurrection Reality: Jesus' Business is Love; Therefore, So Is Ours Sermon Text: 1 John 4:7-14 Theme: "The Cross Proves God's Love"
- May 12/13 = Resurrection Reality: Christ's Ascension Means He Is Closer Than Ever Sermon Text: Luke 24:44-53 Theme: "Ascension Matters"

Christian Education Sunday will be observed on April 21<sup>st</sup>, which is also Good Shepherd Sunday. We'll be gathering a free-will offering for our congregation's Student Tuition Fund this weekend. Under the direction of our Endowment Committee, this fund offers tuition assistance to Trinity students attending our WELS high schools and worker training college (e.g., Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI; Northland Lutheran High School in Kronenwetter/ Mosinee; Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN).

**Worship Online:** Sunday worship is recorded and posted online at our church website. You can also find the worship folder and a printed copy of the sermon there. Printed copies of each week's sermon can also be found in the Fellowship Hall. Find us on *YouTube*© by searching the handle *@trinityminocqua*. Please subscribe and share! **We're streaming our Sunday services live!** 

# **Bible study opportunities:**

- Wednesday "Lunch Break" Bible study (Wednesday, 12-15 1:15 p.m.) "The Book of Judges: God's Grace in the Midst of Disorder"
- Pastor's "Wednesday Encouragement" blog, continues to be found on Trinity's Facebook page and on our church website. You can also have this devotion sent to your email each Wednesday.
- Sunday Bible Study (and Sunday School) Sunday School is for children PreK3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Adult Bible Study continues with "Christ: He Is My Lord." Today, we'll continue in the truth that Christ is both God and Man, and spend time on the miracle of the virgin birth. Come, join us for study and discussion and application.

**Be sure to follow Trinity on Facebook.** We're putting content on the page several days each week. The Wednesday blog post can be accessed in three ways (church website, Facebook, email from church office). You can follow our "Where's Marty?" campaign on Facebook and on Instagram at... trinitylutheranminocqua.

God keep you and yours in his gracious care,

Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Jeden W. Little led

# THIS IS THE THEME OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

# **Sermon Notes on Acts 3:11-20**

Part of the Series: Resurrection Reality

been replaced with readings from the book of Acts. Why?			
THIS IS THE THEME OF OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE			
I.	We Killed The Author Of Life!		
1.	What did Peter and John do for a man crippled from birth?		
2.	Where did this event take place?		
3.	When the curious crowds gathered round, what daring message did Peter preach?		
4.	How does Peter's stern law message apply to you and me?		
5.	When confronted by God's law, what "sermon" do we preach with our lives?		
II.	Therefore Repent and Return!		
6.	Our sins nailed Jesus to his cross. What sins, in particular, trouble you?		
7.	Jesus is the Author of Life! Why does this news refresh us like a spring rain?		
8.	Peter said, "We are witnesses of this." What does this tell us about Easter? About all of Jesus' promises?		
9.	With our lives we are to preach Jesus, crucified and risen! "There is give to by which we be" (Acts 4:12)		

# THIS IS THE THEME OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE



# **Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)**

www.wels.net

**Pastor** 

Rev. Stephen Luchterhand Cell: (602) 377-0940

Email: stephenluchterhand@gmail.com

**Visitation Pastor** 

Rev. Glenn Schwanke Cell: (906) 869-6101 Email: yooperrev@gmail.com

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00 am Mondays at 6:30 pm

# Welcome to Trinity

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. If you have any questions during your time with us today, please ask an usher for assistance. If you would like to know more about our church, our teachings, our Christian school (grades K-8), our preschool (3-4 year old) or the studies and programs offered at Trinity, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.

"Our mission at Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Word of God, to train believers for lives of Christian service, and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the Northwoods community and to the world."

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church & School 8781 Brunswick Road Minocqua, WI 54548

(715) 356-2255

E-mail: Trinity@trinityminocqua.org Website: www.trinityminocqua.org

