

EASTER SUNDAY



SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024, 8:45 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a guest with us today, we are so glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a tan card from the pew rack and put it in the offering plate on the table outside the sanctuary. Or scan the QR code printed here to fill out an electronic guest card. You will find all of the words in the worship service projected at the front of the church or in this bulletin.



If you have something you would like us to pray about this week, you can write it on the back of the tan card. Our staff and prayer team will pray for the requests during the week. If you so choose, we will post your request online at our prayer wall as well.

First Trinity is a Bible-based church. We believe God's Word is the sole authority for this life. We are imperfect people loving imperfect people. Our prayer for you today is that you would connect to God and grow closer and closer to Him each day.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | LENT | **EASTER** | PENTECOST | TIME OF THE CHURCH

Easter is the best day of the church year! It's the day we remember how Jesus not only died for us, but rose again to defeat death. Because of His resurrection, we too have the opportunity to enjoy eternal life and a perfect relationship with God. We celebrate by putting out white paraments, which remind us that although our sins were like scarlet, they have now been washed as white as snow. Alleluia!

During the 7-week season of Easter, the church has often used a special greeting. One Christian says to another, "He is risen!" and the other responds, "He is risen indeed!" and together they say, "Alleluia!" This is known as the Paschal Greeting and is loosely based on the Emmaus Road post-resurrection appearance of Jesus in Luke 24:33-34 where the disciples say, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

To participate in this service, just follow along in this service folder. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include your participation. We are not here to be an audience; we are here to speak and sing the Word of God to each other. Parts marked "Leader" are spoken by the pastor or other worship leaders, and parts marked "People" are spoken by the congregation. Congregational parts are also printed in bold. It looks like this:

Leader Spoken by a worship leader.

People Spoken by the congregation.

To help you understand the different parts of worship today, we've provided several side notes throughout the service folder. Read the notes to discover some of the meaning behind the words and parts of the service. You will find a deeper appreciation for the rich symbolism and spiritual meaning behind Lutheran worship.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty God the Father, through Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, You have overcome death and opened the gate of everlasting life to us. Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of our Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by Your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Charles Whited Jr., Lead Pastor*

(Stand)

OPENING HYMN *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* Hymnal 457

Verse 1

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Verse 2

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

Verse 3

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Verse 4

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Text: Public domain

This hymn was written in Latin during the 14th century and was translated into English about 300 years later. However, it underwent several revisions before it came to be the hymn commonly recognized today, including the addition of its fourth verse by Charles Wesley.

INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father, who gave His Son to conquer death for us.
In the name of the Son, who has burst free from the tomb for us.
In the name of the Spirit, who grants us faith in our Redeemer Jesus.

People Amen. Jesus is risen! Alleluia!

Leader He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. *Isaiah 25:8*

Leader Jesus is risen!

People He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from Death? O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? *Hosea 13:14*

Leader Jesus is risen!

People He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. *1 Corinthians 15:25-26*

Leader Jesus is risen!

People He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:54-57*

People Jesus is risen!

Leader He is risen indeed!

People Alleluia!

We often read these two verses from 1 John at the beginning of Confession and Absolution. Why? Because we often forget our need for forgiveness or God's faithfulness in forgiving! Let's not deceive ourselves: We are sinners and God loves to forgive. How amazing!

CONFESSION

Leader If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *1 John 1:8*

People But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (silence for personal confession)

Leader Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Leader In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People Amen.

(Sit)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. his is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Reader God speaks to us through the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 15:1–11
Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

This chapter of Paul's letter to the church at Corinth is sometimes referred to as "The Great Resurrection Chapter". In it, Paul makes a stirring defense for the resurrection of the dead, starting with Jesus as the firstfruits and then those who believe in Him. The resurrection becomes the sure foundation of our hope for everlasting life. It often shows up as one of the readings throughout Easter season.

Alleluia (sometimes spelled Hallelujah) is a Hebrew word meaning "praise the LORD". We occasionally sing an "Alleluia Verse" before the Gospel.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA VERSE

Kantorei sings first, then congregation.

Refrain

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

People **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to You, O Christ, resurrected Savior!**

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministry*

MESSAGE HYMN *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness* Hymnal 467

Verse 1 - All

Awake, my heart, with gladness,
See what today is done;
Now, after gloom and sadness,
Comes forth the glorious sun.
My Savior there was laid
Where our bed must be made
When to the realms of light
Our spirit wings its flight.

Verse 2 - Men

The foe in triumph shouted
When Christ lay in the tomb;
But lo, he now is routed,
His boast is turned to gloom.
For Christ again is free;
In glorious victory
He who is strong to save
Has triumphed o'er the grave.

Verse 3 - Choir

This is a sight that gladdens—
What peace it doth impart!
Now nothing ever saddens
The joy within my heart.
No gloom shall ever shake,
No foe shall ever take
The hope which God's own Son
In love for me has won.

Verse 4 - Women

Now hell, its prince, the devil,
Of all their pow'r are shorn;
Now I am safe from evil,
And sin I laugh to scorn.
Grim death with all its might
Cannot my soul affright;
It is a pow'rless form,
Howe'er it rave and storm.

Verse 5 - All

The world against me rages,
Its fury I disdain;
Though bitter war it wages,
Its work is all in vain.
My heart from care is free,
No trouble troubles me.
Misfortune now is play,
And night is bright as day.

Verse 6 - Choir

Now I will cling forever
To Christ, my Savior true;
My Lord will leave me never,
Whate'er He passes through.
He rends death's iron chain;
He breaks through sin and pain;
He shatters hell's grim thrall;
I follow Him through all.

Verse 7 - All

He brings me to the portal
That leads to bliss untold,
Whereon this rhyme immortal
Is found in script of gold:
"Who there My cross has shared
Finds here a crown prepared;
Who there with Me has died
Shall here be glorified."

Text: Public domain

MESSAGE *Because He Lives* Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr., Lead Pastor

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

People I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING INVITATION *Give at FTGives.com or text "Give" to (716) 575-2659*

OFFERTORY *Come, Let Us Sing* *Kantorei*

*Our special Easter offering this year will be going to Camp JOY at Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Buffalo. Camp JOY as played a significant role in the transformation of children with unproductive and unsupervised time into children with real life experience and creative interactivity during and after Camp JOY. The acronym for **JOY** is **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou. Located just half a mile from the TOPS market, Camp JOY and Lutheran Church of Our Savior provided comfort and stability for children traumatized by the shooting there. Lutheran Church of Our Savior is a sister congregation with First Trinity.*

SENDING OF ASIA MISSIONS TEAM

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

People 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. 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.

The Nicene Creed first appeared in AD 325 as a response to the Arian heresy. Ariens believed Jesus was not truly the Son of God. It emphasized Jesus' deity with phrases like, "begotten, not made". It was later expanded in 381 to include a more complete confession of the Holy Spirit. We use this creed on Communion Sundays.

(Stand)

PREPARATION FOR LORD'S SUPPER

Leader The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take; eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Leader As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People Amen. Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Leader The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People Amen.

THE INVITATION

AGNUS DEI *Hymnal 163*

☞ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

This Joyful Eastertide Bell Choir

*This 8-stanza
Easter favorite is
built around the
phrase "He lives".
It is used to
introduce 28 of
the 32 total lines
in the hymn. The
first two lines of
stanza 1 and last
two of stanza 8
are basically
mirrors of one
another,
beginning and
ending with Job's
confession that "I
know that my
Redeemer lives"
from Job 19:25.*

***I Know That My Redeemer Lives* Hymnal 461**

Verse 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.

Verse 2

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

Verse 3

He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

Verse 4

He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Verse 5

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

Verse 6

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

Verse 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.

Verse 8

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Public domain

***Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* Hymnal 465**

Verse 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!

Verse 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!

Verse 3

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Verse 4

Adoring praises now we bring
And with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father and our Lord,
To Spirit blest, most holy God,
All the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Unless noted
otherwise, scripture
passage came from
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*Special thanks to
the Bell Choir and
our Kantorei.*

*Altar Flowers
presented to the
Glory of God.*

EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

GIVEN BY

Nancy Grace
Cindy Lackie
Savannah Miller
The Bryant Family
Carol Butch
Cheryl Lenihan
Cheryl Lenihan, Phil & Sue DePlato
Dean, Erin, Maddy, Noah & Gabe Anthony
Anne Miller
Marsha Peth
Martha Miller
Gordon & Jennifer Tresch
Erhard Moosmann
Jim and Diane Alfes
Beth J. Schmidt
Clara Lou Fromm
Tracy Schultz
Marie Crouse
Reggie and Cindy Mawson

GIVEN BY

Thomas and Deborah Knapp
Paul & Beth Vance
Phil and Sue DePlato
Beth J. Schmidt
Tracy Schultz
Pauline Shotwell
Sue & Dick McKie
Kristen Schmutzler
Pastor Chuck and Susan Whited
Dean, Erin, Maddy, Noah & Gabe Anthony
Mary Kate Ells

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Alice Baumgardner
My Mom, Alice Leidich My baby daughter, Jenna
My wonderful father, Max Miller
Carrie Lynn Bryant
Christopher
Rich Lenihan
Rich Gaffney
Dean, Jr. and Zachariah Anthony
Dear friends and family members
Mark Peth and Julie Jean Reid
Edythe N. and John D. Miller
Charles & Adania Smith Gordon & Marylou Tresch
June C. Moosmann
Merril and Betty Alfes, Samuel and Dorothy Moscato
Neal, Mom, Dad and Michael
Paul A. Fromm
Paul and Shirley Schultz, Paul and Mary Hoover
Salome Sauer
Warren and Lois Derby

IN THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR

Our many Blessings
Our Family
Our Many Blessings
Children and grandchildren
Godly Parents
Abundant blessings
Our children & grandchildren
Easter
Giving His Son to save us
Our Parents
Easter