



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity**

Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

**Sunday, March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Now the Green Blade Rises..... Mark Sedio
O God, Who Gives Us Life..... Carl P. Daw/Arthur S. Sullivan

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SIN:

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

All: Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Holy One,

All: we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ’s name, and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

All: Amen.



1 Co - rre_el vien-to_en es - ta gran ciu-dad, mu - chos tem - bla -
 1 Wind and cold roar through the cit - y street; some folk have no
 2 Those with - in may swell with civ - ic pride; man - y wait out -
 3 Vi - o - lence and ha - tred, near and far, ter - ror, slaugh - ter,



rán: per - dón, Se - ñor. Pa - ra u - nos hoy ha - brá ca -
 heat: for - give us, Lord. Man - y have warm homes, wool clothes to
 side: for - give us, Lord. Some have man - y chanc - es to suc -
 war: for - give us, Lord. You in - sist the hun - gry shall be



lor, pa - ra o - tros, no: per - dón, Se - ñor.
 wear; this is so un - fair: for - give us, Lord.
 ceed; oth - ers live in need: for - give us, Lord.
 fed; let us give them bread: for - give us, Lord.

Refrain / Estribillo



A - yú - da - nos a en - ten - der; nues - tra
 Help us grasp how this is our sin; teach us,



cul - pa, oh Se - ñor. Nues - tras a - le - grí - as son do -
 save us by your cross, for the things we crave and seek to



lor pa - ra mu - chos hoy: per - dón, Se - ñor.
 win cost our neigh-bors loss. For - give us, Lord.

2 *Esta gran ciudad progresará,
 muchos sufrirán: perdón, Señor.
 Para unos, la oportunidad,
 para otros, no: perdón, Señor.*

3 *Guerras y más guerras por la paz,
 muchos morirán: perdón, Señor.
 Muchas manos se levantarán
 reclamando pan; perdón, Señor.*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

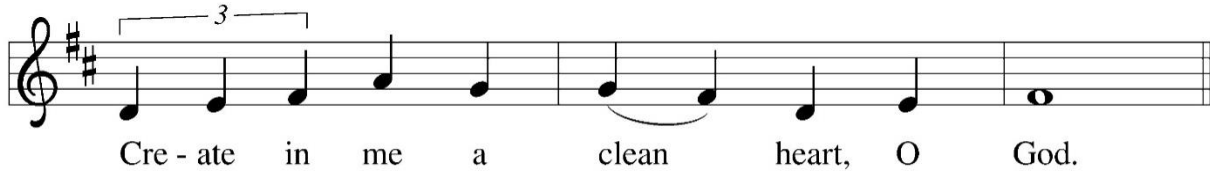
The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.



PSALM 51:1-12 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses.*)

Refrain:



Verse:



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through ¹from my wickedness,**
and cleanse me ¹from my sin.
- ³For I know ¹my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹in your sight;**
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹in your judgment. R
- ⁵Indeed, I was born ¹steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth ¹deep within me,**
and would have me know wisdom ¹deep within.
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear ¹joy and gladness;**
that the body you have broken ¹may rejoice. R
- ⁹Hide your face ¹from my sins,
and blot out ¹all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean ¹heart, O God,**
and renew a right spir- ¹it within me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away ¹from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of ¹your salvation**
and sustain me with your boun- ¹tiful Spirit. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

- ⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
- ⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”
- ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent

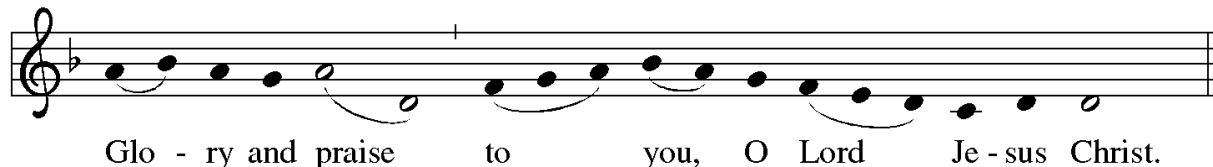
submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: Word of God, word of life.

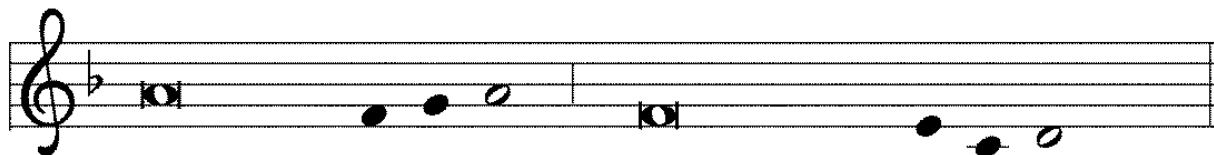
All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:



Verse:



Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain;* but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12th chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Seed That in Earth is Dying*..... ELW 330



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of
2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and
3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel
grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:
fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us
praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here
give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.
where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.
Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929
Music: Harald Herresthal, b. 1944
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Music © Norsk Musikforlag

SÅKORN SOM DØR I JORDEN
7676876

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plate at the entrance to worship or in the Offering Box on the table with the bulletins.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: Let us pray . . . Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

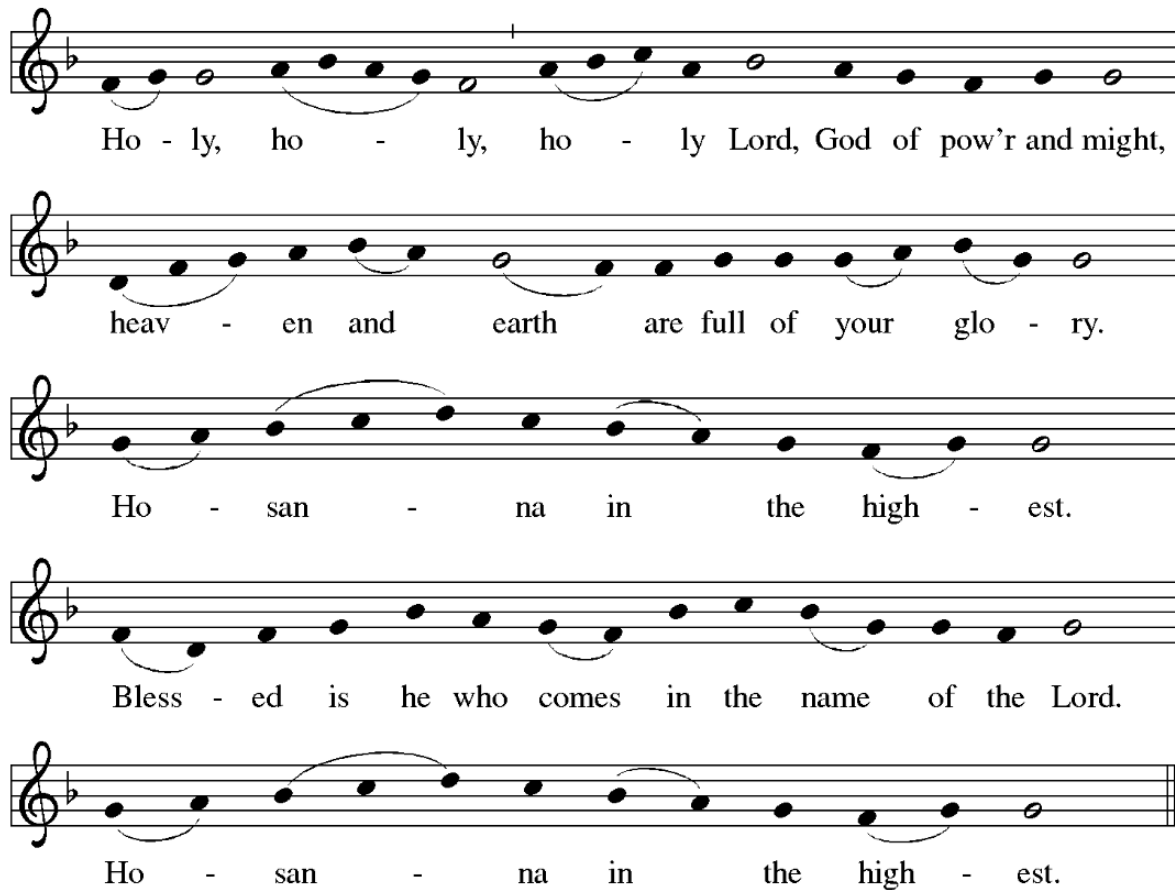
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P:And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

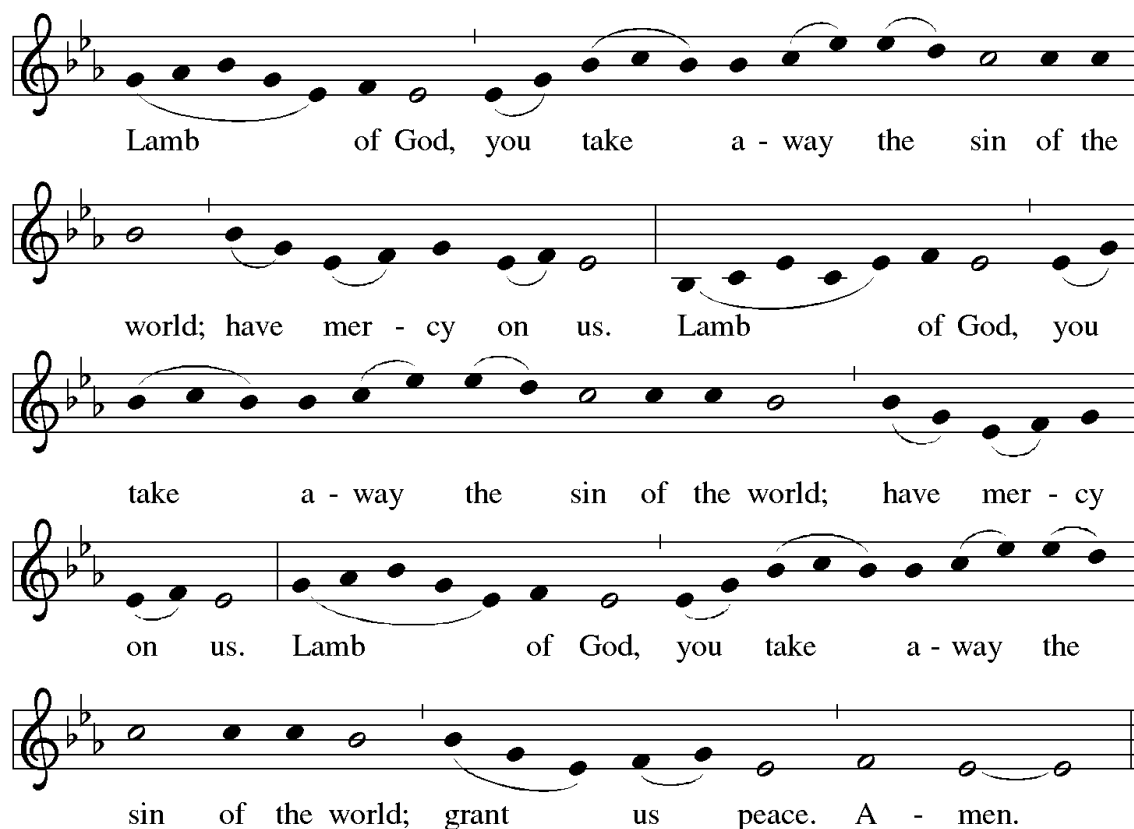
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Happy are they who are called to
his Supper.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION MUSIC:

As the Grains of Wheat (Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)..... ELW 465

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,
 let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.
 Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Variations on Sicilian Mariners* (Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing) David Lasky

BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH

The bulletin is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of George Kieffer by Fe Kieffer and family.

SERVING TODAY

Reader: Shawn Sponaugle

Assisting Minister: Danielle Mariano

Livestream: Kirk Sponaugle

Communion Assistants: Mark Mariano Kendra Ruhl

Acolytes: Maddy Gniady and Tess Mariano



Dear Lord Jesus,

When You walked upon this earth, You healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and raised the dead. Now we come to You on behalf of those who are in need today and pray that You would send them Your healing power. Hear our prayer for Your name's sake. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Bereaved: The family of Anita Lodes

Prayer Concerns: Roberta Anderson, Bob Bettleyon, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Carole Bowman, Dennis Buchanan (Mary Ann Kelly's cousin), Kinleigh Connelly (friend of the Eby family), Karen Savage Critchfield (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Theo Epitropoulos, Suzy Epler, Janice Geiling, Harry Heath (friend of the Kendra Ruhl), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunhams), Bonnie Hess (friend of the Weavers), Glenn Hoffa, Ben Housman (husband of Anita Housman), Mary Huebner, Ruth Knol, Nancy Miller, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Dona Pastuck, Tom Rieger, Bob Sibert, Michelle Spaeder (friend of Karen Kline), Pete Stone, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Mike Welty.

DAILY PRAYERS

Alex Chubb, Elaine Chubb, Kelly D'Adderio (cousin of Naomi and Whitney Powell), Jerry Fickling (friend of Karen Kline), Virginia Frank, Rosa Vena Homisak (Bob Homisak's mother), Dennis Lubold, Ed Schaeffer, Lyndel Strickler (neighbor of Ruth and Jack Knol), Bob Trump, Irene Turzai, Melissa West (friend of Susan Bianchi), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all of our Homebound members.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, Patrick Stewart, Tory Young

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at htluth@comcast.net or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.

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Holy Week

Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 24- Palm Sunday

10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesday, March 27- Evening Prayer

7:00 PM Worship

Thursday, March 28- Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, March 29- Good Friday

7:00 PM Worship Reading of the Passion according to St. Matthew
and Veneration of the Cross

Sunday, March 31- Easter Day

8:00 AM Festival Communion (No Livestream)

(2 services this week only)

9:15 AM Easter Fellowship Gathering

10:00 AM Festival Communion (Livestream)

Easter Fellowship and Celebration

Please join us on Easter Sunday at 9:15 a.m. for refreshments and celebration. We are not holding an Easter Egg hunt this year, but we will have *special treats* for all the young people. We hope to see you on Easter morning as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord together.