

# HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 17, 6:30 PM

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 18, 6:30 PM

EASTER DAWN – APRIL 20, 7:00 AM





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**WELCOME TO TRINITY!** We're happy you're here! Thank you for joining us this morning to worship our gracious God. This **worship folder** has everything you'll need for the service except some of our songs and hymns. For those, you'll be able to find the words on the projector screen in the front of the church and the music in the blue hymnal.

We love to see **families worshipping together**, and to see little children coming to Jesus unhindered. There's no better way to teach your children how important their relationship with Jesus is! However, if you would like a place to quiet your little ones' "joyful noises," there is a **nursery** down the hall on the south side of the building. There, you'll find a television streaming the service so you can follow along until you feel comfortable returning to the sanctuary.

The **restrooms** are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. If you need anything before, during, or after the service, our **ushers** will be happy to assist you.

God bless your worship with us today!

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

### HOLY THURSDAY

<b>Preacher</b>	Rev. Daniel Balge <i>Martin Luther College</i>
<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Micah Plocher
<b>Accompanist</b>	Joyce Lendt Matthias Barents

### GOOD FRIDAY

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Micah Plocher
<b>Accompanist</b>	Kellsie Wasser

### EASTER DAWN

<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Micah Plocher
<b>Accompanist</b>	Lori Enter

*The following musicians serve in various services*

<b>Vocalists</b>	JoElyn Krohn Megan Plocher Andrea Robbins
<b>Flute</b>	

**Bulletin Sponsor:** Darwin and Jean Hardel in honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Acknowledgments

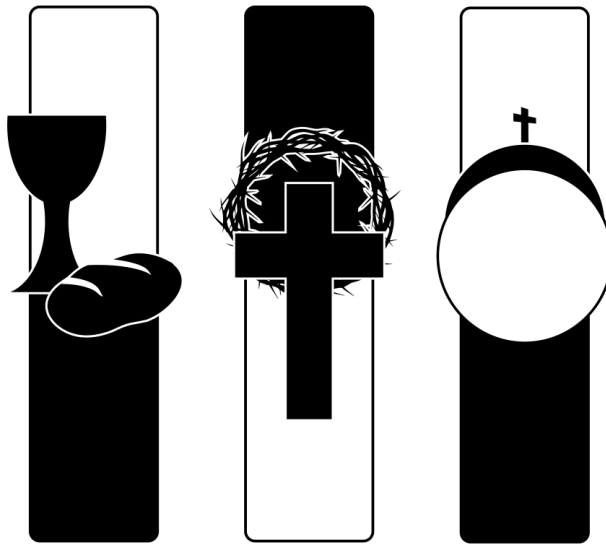
**Holy Thursday:** German Hymn Tunes from Christian Worship

**Good Friday:** A Service of the Seven Words from the Cross from Christian Worship

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### THREE HOLY DAYS

After six weeks of spiritual focus and preparation during Lent, the Christian Year has now reached its high point. We have come to the celebration of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is what we have been preparing for; now we see what our Savior came to do. We see him suffer and die for our sins and for the sins of the whole world, *and* we see him rise triumphantly on Easter morning to assure us that our salvation is complete and the victory is won.

The three holy days that mark this high point of the Christian year – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday – have historically been seen as a unit: one celebration in three parts. Therefore, as we celebrate these Three Holy Days, our worship will also form a unit. What follows is a *single service* celebrated over three days. It will lead us through our Savior's sufferings to his glorious triumph on Easter.

Because this service is a unit, please note the following things:

- There is no blessing to conclude worship on Holy Thursday or Good Friday. Our worship is not yet over! The blessing comes at the end of the service at Easter Dawn.
- After the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, the congregation is asked to leave the sanctuary in silence.
- Since this worship folder will be used for all three parts of this service, please return it as you leave the sanctuary on Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

May the risen Christ bless our worship as we celebrate his suffering, death, and resurrection.

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**PART 1:**  
**DIVINE SERVICE FOR HOLY THURSDAY**  
**APRIL 17, 2025, 6:30 PM**

Just as Ash Wednesday begins Lent, so Holy Thursday marks the end of Lent proper and the beginning of the Three Holy Days. The theme of our celebration is the Lord's new command to his disciples of all time to love each other as he has loved us. The institution of the Lord's Supper demonstrates the depth of Jesus' love and gives power to the church to live out Jesus' command.

After we celebrate the Lord's Supper, the service will move from the upper room in Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which represents the presence of Christ, becomes the focus. After the Communion table has been removed, we will solemnly strip the altar of its vestments and appointments in token of the abandonment that Jesus suffered during his passion.

As we hear our Savior's command and see him demonstrate his love for us this evening, may his love move us to love him and one another out of profound gratitude for all that he has done for us. And may his Holy Supper strengthen us with the forgiveness of sins and the newness of life that he gives us in this sacrament.

**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.*

*Stand*

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

## **Confession**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion, first instituted on this night, the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

**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*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

**Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

# THE WORD

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

<sup>31</sup>"The days are coming," declares the LORD,  
    "when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
    and with the people of Judah.  
<sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant  
    I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
    to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
    though I was a husband to them,"  
declares the LORD.  
<sup>33</sup>"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
    after that time," declares the LORD.  
"I will put my law in their minds  
    and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
    and they will be my people.  
<sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
    or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'  
because they will all know me,  
    from the least of them to the greatest,"  
declares the LORD.  
"For I will forgive their wickedness  
    and will remember their sins no more."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Come, Be Fed*

*Ruth Elaine Schram & Celsie Staggers  
Sung by the Trinity Worship Choir*

*This is my body, broken for you.  
This is the blood I shed.  
Come to my table humbly;  
Take this cup, break this bread;  
Come, be filled; come, be fed.*

*When you break this bread, remember me.  
When you take this cup, remember me.  
No one need go hungry,  
No one need thirst again;  
Come, be filled; come, be fed.*

*I am the bread of life; broken now for you.  
God's new covenant.  
Do this in remembrance;  
Take this cup, break this bread;  
Come, be filled; come, be fed.*

## Second Reading

*Hebrews 10:15–25*

<sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

<sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant I will make with them  
after that time, says the Lord.  
I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds.”

<sup>17</sup>Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts  
I will remember no more.”

<sup>18</sup>And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 13:1



### Refrain



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

### Tone



Having loved his own who were in the world,



he loved them to the end.

### Refrain

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## Gospel

Luke 22:7-20

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

<sup>8</sup>Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

<sup>9</sup>"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

<sup>10</sup>He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup>and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

<sup>13</sup>They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

<sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

st. 1-2: all      st. 5: soloist  
st. 3: soloist    st. 6: men  
st. 4: women    st. 7-8: all

# This is My Body; This is My Blood

*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 Jesus, you are the Lamb of God, pictured in the ancient Passover feast, now giving your own body and pouring out your own blood in Holy Communion. Just as the Passover lambs assured the Israelites of God's promise to deliver them from death,  
**strengthen our belief that the bread is your real body and the wine is your real blood, given to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.**

Prepare us to receive this sacrament remembering your death and repenting of our sins.

**Unite us by our oneness of faith throughout this congregation and our synod, and love us to the end that we may love others as you have loved us.**

We rejoice in our fellow believers who have been instructed in your Word and confirmed in the Lutheran faith, who are now ready to receive Holy Communion.

**Equip them with every spiritual blessing for doing your will.**

We pray for those absent from the sacrament because of their own neglect.

**Call them in your mercy to return and renew their faith.**

Keep in your care those unable to receive the sacrament often because they are homebound, hospitalized, imprisoned, serving in the military, or otherwise separated from the fellowship of believers. Encourage them so that they do not lose hope.

**Be gracious to us all and nourish us with this feast, that we remain faithful unto death, and become partakers of the wedding feast of the Lamb. 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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

1073 Sanctus (Eve) - BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

Tune: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR

1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,  
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!  
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!  
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

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Tune: Swedish  
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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## 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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\dagger$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

## O Christ, Lamb of God

1075 Agnus (Eve) - MERRIAL

Tune: MERRIAL



1 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Christ, who takes a - way  
2 Je - sus, in your mer - cy, make us pure with - in;  
3 Let your end - less mer - cy ev - er - more in - crease;



all the world's trans - gres - sions, lis - ten as we pray:  
cleanse us by your per - fect sac - ri - fice for sin.  
com - fort us with par - don, calm us with your peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Joseph Barnby

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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

*417 It Was a Dark and Dismal Night*

*563 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

*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.**

*Be seated*

## Stripping of the Altar

### Psalm 88

*Sung by a soloist*

*Psalm 88, written 1000 years before Jesus, prophesied how he would be deserted by friends and God as he paid for our sins. As the psalm is sung, the altar is solemnly stripped to represent the Lord's abandonment by his disciples, and to prepare for Good Friday.*

*There is no blessing to end the service because **our Holy Week worship is not complete**. It continues tomorrow on Good Friday. Join us at 6:30 PM for the Service of the Seven Words from the Cross.*

*Worshipers may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.*

*As you leave, please **return this worship folder** so that we can use it again when we gather for worship tomorrow.*





**PART 2:**

**SERVICE OF THE SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS  
FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

**APRIL 18, 2025, 6:30 PM**

The Service of the Seven Words from the Cross fixes our eyes on our Savior Jesus in his greatest expression of love for us. It is not a “funeral” for Jesus, but a solemn celebration of the Lamb of God and his sacrifice on our behalf. The bare altar (a symbol of Christ) is the focus, along with the large cross that hangs in our sanctuary.

The service is observed as a Service of Darkness, or in Latin *Officium Tenebrae*. The progressive extinguishing of candles represents the snuffing out of the life of Christ. After recalling the last hours of the Savior’s life, we come to stand, as it were, at the foot of the cross.

The sounds and sights of the service mean to be austere and stark, but the service is never without hope and anticipation. As worship nears an end this evening, a remaining candle, a symbol of the Lord himself, is carried out of the church. The silence is broken with a loud noise—the *strepitus*—that symbolizes the rending of Christ’s tomb in triumph on Easter morning. With quiet drama the candle then returns to the sanctuary. Even on Good Friday, our worship honors a *living* Christ.

The service ends in silence. The congregation hears no closing blessing in this service, because Christ’s death on the cross was not the end. We eagerly wait to reassemble on Easter morning when we celebrate our Lord’s triumphant resurrection.

**BEFORE WORSHIP**

*Worshippers gather in silence. There is no preservice music.*

*The candelabra is lighted.*

*A bell tolls seven times to represent the seven words from the cross.*

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## Improperia | Reproaches

*The Improperia are a series of responses read or sung by Christians on Good Friday since the ninth century. They contrast our unfaithfulness with God's faithful love, especially as seen in Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.*

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have raised you up out of the prison house of sin and death, and you have delivered up your Redeemer to be scourged. For I have redeemed you from the house of bondage, and you have nailed your Savior to the cross. O my people!



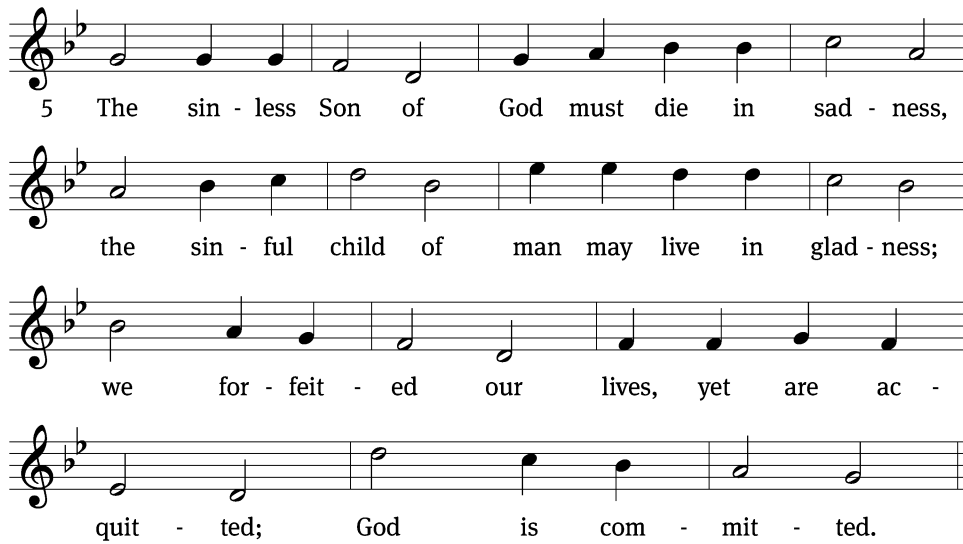
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;  
yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -  
her - it, this I do mer - it.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. For I have conquered all your foes, and you have given me over and delivered me to those who persecute me. For I have fed you with my Word and refreshed you with living water, and you have given me gall and vinegar to drink. O my people.



2 They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;  
with cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge you;  
they give you gall to drink, they still de -  
cry you; they cru - ci - fy you.

Thus says the Lord: What have I done to you, O my people, and wherein have I offended you? Answer me. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? My people, is this how you thank your God? O my people!



*A moment of silent reflection*

O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment both now and forever. But I am truly sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

Upon this, your confession, I, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662; Text and tune: Public domain

*Be seated*

## **Anthem**

## *The Holy Heart*

*Anne Barbour & Marsha Skidmore  
Sung by the Trinity Worship Choir*

*The Holy Heart was broken,  
Sent from the Father's side;  
The Son of God forsaken,  
The holy sacrifice.*

*For me he was forsaken,  
For me he died alone;  
My sin forever taken  
That I might be his own.*

*The Holy Lamb was stricken,  
Abandoned and alone;  
He bore the world's affliction,  
He bore it as his own.*

*And when my heart is broken,  
Torn by my sin and pride,  
The son of God will take me,  
Will draw me to his side!*

## **Our Savior's Seven Words from the Cross**

### **The First Word**

*Luke 23:32-34*

<sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

**+ *The first candle is extinguished* +**

*Silence for meditation*

O Lord Jesus Christ, fold your hands in prayer for us; those wounded hands once stretched and nailed to the cross. Pray for us as you once prayed for your executioners;  
**"Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."**

O Lord Jesus Christ, we know our sinful rebellion. We dare plead ignorance of your holy will. But in your death for us, we find forgiveness for all of our known and unknown crimes.  
**Stretch out your forgiving hands, O Lord, for your endless mercies' sake. Amen.**

### **Hymn Verse**

*436 The Seven Words, st. 1*

## The Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One."

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

<sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

<sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

<sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**+ The second candle is extinguished +**

*Silence for meditation*

O Lord Jesus Christ, we too like the thief on the cross deserve to die for the sins of our soul. With the thief of old, we can only plead:

**"Remember me when you come into your kingdom."**

How tender your gaze, how sweet your words, how powerful your promise that gives life forever with you. With sure confidence and true humility, we wait eagerly for the day when you will whisper your words in our ears:

**"Today, you will be with me in Paradise." Amen.**

## Hymn Verse

436 The Seven Words, st. 2

## The Third Word

John 19:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**+ The third candle is extinguished +**

*Silence for meditation*

O Lord Jesus Christ, how could you care so much for the hurt of your mother while you were suffering hell for the sins of the world?

**Oh, what boundless love and divine mercy you pour out to your mother from your cross.**

Forgive us when we think of you as cold-hearted toward our suffering and indifferent toward our pain. Open our eyes to see how your love for us held you to the cross so that we might become your sons and daughters.

**We come to you for protection and peace from sin within us and evil around us. Amen.**

## Hymn Verse

436 The Seven Words, st. 3

## The Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

<sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

**+ The fourth candle is extinguished +**

*Silence for meditation*

O Lord Jesus Christ, your bone-chilling cry revealed to the entire world what God was doing on that dark noon. You continued to trust and call on your Father even while he was punishing you for our sins.

**“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

To know the answer to your riveting question is to know your heart, your grace, your forgiveness! May your cry for your Father ever burn in our hearts!

**Let no shadow of doubt ever darken our trust in you, nor separate us from your Father and ours. Amen.**

## Hymn Verse

436 The Seven Words, st. 4

## The Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

<sup>28</sup>After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

**+ The fifth candle is extinguished +**

*Silence for meditation*

O Lord Jesus Christ, lead us to see the depths of your thirst as you suffered as true man. Emaciated and dehydrated, you thirsted to proclaim our salvation.

**Being true man you suffered every ounce of torture in your death. Being God your holy death paid completely for every sin. True God and true man, none other could have saved us.**

Because you drank every drop from the cup of suffering, you have become for us the well of salvation unto eternal life.

**May we drink deeply from you and never thirst again. Amen.**

## Hymn Verse

436 The Seven Words, st. 5

## The Sixth Word

John 19:30

<sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**+ The sixth candle is extinguished +**

*Silence for meditation*

Lord Jesus Christ, give us your strength as you resolved to do your Father's work and finish it. What profound peace it gives to know that all has been accomplished for our salvation. Your one word seals the enormous payment you made for our sin.  
**"It is finished!" Amen.**

## Hymn Verse

436 *The Seven Words*, st. 6

## The Seventh Word

Luke 23:44-46

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

**+ The seventh candle is extinguished +**

*Silence for meditation*

Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
**deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.**

He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;  
**he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.  
**He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn Verse

436 *The Seven Words*, st. 7

*Stand*

## **The Burial of Jesus**

*John 19:31-42*

<sup>31</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup>The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup>The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup>and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

<sup>38</sup>Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup>He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup>Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup>At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.

<sup>42</sup>Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*Be seated*

*Silence for meditation*

## **Hymn**

*437 Rest, O Christ, from All Your Labor sts. 1-3*

*Stand*

## **Prayer of the Day**

God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **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.

*Be seated*

*+ The Christ Candle is carried from the sanctuary +*

*+ A loud sound, known as the **strepitus**, is heard. This sound represents the rending of Jesus' tomb +*

*+ The Christ Candle returns to await the joy of Easter morning +*

## **Seasonal Closing Hymn**

*568 His Robes for Mine*

*The bell tolls 33 times, once for each year of our Lord's earthly life.*

*When the bell begins to toll, worshipers may remain for prayer and meditation or disperse quietly.*

*If you wish to give an offering, you may leave it in the plates at the exit to the sanctuary.*

*As you leave, please **return this worship folder**. Our worship continues on Easter Dawn, Sunday at 7:00 AM.*





**PART 3:**

**SERVICE OF RESURRECTION READINGS AND SONG  
FOR EASTER DAWN**

**APRIL 20, 2025, 7:00 AM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Trinity Lutheran Church on this Easter morning! We pray that the message of Jesus' resurrection from the dead fills your heart with faith in Christ and confidence in his gracious gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

In this service, we will hear the resurrection account and rejoice in his victory over death. The readings will be a harmony of the Easter Gospels that takes the details recorded by each of the Easter eyewitnesses and puts them all together in one narrative. Parts of our readings come from each of the four Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Most of our sixth reading is taken from 1 Corinthians 15, the great "Resurrection Chapter" of the Bible.

Our worship on Holy Thursday and Good Friday has ended in silence, without a benediction or blessing, indicating that our worship was not yet complete. Today, we reach the end goal of these Three Holy Days: Jesus' resurrection, which guarantees our forgiveness, life with God, and eternal salvation. In the light of his victory, this service finally closes with the blessing that God speaks over us to put his name on us through Christ.

**THE EASTER GREETING**

Throughout the service, we exchange an ancient greeting used by Christians around the world. We echo the words of the angel in Matthew 28:6, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

## Easter Greeting

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

## Welcome by the Pastor

## Hymn

*443 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness*

## Easter Proclamation

Rejoice now, all you heavenly choirs of angels! Rejoice now, all creation!  
**Sound forth, trumpet of salvation, and proclaim the triumph of our King.**

Rejoice, all the earth, in the radiance of the light now poured upon you and made brilliant by the brightness of the everlasting King.

**Know that the ancient darkness has been forever banished.**

Rejoice, O Church of Christ, clothed in the brightness of this light.

**Let all this house of God ring out with rejoicing, with the praises of all God's faithful people.**

This is the day when all who believe in Christ are delivered from bondage to sin and are restored to life and immortality.

**This is the day when Christ, the Life, arose from the dead. The seal of the grave is broken and the morning of the new creation breaks forth out of night.**

How holy is this day when all wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away.

**How holy is this day when innocence is restored to the fallen and joy is given to those downcast.**

How blessed is this day when man is reconciled to God in Christ.

**Let Christ, the true Light and Morning Star, shine in our hearts, he who gives light to all creation.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, you overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life. We humbly pray that we may live before you in righteousness and purity forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

*447 Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed*

# The History of Our Lord's Resurrection

*according to a harmony of the Gospels*

## First Reading

*The empty tomb*

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Hymn

*444 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won*

## Second Reading

*Peter and John find the grave empty; Jesus appears to Mary*

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Hymn

*449 This Joyful Eastertide*

*st. 1 & 3: congregation • st. 2: Trinity Worship Choir*

## Third Reading

*Jesus appears to the other women*

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Hymn

*455 Alleluia! Jesus Lives*

## Fourth Reading

*Two men see Jesus on the road to Emmaus*

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## Hymn

*450 The Day of Resurrection*

## **Fifth Reading**

*Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem*

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Hymn**

*452 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*

## **Sixth Reading**

*The Christian message: "He is risen!"*

*After the reading:*

This is the Word of the Lord. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Hymn**

*446 Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense*

## **Resurrection Devotion**

*Colossians 3:1-4*

# **You Are Risen Indeed!**

<sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

## **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.**

## 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!*

## Prayer of the Church

*Each petition will end with "Lord, in your mercy..." The congregation is invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

## 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.

## New Seasonal Closing Hymn

*577 Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love*

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