

THIS IS
HOW WE
Know

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  **APRIL 21, 2024**

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THIS IS HOW WE KNOW GOD LIVES IN US

How can we be confident that God will follow through on all his promises to us? Simple: Jesus lives! If God faithfully fulfilled every ancient word he spoke about Jesus, then not a single word he speaks to us will be forgotten. If he raised the dead to indestructible life, then none of his promises are too big. If he has exalted Jesus in all glory and honor, then he will one day give us glory and honor, too. Our living Savior is the proof we need, and all our confidence rests in him.

Today he tells us, “My grace is powerfully at work in you.” But sometimes his power is hard to see. We struggle with uncertainty about our faith, our forgiveness, our needs. We look at our life and see less improvement, less love, less selfless service than we would like. And if it’s up to us to make God’s grace fruitful, that’s where we’ll be stuck. But the risen Jesus gives us something much better to rely on: “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” Jesus dwells in us by his Spirit, and as he continues to speak to us in his Word, his love works powerfully in us and through us.

THE MISSION OF TRINITY

*The members of Trinity are joined together in Jesus’ love to **worship** our Lord, **grow** in his Word, and **share** it with others.*

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER IN TODAY’S SERVICE.

St. Paul writes that everyone who receives the Lord’s Supper must “recognize the body of Christ,” and therefore “ought to examine themselves” (1 Cor. 11:27-29) before eating and drinking. He also writes that it is God’s desire that as his people commune, they do so as “one body” (1 Cor. 10:17), “perfectly united in mind and thought” (1 Cor. 1:10). For this reason, Trinity follows the biblical and historic practice of closed (or member) communion. We welcome members of WELS or ELS congregations to commune with us. If you are not a member of a church in fellowship with Trinity, please refrain from communing today. We want nothing more than to receive the Lord’s Supper with you, but we want to do so in the unity of faith that Jesus wants for his people (cf. John 17:20-23). We hope that can happen soon! Please speak to our pastor after the service, and he would be happy to further explain our practice and help you work toward full unity with us.

Acknowledgments

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HOLY BAPTISM

Hymn

709 *Christ the Vine*

Remain seated

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.
It also means that a new person should daily arise
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism

Micah Baumann

Hymn

646 See This Wonder in the Making sts. 1, 4

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 4:32-37

³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

³⁶Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), ³⁷sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 63

You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.
I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.

Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.

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

Second Reading

1 John 3:18-24

¹⁸Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²²and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:5



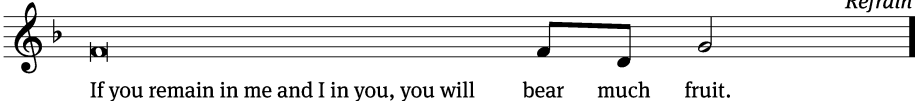
Refrain



Tone



Refrain



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Gospel

John 15:1-8

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

469 Welcome, Happy Morning

Sermon

1 John 3:18-24

This Is How We Know God Lives in Us

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy during this season, for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts, and implant it in our minds.

Through the good news of your resurrection, renew our hope and revive our faith.

By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. **Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do.**

In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love.

Direct their eyes to your empty tomb, and ease their pain by reminding them their loved ones will one day rise again.

Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of your resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts.

Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts.

Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind.

Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours.

Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection.

Come to us in your Word and the feast of your sacrament to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory. Amen.

Offering

The members of Trinity Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

*At this time, we ask both members and guests to fill out the **friendship register** found at the end of each pew. When you've written your information, please pass it to the next person until everyone has had a chance to sign it. Thank you for helping us serve you with the gospel!*

THE SACRAMENT

As you have the opportunity, take a moment for self-examination before receiving the Sacrament. You may wish to review the "Christian Questions" beginning on page 295 of the hymnal or read through a "Holy Communion" hymn (659-677).



Stand

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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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.

Words of Institution

...The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

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Be seated

Distribution

In order to receive communion today, we ask that worshipers be able to check all of the following boxes:

- I repent of all my sins, holding nothing back from God (1 John 1:9).
- I believe that Jesus took away my sins when he died for me on the cross (John 3:16; 1 John 3:5).
- I believe that in communion I receive Jesus' true body and blood along with the bread and the wine (Mt. 26:26-27; 1 Cor. 10:16).
- I have stated my agreement with all the teachings of this church family, as I have learned to know them through their Catechism or Foundations Class.

If you are not able to check all these boxes today but would like to commune with us in the future, please speak to our pastor after the service. He would love to help make that happen!

Distribution Hymns

595 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

454 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

Seasonal Closing Hymn

451 See, What a Morning

Thanks for worshiping with us today! Please stick around after the service to get to know your fellow worshipers and enjoy coffee and donuts in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions or would like to know more about Trinity, Pastor Plocher would be happy to talk with you!

Quarterly Meeting Today!

Stick around after the service for our Quarterly Congregational Meeting to get updates on Trinity's ministry, hear plans for the future, and lend your voice to the discussion. Potluck lunch to follow!

KEEP GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

10:45 AM SUNDAY: "ACTS: THE MISSIONARY CHURCH"

Just before he ascended, Jesus gave his disciples a mission: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." A few decades later, the Apostle Paul set out on the first of his mission journeys to take the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. In this Bible study series, we will follow Paul and his companions through the book of Acts. As we do, we pray that the Holy Spirit would grow our faith, perseverance, and zeal for mission. Join us!



10:45 AM SUNDAY: KIDS IN CHRIST

Kids in Christ is our program for children age 3 to sixth grade. Come learn about Jesus and what he did for you in an engaging and active way! Each Sunday, we gather for music, a Bible lesson, activities, and crafts, all to send your child home with the true message that they are loved by Jesus!



7:00 PM MONDAY: "THE BLOODSTAINED PATH TO GOD"



Old Testament worship was very different from ours, and yet its focus was exactly the same: God's plan for opening a way for his people to come to him. In a system of worship that seems strange to us, God showed his people shadows of the Messiah who would come to save them from sin. As we consider these customs and practices, we will learn to see our Savior and what he has done even more clearly. Join us!

"FOUNDATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH" WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

Christianity is a religion where you never graduate from the basics: we are all sinners, but God loves sinners and sent his Son to die for them. In this recurring Bible Study, we go "back to basics" to strengthen the foundations of our faith, answer questions, and grow more united in Christ. (This also serves as Trinity's new member class.) Join us and grow together with us!

TRINITY NEWS

GAMES & GOSPEL – MVL MUSICAL: On *Friday, April 26th*, you're invited to attend MVL's spring musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" with Trinity Games & Gospel. Join us for dinner at the MLC cafeteria from 5-6pm, then for the play at 7pm @ the State Street Theater. RSVP to JoElyn Krohn: 612-384-4581 or jkotto21@gmail.com.

CEA MEETING: The next CEA Meeting will be on Wednesday, *April 24th* at 6:00 pm

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY: Come show your love for Nicollet and help clean up along Highway 14! We'll have two opportunities to serve: *Friday, April 26th at 5:00 PM* and *Saturday, April 27th at 9:00 AM*. Bring shoes you don't mind getting dirty, work gloves if you have them, and a friend to help!

TNT PICKLEBALL: Trinity Nicollet Teens are planning to get together to play pickleball on *Sunday, April 28th at 6:00 PM*. We'll meet at church and go from there. Direct questions to Sarah or Olivia Enter.

CRUISIN' ON PINE & 99: We will once again host a pork chop stand at the bi-weekly roll-in, starting *May 9th* – just a few weeks away! A sign-up sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board for helping with cash register, food service, set-up, and grilling. Direct questions to Larry Bruegger: 507-420-9195.

NEW DAY PREGNANCY BABY BOTTLES: Help support at-risk mothers! Please take a baby bottle from the narthex, fill it with coins, and return it by June 1st. We will send in your donation to New Day Pregnancy Center.

LADIES GUILD: The next meeting of the Ladies Guild will be on *May 2nd*. They are going to Schmidt's Meat for a tour of the facilities. Please **RSVP** if you are going to Judy Wilking at 507-351-0659 by *Sunday, April 28*. Everyone is welcome!

AREA NEWS

PORK CHOP DINNER: Immanuel Lutheran Church is hosting a pork chop dinner **TODAY**, Sunday April 21, from 11 am to 1 pm. They are located 3 miles east of Courtland on Co. Rd. 25. The menu is on the bulletin board.

MVL SPRING DRAMA: Ever wonder how to succeed? Check out MVL's production of *How to Succeed at Business Without Really Trying!* Show times are *Friday and Saturday, April 26-27 at 7pm, and Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.* All performances will be held at The State Street Theater Co., in New Ulm. Tickets are \$5 (K-12) and \$7 for adults and may be purchased at the door. Can't wait to see you there!

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sun. (4/21)	9:00 am	Worship
	10:30 pm	Quarterly meeting
	10:45 am	Kids in Christ
	12:00 pm	Potluck
	3:00 pm	Adult Volleyball Open Gym
Mon. (4/22)	6:00 pm	Worship
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Tues. (4/23)	5:30 pm	Telling the Next Generation
Wed. (4/24)	3:30 pm	NPS Catechism
	6:00 pm	CEA Meeting
	7:00 pm	New Foundations Class
Fri. (4/26)	8:00 am	TLS cancelled-NO School
	5:00 pm	Adopt-A-Highway
Sat. (4/27)	9:00 am	Adopt-A-Highway

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday 9:00 am	219
<i>Sunday streaming</i>	27
Monday 6:00 pm	7

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday 10:45 am	19
Kids in Christ	23
Monday 7:00 pm	8
Monday Virtual	5

SUNDAY GIVING

General Fund	4905.00
Vanco/GF	2923.15
Bulletins	25.00
Capital	361.60

MINISTER: Pastor Micah Plocher

BULLETIN: Darlene Poehler in memory of son, Doug

ACCOMPANIST: Joyce Lendt

MUSICIAN: Andrea Robbins, flute

SPECIAL THANKS to all others who served in worship today, including our video and screen coordinators, ushers, greeters, and special musicians.