



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

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

**Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter**

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

GATHERING

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

*To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold..... Susan R. Briehl/Robert Buckley Farlee
Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song Carl P. Daw/Peter Curtis/John Carter*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We give you thanks, O God,
 for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
 and by your Word you created the world,
 calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
 Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
 At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
 By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
 making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**All: Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
 Empower our witness to your resurrection.
 Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
 and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
 Shower us with your Spirit,
 and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

P: To you be given honor and praise
 through Jesus Christ our Lord
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *We Know That Christ is Raised* ELW 449



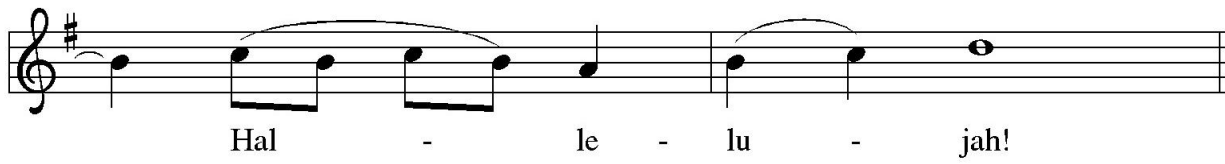
1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
 4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
 The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
 as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *This is the Feast*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the people of God and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Psalm: 22:25-31 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses*)

Refrain:

All the ends of the earth shall re -
mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

Verse:

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- ²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**
who rules o- | ver the nations. R
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- ³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!” **R**

SECOND READING: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia

Refrain:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Verse:

I am the vine, you^l are the branches.* Those who abide in me and I in them^l bear much fruit.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

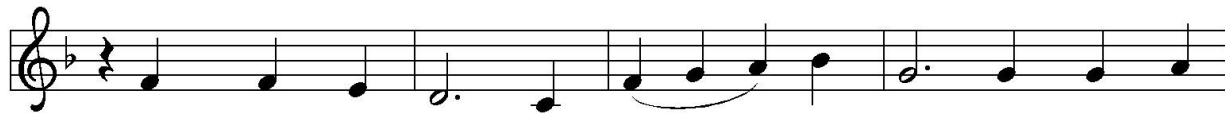
[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
 All: Praise to you, O Christ.

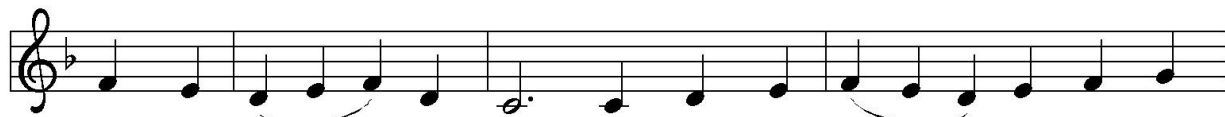
SERMON

Silence is kept for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: O Blessed Spring..... ELW 447



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
 2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
 3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
 4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
 5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
 faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
 heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
 last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
 this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
 rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
 move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please respond after each petition.

P: God of Grace,
All: **hear our prayer.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.**

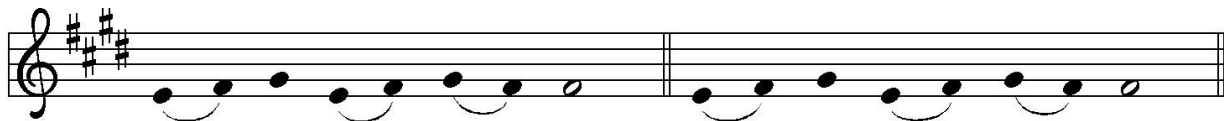
Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plates at the entrance to worship or in the narthex.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:


A: Let us pray . . . Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

All: Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE



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



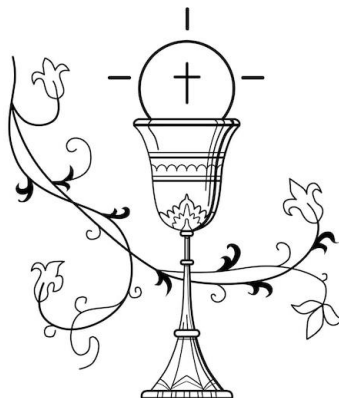
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

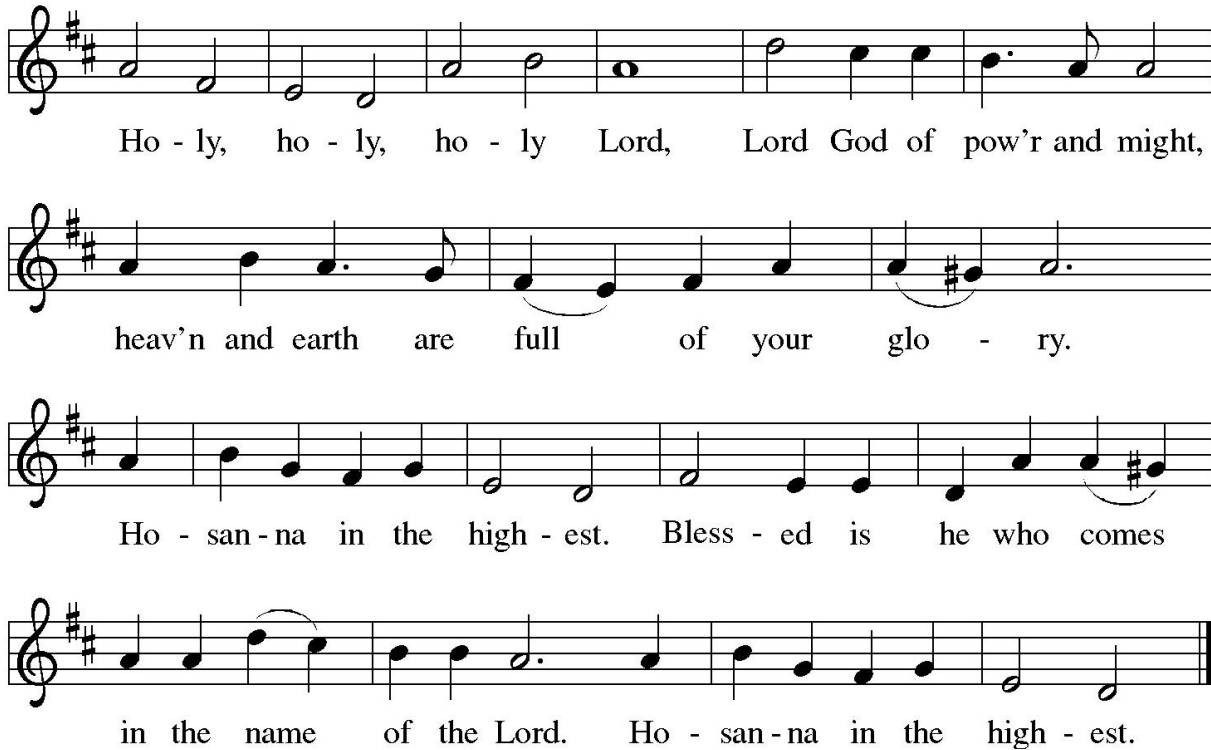


It is right to give our thanks and praise.



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, Lord God of pow'r and 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.

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: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of bread. Come and eat at God's table.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD:



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.

COMMUNION MUSIC: (*Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew*)

We Raise Our Hands to You, O Lord..... **ELW 690**

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray... you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

All: Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: 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.

All Amen.



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift he brings,
 3 Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love;
 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring



in praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has
 there - fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has
 set heart and will on things a - bove that we
 and with the heav'n-ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has



tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of
 tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!" Now still he
 con - quer through your tri - umph; grant grace suf -
 tri - umphed! Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the



an - gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 comes to give us life and by his pres - ence stills all
 fi - cient for life's day that by our lives we tru - ly
 Fa - ther, and our Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 strife. "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, all the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL:

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE: *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds*.....Robert A. Hobby

FLOWERS AND BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH

The altar flowers are placed in loving memory of husband Merle and daughters Karen and Tracy by Evadne Kopp. The bulletin is given to the glory of God and in celebration of Nila Wiley’s 90th birthday by her children and grandchildren.

SERVING TODAY

Reader:.....Susan Bianchi
Assisting Minister: Chip Haak
Communion Assistants:Jen Keeler and Charis Mincavage
Crucifer: Anna Keeler
Torchbearers:..... Grace Paul and Anderson Rosetti
Livestream: Kirk Sponaugle



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

Prayer Concerns: Roberta Anderson, Bob Bettleyon, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Carole Bowman, Dennis Buchanan (Mary Ann Kelly’s cousin), Bruce Bunting (brother of Susan Bianchi), Eric Chubb (brother-in-law of Susan Bianchi), Kinleigh Connelly (friend of the Eby family), Karen Savage Critchfield (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Theo Epitropoulos, Suzy Epler, Janice Geiling, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunhams), Bonnie Hess (friend of the Weavers), Glenn Hoffa, Ben Housman (husband of Anita Housman), Herb Huebner, Mary Huebner, Fred Isaacson (father of Heidi Eby), Jennifer Johnson (cousin of Derek Dunham), Nancy Miller, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Dona Pastuck, Tom Rieger, Michelle Spaeder (friend of Karen Kline), Pete Stone, Bob Trump, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Mike Welty, Don Yerger (brother of Pastor Brommer).

DAILY PRAYERS

Alex Chubb, Elaine Chubb, Virginia Frank, Rosa Vena Homisak (Bob Homisak’s mother), Dennis Lubold, Ed Schaeffer, Bob Sibert, 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.

Friendly Reminders

Thank you for joining us for worship today in-person and through livestreaming.

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We invite all people, as well as young children who are not yet receiving the Sacrament to come forward and receive a blessing. Please ask the Pastor if you need a gluten free option. At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Thus, we believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine. At his table Christ grants us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. *May your hearts be opened, and your lives made new by his gracious love.* Please give your completed communion card to the usher during communion.

Holy Communion distribution today: The usher will guide you down the center aisle. Prepackaged Communion elements with grape juice are available on the small table. If your preference is regular wine or non-alcoholic wine, take a cup from the silver trays. Proceed to the Pastor to receive a wafer or have the prepackaged elements blessed. Proceed to the rail where there will be an assistant on either side with regular wine. There will also be one assistant with non-alcoholic wine. Stand or kneel as you are able and remain at the rail for as long as you desire.

Consecrated Communion Elements are available for “Live Stream” worship at home. Please contact the church office at 717-533-2467 or by email at htluth@comcast.net to arrange to pick up elements or have them delivered to your home.

The in-person church office hours this week are Monday thru Thursday from 9 AM—2 PM. On Friday staff will work remotely. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org

Sunday School Information: Children’s Sunday School meets on Sundays from 9:00am-9:45am in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). An informational flyer with more details is available in the church narthex. We’re excited to use the Godly Play curriculum this year! **Confirmation Sunday School** for Grades 6-9 meets on Sundays from 9am-9:45am in the youth room. **Adult Discussion group** meets at 9:00-9:45am in room #16 (near the restrooms). Adult Discussion will meet for the last time on Sunday, May 5th. Please consider joining this time of learning and faith sharing.

Sing and Rejoice Choir. All youth are invited to participate in singing during the service today, Sunday, April 28th. The song, *Come to the Table*, will be sung right before Communion. Singers are asked to sit in the chairs at the left front of the church, directly across from the choir. Copies of the words to the song will be available on the chairs for any youth who would like to join us even if they have not been able to make our practices.

Mark Your Calendars: The LAST HTY Night for the season is NEXT Sunday, May 5th!! If you are in grades 6 - 12, come out on the 5th for an awesome HTY night. It's all about fun, faith, fellowship, and wacky youth group games. Bring Friends! Do NOT bring Snacks! Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided. SPREAD THE WORD! DEFINITELY BRING SOME FRIENDS! C U There!!

Birthday Blessings! Nila Wiley will celebrate a 90+ birthday this month on April 30th. You can send birthday wishes to her at: 100 Cottage Drive, Apt. 114, Palmyra, PA 17078. Happy Birthday, Nila!

Please send articles and announcements for the Newsletter to Anita Housman, our Communications/IT Specialist. Please send articles to her at aahousman2@gmail.com. She is always gathering announcements and articles for the monthly newsletter. Just a reminder – submit articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month.

Many thanks for your generous donations! We continuously express our thanks to all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving which allows us to continue to operate valuable ministries and pay for the ongoing bills at Holy Trinity. The Simply Giving program offers automatic withdrawals from your bank account or charges to a credit card; donated through our website (htluth.org) by clicking on the ‘Give Now’ button; donated by downloading the Mobile App ‘GivePlus Church’ (be sure to select Ev. Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity) or by taking a picture of the QR code. Please contact the church if you have any questions about any of these methods.



Readers, Greeters and Flower Deliverers for May and June are needed to greet people as they come into church and deliver flowers after the service on Sunday. Readers are needed to read the 1st and 2nd reading and the Psalm. The lists are available on the bulletin board. Please sign up today or contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.

New Spring **Devotionals** and large print **Christ in Our Home** are in the narthex. Please take one!

Holy Trinity Staff

Senior Pastor Rev. Cindy A. Brommer (PastorBrommer@comcast.net)
 Director of Music Ministries/Organist Alan L. Hair (hairlooms2@aol.com)
 Director of Youth and Family Ministries..... Peter A. Fox (youthg@yahoo.com)
 Director of Faith Formation Colleen Nielsen (NielsenC@mhs-pa.org)
 Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Stuart (htluth@comcast.net)
 Property Manager..... Karen Kline (karenhtlc@comcast.net)
 IT/Communication Specialist Anita Housman (aahousman2@gmail.com)
 Treasurer Stephanie Gross (stephaniegross@comcast.net)
 Giving Secretary Peg Huebner (peghuebner@comcast.net)
 Membership Secretary Elizabeth Stuart (estuart@path1tv.com)

I am
the
vine;
you
are
the
branches.
John 15:5

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God's love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives for racial equity and to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ's teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.