



Picture from Holy Trinity Yard Sale mid-1980s

April 21st, 2024

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY
10 A.M. WORSHIP**



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lifting Up, Reaching Out**

WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY!

We are so glad you are joining in our worship. Whether this is your first time or you are a regular participant, we are happy to welcome you today.

I PUSHED MY BED INTO THE SUN

I pushed my bed into the sun,
Because that's what you do when it rains in your room,
And that's what you do when it's winter all year long,
And that's what you do when doubt feels like muscle memory.

So I pushed my bed into the sun
And prayed that the light would warm my bones.

And like a garden, my bed began to sprout
Memories of love like flowers.

I should have known that despite the rain in my room,
The sun would still find me.
I should have known
That if I pushed my bed into the sun,
My bed would turn into a garden.
I should have known.
Even on my darkest day,
I cannot escape your light.

Poem and Liturgy by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

PRELUDE *Blues for D.P.*Ron Carter
*Program Note: As recorded by Ron Carter and Grover Washington Jr. on the 1988 album
“Then and Now”*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able

P They went to the cross,
C **And watched you breathe your last.**
P So they ran to the upper room,
C **And locked the door in fear.**
P Then, on this day so many years ago,
some women went to the tomb,
C **But you were not there.**
P You were not there.
C **You were already set loose in the world—spreading a holy type of love.**
P So find us here.
C **Spread love here.**
P Family of God, Christ is risen!
C **Alleluia! Amen!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Easter is a story of transformation—
Death to life; despair to hope; betrayal to forgiveness.
We need that type of transformation—every day and all the time.
So join me in the prayer of confession, for in our truth-telling with the
divine, we are transformed.

P Let us pray—
God of new life,
We need Easter like the desert needs rain.

For you give us unending love, and we turn it into a commodity.
You give us mystery, and we force it into certainty.

You give us community, and we set rules about who is in and who is out.
You give us grace, but we hold grudges against our neighbors.
You give us light and we ration it out to those we believe deserve it.

God of grace,

Forgive us for our shortcomings.

Dwell among us like rain in the desert—holy and unexpected—until new life
grows here. Gratefully we pray,

C Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P Family of Faith—

In the act of the cross, Jesus Christ experienced almost every type of hardship
humans can inflict on one another— isolation, abandonment, physical and
emotional abuse, shame, betrayal. You name it, he faced it.

And still—

and still—

He came back for us.

Friends—

No matter what you have done or left undone, you are known and loved by a God
of unimaginable grace. Like rain in the desert, your sin is washed clean.

So on this Easter day, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

You are **+** forgiven.

C Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing (1989).....ELW 531



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is
2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the
3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,
peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;
poor his par - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.
he'll turn your wa - ter in - to wine.
the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.

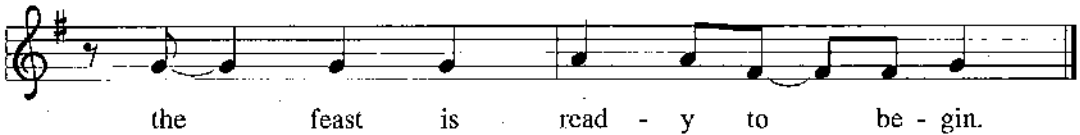


Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King.

(Continued on next page)



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1989 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

THE FEAST IS READY

1. M and refrain

GREETING

P God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth. Come, let us offer praise and thanks to God for fulfilling the resurrection promise.

C **Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 4:5-12

Peter and John had been arrested the previous day because they were proclaiming the news of the resurrection to the people. In today's reading, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit so that he can proclaim salvation in Jesus' name to the religious authorities.

⁵The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM

True Colors (1986).....Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly
arr. Erika Johnson
Christus Bells

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:16-24

Jesus' death on our behalf is the clearest demonstration of divine love. This is the very love we share with others, not just through our words but especially through our deeds. In sharing such love we fulfill God's commandments.

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE HYMN.....Walk With Me

Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that
God has planned where love shines through. We come to lis - ten and to learn what
God wants us to do. To share our love and share our gifts, to be di - sci - ples true.

Fine
D.C. al Fine

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.....Pastor Mike Gutzler

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*.....WOV Setting 5

Please stand as you are able.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: John 10:11-18

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In language that recalls the twenty-third psalm, Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who cares for his sheep. He is willing to die for them, and he is able to overcome death for them.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON.....Pastor Mike Gutzler

MESSAGE HYMN

The King of Love My Shepherd Is..... ELW 502

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

(Additional verses on next page)

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

HOLY BAPTISM

See insert

✝ *Leo Holland Larkins*

✝ *Lyla Ann Larkins*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A Shepherding God, gather your church whenever we wander from you and one another. Empower our church in ministries around the world to worship and serve alongside global companions as equal partners and coworkers in the gospel. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Nurturing God, preserve the health of biomes and ecosystems. Inspire scientists, researchers, conservation organizations, and all people entrusted with the task of caring for creation, that we may be better stewards of the world around us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Almighty God, lead nations and communities to share resources, cooperate in solving conflicts, and listen to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples. Help all those with power to share it and to use such power for good. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Loving God, protect the very young and the very old, those living without housing, victims of domestic abuse, and all who live with chronic illness or compromised immune systems. Guide communities to actively care for people who are vulnerable. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Watch over our military and members of agencies serving to keep us safe and free. Bless, strengthen and defend them with your heavenly grace, give them courage in the face of peril, and grant them a sense of your abiding love and presence wherever they may be throughout the world. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Watch over all your children, Lord, including any who have not felt welcomed by the members of your church. Help us to truly be a Reconciling in Christ congregation: a welcoming and safe community for all. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Gracious God, help this and all communities of faith to listen for your voice. Call us away from things that distract us from following you. Invite us to more deeply love and serve people who are lonely, isolated, and on the margins. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Living God, we give thanks for our ancestors in faith (*including Anselm of Canterbury and all who labored to help generations understand the good news of the gospel*). Strengthen us to share the good news in our own day. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the risen Christ be with you.

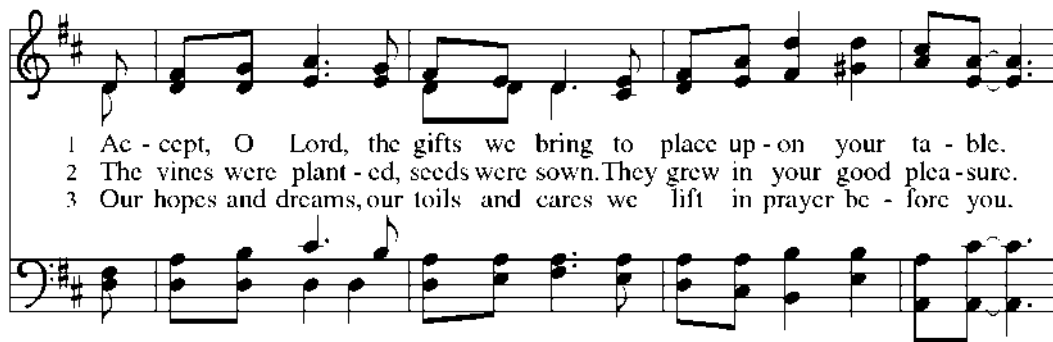
C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated. Please also sign the red Friendship Register and pass it to the next person in your pew.

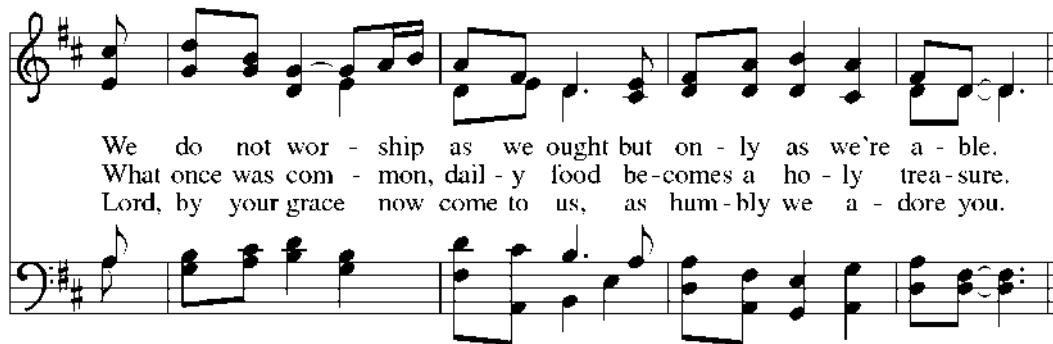
OFFERING HYMN

Accept O Lord, the Gifts We Bring.....ELW 691

(Verses 1 and 3)



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer. b. 1957
Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker. b. 1925
Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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Your offering can be received in many ways. You may use the offering plate in the Sanctuary, give a gift at www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/giving, or mail your offering to the church.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

- A Let us pray.
God of Hallelujahs—
You have given us purpose and hope, forgiveness and grace, a place to belong and a job to do.
You have given us all that we could need and more, so we wonder—how do you repay someone for that?
How do you repay someone who died for you?
The obvious answer is that we could try living for you.
So today we lift up this offering as a gesture of our love for you.
We pray that you can use it to bring about your promised day where all are known, all are loved, and all are safe—where swords are beaten into plowshares and justice runs like a river.
In your name we live, and in your name we pray.
- C **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS.....WOV Setting 5

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P God,
You are like the sun—for just as the sun never stops rotating around the earth, you never stop running toward us. And God, you are like the wind—for we can't see you, but we can feel you. We feel you when we come together, when joy escapes our bones in the form of laughter, and when we hold a newborn.
And God, you are like the feeling of coming home—for no matter how long we are away, or how much time has passed, the doormat still says, "welcome," and there is still a place for us at the table.
So today we bow our heads and close our eyes, hoping to feel you as strongly as we feel nostalgia and fear, or love and loss, which permeate our

bones. We hope to feel you as strongly as the wind and the sun, for faith and doubt have always been intertwined for us.

Wonder stands at the heels of praise and joy has the memory of suffering.

C **So God of the grave, we pray—
Be among us in our darkest moments.**

P Be among us in our miscarriages and divorce, in our stress and anxiety, in our fear and doubt.

Be among us in our loneliness and grief, in our isolation and our regret.

Be among us in our addictions and depression, in bullying and self-doubt.

Be among us when Easter feels far away and the grave feels too close.

C **God of life after death—
Enable us to be Easter people.**

P People who live into joy, wonder, and gratitude as a spiritual practice.

People who acknowledge death in the world, but do not fear it.

People who trust that nothing can separate us from your love.

God you are like the sun, and the wind, and the feeling of coming home.

You are all too great for us and simultaneously present in our midst.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

So rise again in our suffering, and rise again in our joy. Hear our songs of praise today and know that we love the way you love and long to live the way you lived. And while you linger here, please pour out your Spirit on this Table so that this ordinary bread and cup can remind us of your love. Pour out your Spirit on this Table so that in this meal we get a glimpse of your promised day—where all are welcomed, all belong, and all are fed. And pour out your Spirit on us, for we long to be your Easter people.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P And now, in gratitude for your consistent presence among us, we join our voices together in the prayer you taught us to pray, saying –

C **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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P No matter where you are in your journey of love and faith, you are welcome here.

For Jesus Christ who died on the cross, died for you, and you matter. You belong here. There is a seat saved for you.

So come to this Table with your fears and your hopes and your heart on your sleeve; for this is God's Table. It is real, and it is strong, and it is for you. All are welcome here.

C **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD.....WOV Setting 5



☐ 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, grant us peace.

- P This is the body of Christ, given for you.
- C Amen.
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.
- C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

We Come Now to Your Table, Lord.....ACS 970
(Sing Twice)

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, you are the Liv - ing Bread.

We come now to your ta - ble, Lord, let ev - 'ry soul be fed.

You are the Liv - ing Bread, let ev - 'ry soul be fed:

and now may ev - 'ry soul be fed with Liv - ing Bread.

Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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COMMUNION HYM

Amazing Love (1986).....W&P 8

C Dm⁷ Gsus G

1 My Lord, what love is this that pays so
 2 And so they watched him die, de - spised, re -
 3 And now this love of Christ shall flow like

Csus C G C Dm⁷ F/G G C

dear - ly, that I, the guilt - y one, may go free?
 ject - ed; but, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.
 riv - ers; come, wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain.

Refrain Gm⁷ C Eb

A - maz - ing love, oh, what sac - ri - fice, the Son of God giv'n for

G Gm⁷ C

me; my debt he pays and my death he dies, that

Gm⁷ C Gm⁷ C

I might live, that I might live.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able

- P** Let us pray.
God of Grace—
There are simply not enough ways to say thank you.
We want to thank you for the way you designed joy to be contagious, for sunsets and sunrises, and for the air in our lungs. We want to thank you for summer rains, starry nights, and home-cooked meals shared together.
We want to thank you for this sacred space, this Table, and for this day— which all hold the promise that love is enough.
God, you give us new life, beautiful life, full life— and there are not enough ways to say thank you.
So we start by acknowledging that our gratitude overflows.
We start by acknowledging just how much we need you.
- C** **Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** God of love,
There are so many words in a day —
To-do lists and stress, self-talk and notifications.
There are so many words, and yet the only words we really need are yours.
So today we pray—drown out every voice but your own.
Drown out every voice but your own, and speak to us through this text,
for we are craving good news. We are desperate for your risen love.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.
- C** **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

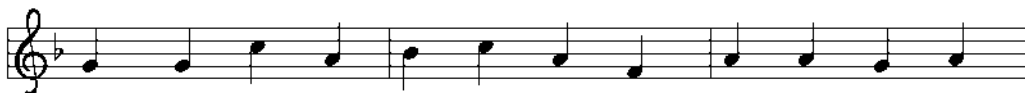
Praise the Lord! Rise Up Rejoicing.....ELW 544



1 Praise the Lord, rise up re - joic - ing, wor - ship, thanks, de -
2 Seat - tered flock, one shep - herd shar - ing, lost and lone - ly,
3 Sins for - giv - en, wrongs for - giv - ing, we go forth a -



vo - tion voic - ing: glo - ry be to God on high!
one voice hear - ing, ears at - ten - tive to your word;
lert and liv - ing in your Spir - it, strong and free.



Christ, your cross and pas - sion shar - ing, by this eu - cha -
by your blood new life re - ceiv - ing, in your bod - y,
Part - ners in your new cre - a - tion, seek - ing peace in



rist de - clar - ing yours the fi - nal vic - to - ry,
firm be - liev - ing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
ev - `ry na - tion, may we faith - ful fol - l`wers be.

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902–1983, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN. Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.
Text © Oxford University Press.

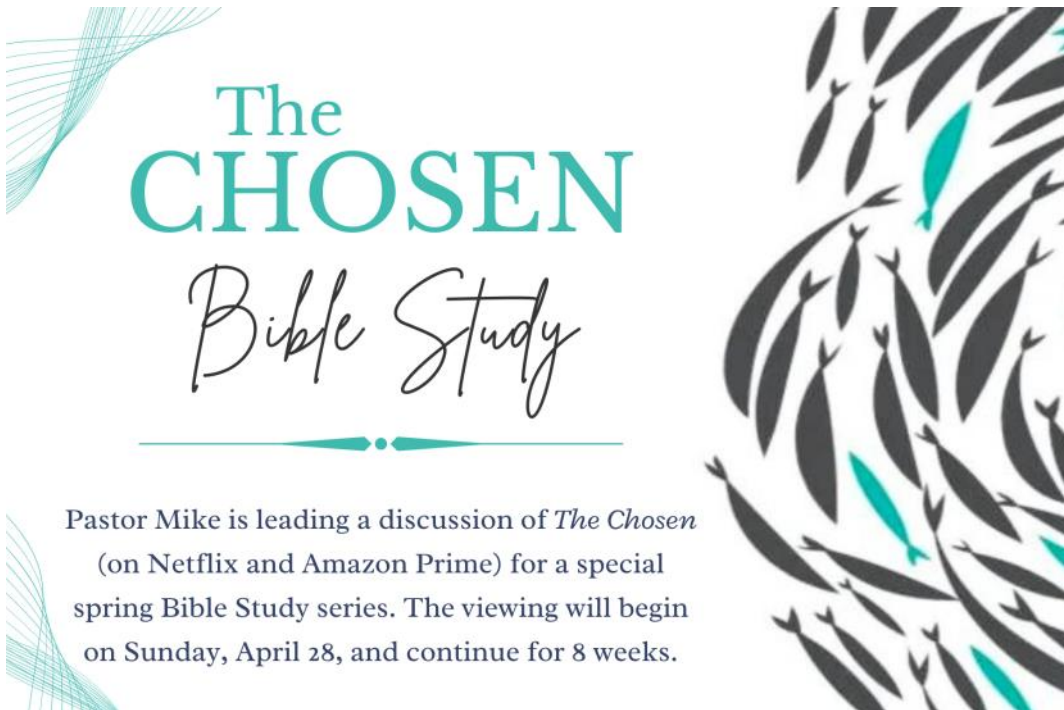
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SENDING

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE *Mary*.....arr. by Mervyn Warren
for Take 6's eponymous album, 1988

Program Note: "Mary Don't you Weep" is a spiritual with roots going back to the very beginnings of American history. The lyrics contain "coded" messages of resistance to slavery. Such is its historical significance that the Swan Silvertones' 1959 recording was recently inducted into the Library of Congress National Recording Registry. Our instrumental arrangement is courtesy of Mark Shoun.



**The
CHOSEN**
Bible Study

Pastor Mike is leading a discussion of *The Chosen* (on Netflix and Amazon Prime) for a special spring Bible Study series. The viewing will begin on Sunday, April 28, and continue for 8 weeks.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Piscataway, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Presiding/Preaching Minister

Pastor Mike Gutzler

Lector

Richard Chancellor

Tech Team

Ben French and Jeff Taylor

Musicians

Josh Brown, Director of Music, Cantor and
Christus Choir Director

Erika Johnson, Christus Bells Director

Christus Bells

The Praise Project:

Greg Bloy, Keyboards and Winds

Bill Merkel, Guitar;

Caleb Merkel, Guitar;

Brent Stone, Bass;

Bill Richards, Percussion;

Jonathan Hill, Saxophone;

Mark Shoun, Trombone and Piano

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Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Prayers are requested for Judy Baker's brother Steve who is under hospice care in Florida. Prayers for comfort, reassurance and consolation for Steve and the family. Prayers for safe travel for Judy and her sister Kathy as they travel to be with Steve .

Prayers for John Kress's sister, Liz Shashoua, undergoing treatment following cancer surgery.

Prayers of healing for Lynn Tedesco, recovering from surgery.

Prayers for safe travels for Joan Buscher's son, Mike.

Prayers of healing and strength for Kathy Chelsen. (Kathy would appreciate phone calls from HT members. Please contact the HT office for details.).

Prayers also for Joel and Donna Cook (health concerns); Anne Simmons' husband, Rich (liver transplant); and Rita Juhasz (ongoing health concerns).



In 2024, Holy Trinity is celebrating our 75th Anniversary! Each month we will be celebrating a different decade of our history.

April: The 1980s

Holy Trinity was originally founded as part of the American Lutheran Church (ALC). In 1988, the ALC merged with the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC) to become the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) .



Pictures from Holy Trinity Yard Sale mid-1980s





Pastor Cantu

