

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

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

Sunday, March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Lent

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

GATHERING

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

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SIN:

The congregation stands.

+ 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.



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

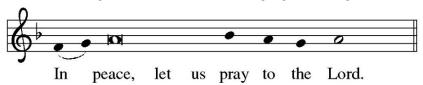
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

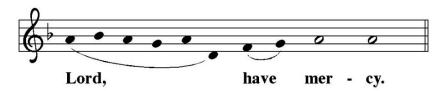
GREETING

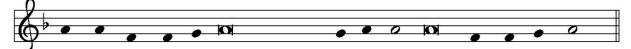
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

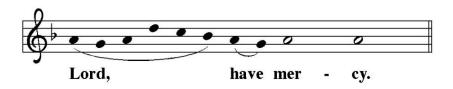
KYRIE (Assisting Minister leads and Congregation sings the **bold** response.)

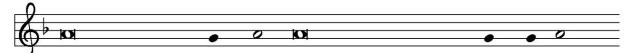




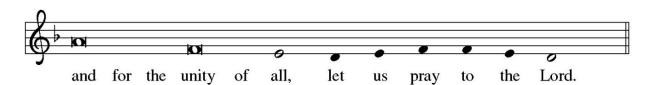


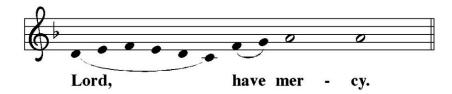
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.





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

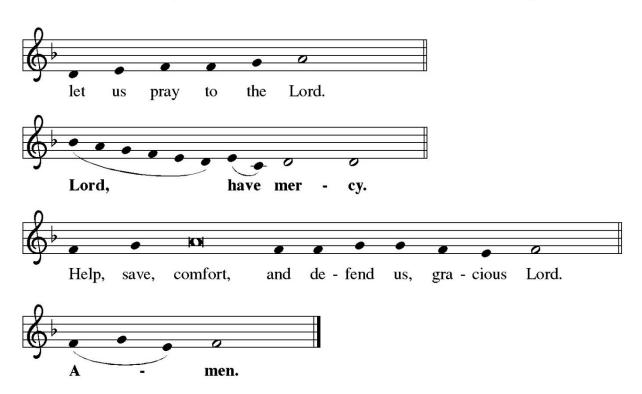




(Continued)



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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The congregation sits.

Word

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

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

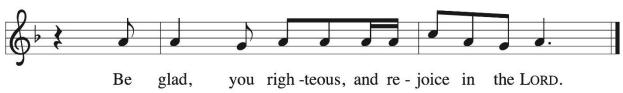
By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

PSALM 32 (Congregation sings the refrain and **bold** verses.)

Refrain:



Verse:



- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven, and whose sin is | put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD im- putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! R
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away, because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ceal my guilt.

 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them. R
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- 8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that I you should go; I will guide you I with my eye.
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;

but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

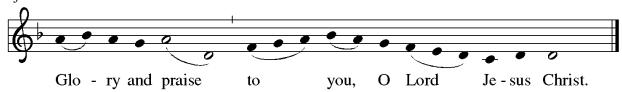
L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

The congregation stands.

Refrain:



Verse:



I will arise and go to my fa- ¹ *ther and say,* * *I have sinned against heaven* ¹ *and before you.*

The congregation sits.

The Gospel today will be interspersed into the sermon and hymn ELW 608, Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling, (Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

Contemporary Story

Verse One Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,

calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,

watching for you and for me. Refrain

¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father.

Contemporary Story

Verse Two Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,

pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,

mercies for you and for me? Refrain

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Contemporary Story

Verse three Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,

promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,

pardon for you and for me. Refrain

Conclusion

Refrain "Come home, (Come home,)

come home! (come home!)

You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation stands.



The congregation sits.

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.

The congregation stands.

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.

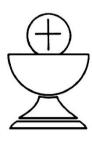
All: We lift them to the Lord.

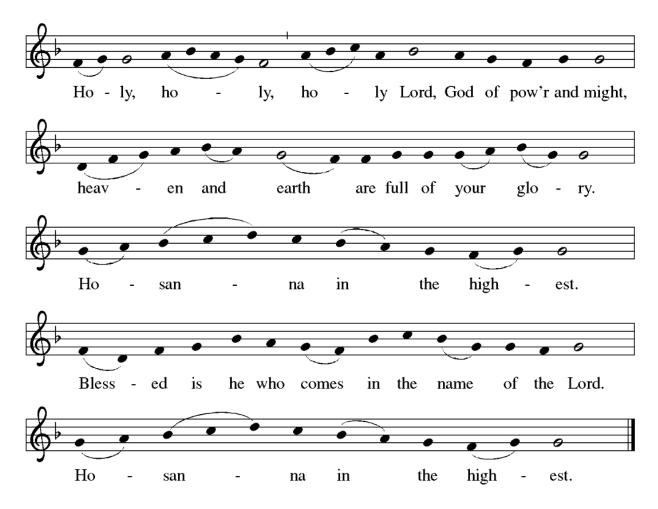
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:





EUCHARISTIC 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.

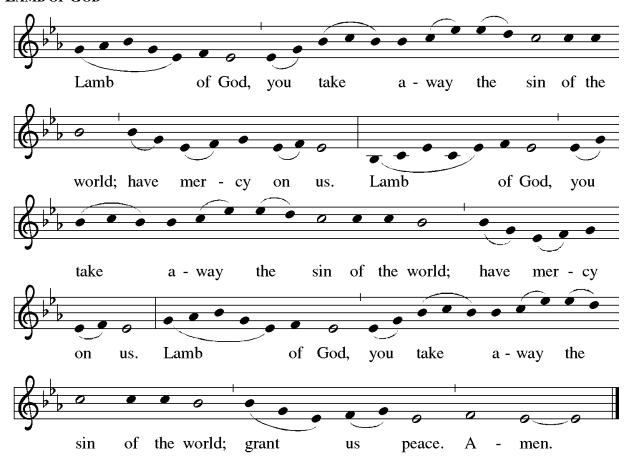
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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.

The congregation sits.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

The congregation stands.

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.



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 honor of Peter Fox and for all he does for Holy Trinity's youth.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister:	Rev. Jan Mills
Assisting Minister:	
Reader:	
Communion Assistants:	Joan Rizzo and Kendra Ruhl
Acolytes:	
Livestream:	



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, 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 <a href="https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https



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 <a href="https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https

<u>Office Hours</u> 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: <a href="https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://https://ht

<u>Sunday School Information:</u> 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!

Evening Prayer during Lent - Join us for a Midweek Prayer Liturgy during Lent, 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 the 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.

The HTY Sleepover is coming up *FAST!!* The "NEW" date for the HTY Sleepover is Friday, April 11th - Saturday, April 12th. The Sleepover goes from 8pm on Friday to 9am on Saturday. Bring friends and ANY home-baked goodies! Expect: Pizza, Soccer, Games, Snacks, FUN, and much more. Come out to this night of TOTAL fun and fellowship. This night will rock! C U There. **P.S.** This is a great event to bring friends to! So do it! *Flyers are available in the Youth Group room*.

Attention, ALL HTY & Family Fellowship Families: I have created a "NEW" HTY & Family Fellowship Spring Calendar. On it there are several necessary changes to take note of, so make sure that you pick one up today. PLEASE throw out your old Calendars and replace them with this "NEW" one. *Physical calendar copies are available at the church on the table in the Narthex*.

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 5th** 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.

Blood Pressure screenings will be offered next Sunday! Holy Trinity will offer blood pressure screenings the first Sunday of every month in the front of the sanctuary after the worship service. Screenings will be available Sunday, April 6, 2025.

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 April and May 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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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.