



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity**
Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

**Sunday, March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent**

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

GATHERING

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

Chorale Prelude on Seelenbraeutigam (Jesus, Still Lead On) John Blackburn
May This Church Be like a Tree (Sanctuary Choir) Pablo D. Sosa

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SIN:

✝ *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is 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 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
 Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

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.

KYRIE (*Assisting Minister leads and Congregation sings the **bold** response.*)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



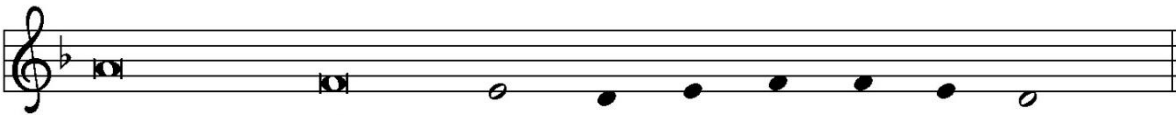
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

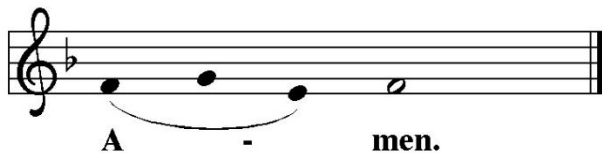
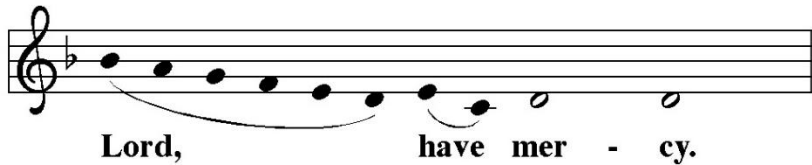


For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

(Continued)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through 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: Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
 let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALM 63:1-8 (*Congregation sings the refrain and bold verses.*)

Refrain:



O God, ea-ger-ly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.

Verse:



¹ O God, you are my God; eager-ly I seek you;
 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
 that I might behold your power and your glory.**
³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
 my lips shall give you praise.
⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live
 and lift up my hands in your name. R**
⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
 and meditate on you in the night watches.**
⁷ For you have been my helper,
 and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
⁸ **My whole being clings to you;
 your right hand holds me fast. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

L: Word of God, word of life.

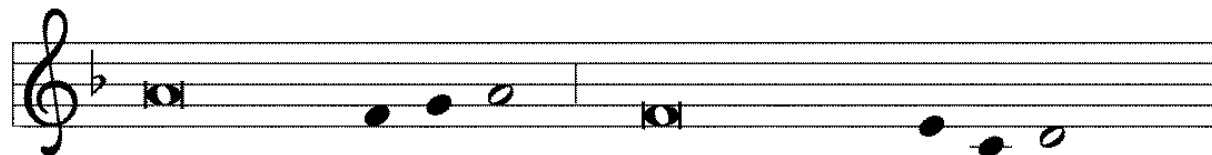
All: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:



Verse:



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *As Rain from the Clouds*..... ELW 508

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,

as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.

We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;

we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.
 we thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten-der toil.

We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm-er, for hun-dred-fold yield,

for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.
 for har-vest of grace in our once-bar-ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896; arr. hymnal version
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Merciful God.

All: **Receive our prayer.**

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.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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.

TABLE SETTING SONG: Come to the Table **ELW 481**

(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: Let us pray . . . Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

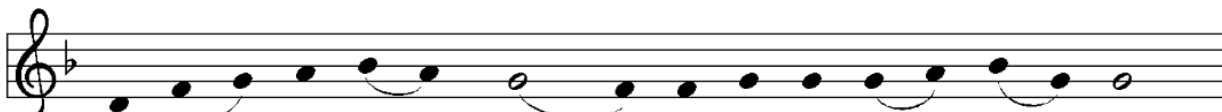
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

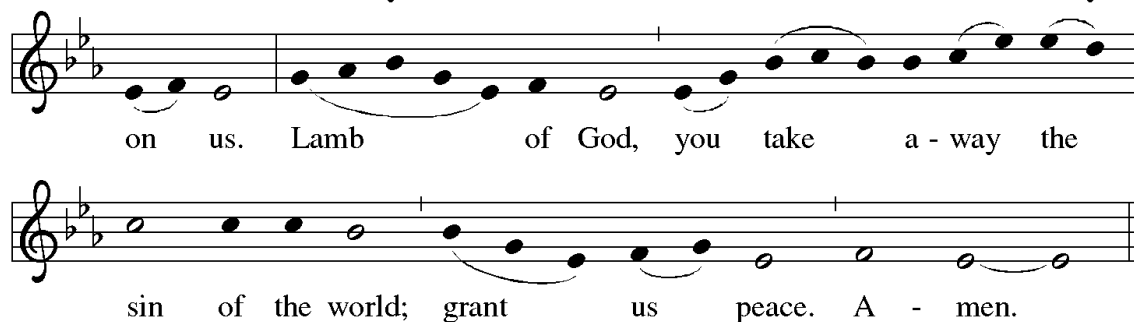
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.
 All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

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



COMMUNION MUSIC: *All Who Are Thirsty (Sanctuary Choir)* Brian Wentzel
God Extends an Invitation **ELW 486**
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me **ELW 623**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

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 Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
 Music: WALTON. W. Gardiner. *Sacred Melodies*. 1815

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The bulletin is given in loving memory of Heb Brooks by Debra Brooks.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister: Rev. Jan Mills
Assisting Minister: Ruth Gardner
Reader:..... Danielle Mariano
Communion Assistants:..... Mark Mariano and Rodney Gross
Acolytes:..... Malory Fox and Maddy Gniady
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: Susan Bianchi, Jack Bishop, Lucy Campbell (daughter of Jacob and Sarah Campbell), Barbie (Hocker) Colestock (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Bill Fosnacht, Izanne Haak, Carol Longenecker, Terry Longenecker, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Wanda Oliver (friend of the Lechleitner’s), Julia Padgett, Tony Primerano (friend of Steve Shuey), Chris Ruff, Joyce Schroeder, Jaci Walters, Nicolle Zambrana (daughter of Marilyn Layman), and Ed Zaenglein.

DAILY PRAYERS

Roberta Anderson, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Virginia Frank, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunham’s), Dennis Lubold, Nancy Miller, Darrin Mineke (cousin of the Dunham’s), Ed Schaeffer, Pete Stone, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), 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, 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.



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 God's 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.

Office Hours The office will be open this week Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. To contact the church: Phone Number: 717-533-2467, Email Address: htluth@comcast.net; Holy Trinity website: htluth.org. **In case of emergency** please call the church office and follow the prompts for emergency contact information.

Sunday School Information: All classes will meet from 9:00am-9:45am. **Children's Sunday School** meets in the Sunday School room (connected to the Fellowship Hall). **Confirmation Sunday School** for Grades 6-8 meets in the youth room. **Sunday School** for Grades 9-12 meets downstairs next to the Youth Room. **Adult Discussion** meets in room #16. All are welcome!

Please welcome **Pastor Martin Horn** as he leads us in worship today. Thank you, Pastor Horn, for joining us today.

Evening Prayer during Lent - Join us for a Midweek Prayer Liturgy during Lent beginning Wednesday, March 12 through Wednesday April 2 at 7pm. The theme for this time together is "Finding Hope in a World Divided and a World on Fire", based on writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Establishment of Call Committee- At the March 18, 2025 Council meeting, the following members were approved to serve on the Call Committee: Donna Artley, Derek Dunham, Ruth Gardner, Jen Keeler, Danielle Mariano, and Nathan Paul. Their first task will be to begin work on the Ministry Site Profile.

HTY IS BACK!! The NEXT HTY Night is TONIGHT from 5 - 7:30PM!! HTY is for everyone in grades 6 - 12. HTY is all about wacky games, group building, large and small group awesomeness, and so much more. **Bring yourselves! Bring friends!** Friends are always welcomed and encouraged at HTY. Be there for all the fun, faith, and fellowship. **Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided.** See you there. The only thing you need to bring is yourself and a friend. The more, the merrier. Spread the word!

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits The Faith in Action Committee is continuing to send our faith and love outside the walls of Holy Trinity by collecting items to make personal care kits. These are used both internationally and, in the USA, to bring dignity and health to people in crisis. Please help by donating the following new items: Bath towel (dark colors preferred), Nail clippers, Sturdy comb, Toothbrush, and Bar soap (bath size). More information and a collection basket are in the Narthex. We will be collecting items through Easter.

Roadway Clean-up Day We have scheduled Saturday, April 6th as our Spring Adopt-A-Highway cleanup day. Contact Rodney Gross at rodgross@comcast.net or 717-649-6224 if you are willing to volunteer. Volunteers should meet at the church at 8:30 and we will disperse from there.

It's time to order Easter Flowers. In your packet of church envelopes, you received a special envelope for Easter flowers. If you wish to contribute, in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please send your envelope to the church office or place it in the offering plate by **Sunday, April 13th**. Please be sure to mark the envelope if you are making the donation in honor or in memory of someone.

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.



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.

Readers, Greeters and Flower Deliverers for March and April 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.

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Holy Week

Worship Schedule

Thursday, April 17- Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM Worship with Holy Communion

Friday, April 18- Good Friday
7:00 PM Worship Reading of the Passion according to Mark
and Veneration of the Cross

Sunday, April 20- Easter Day
8:00 AM Festival Communion
(2 services this week only)
9:15 AM Easter Fellowship Gathering
10:00 AM Festival Communion

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.

You are Welcome Here!

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 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.