

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 27, 2024**

*In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, offering us his peace.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Holy God,

we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name.

Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church;  
waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making.

Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;  
waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power.

Baptized into you, O Living One,  
**make us one as you are one.**

Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

**Amen.**

## Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



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!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
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## **GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Acts 5:27-32**

*Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church's proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>27</sup> When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup> saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." <sup>29</sup> But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup> The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

<sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

A Word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 118:14-29

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength | and my song,  
and has become | my salvation.

**<sup>15</sup> Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!”**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD | is exalted!  
The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!”

**<sup>17</sup> I shall not | die, but live,  
and declare the works | of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,  
but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

**<sup>19</sup> Open for me the | gates of righteousness;  
I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> “This is the gate | of the LORD;  
here the righ- | teous may enter.”

**<sup>21</sup> I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me  
and you have become | my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the build- | ers rejected  
has become the chief | cornerstone.

**<sup>23</sup> By the LORD has | this been done;  
it is marvelous | in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the | LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

**<sup>25</sup> Hosanna! | O LORD, save us!  
We pray to you, LORD, pros- | per our days!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the LORD;  
we bless you from the house | of the LORD.

**<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God and has giv- | en us light.  
Form a procession with branches up to the corners | of the altar.**

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and | I will thank you;  
you are my God, and I | will exalt you.

**<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good;  
God’s mercy en- | dures forever.**

## **SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4-8**

*The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.*

A reading from Revelation.

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

A Word for God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



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

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpus, 1570–1615

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## **GOSPEL: John 20:19-31**

*The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

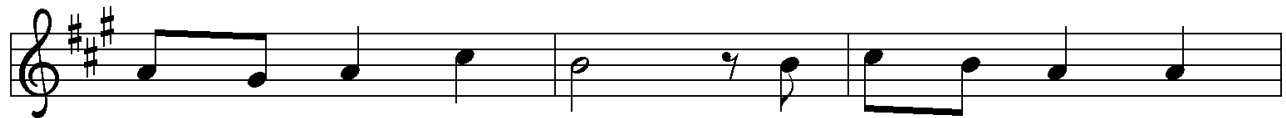
## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

# We Walk by Faith



1 We walk by faith and not by sight; with  
 2 We may not touch your hands and side, nor  
 3 Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; and  
 4 For you, O res - ur - rec - ted Lord, are  
 5 And when our life of faith is done, in



gra - cious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as  
 fol - low where you trod; but in your prom - ise  
 may our faith a - bound to call on you when  
 found in means di - vine: be - neath the wa - ter  
 realms of clear - er light may we be - hold you



none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."  
 we re - joice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"  
 you are near and seek where you are found:  
 and the word, be - neath the bread and wine.  
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

Music: SHANTI, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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## **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

## Be Not Afraid

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in a key of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!" The score consists of two systems, each with a Soprano line and a Bass line. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and lyrics.

Text: Matthew 28:5; Taizé Community  
 Music: BE NOT AFRAID, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Let us rejoice and be glad on this festival of Christ's resurrection, offering our prayers to God for all in any need, concluding each petition with the Easter response "for Christ is risen," and you are invited to respond, "**Christ is risen indeed.**"*

God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. For Christ is risen,  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. For Christ is risen,

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. For Christ is risen,

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). For Christ is risen,

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. For Christ is risen,

**Christ is risen indeed!**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

## Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace  
along with these gifts we bring.**

**Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that  
we may live as your risen body in the world.**

**Amen.**

### **\*WORDS TO LOVE BY**

Where Jesus is...there is joy, there is peace, there is love.

And that is why he made himself the Bread of Life

To be our life of love and joy.

No one else can give what he gives,

and he is there all the time.

We have only to realize that.

Dear Jesus,

**Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go,**

**Flood our souls with your spirit and life.**

**Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly**

**that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.**

**Shine through us**

**And be so in us**

**That every soul we come in contact with**

**may feel your presence in our soul.**

**Let them look up and see no longer us**

**but only Jesus.**

**Stay with us**

**And then we shall begin to shine as you shine,**

**so shine as to be light to others.**

**The light, O Jesus will be all from you.**

**None of it will be ours.**

**It will be you shining on others through us.**

**Let us thus praise you in the way you love best**

**By shining on those around us.**

**Let us preach you without preaching**

**not by words but by our examples**

**by the catching force**

**the sympathetic influence of what we do**

**the evident fullness of the love our hearts bear to you. Amen**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be**

**done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as**

**we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us**

**from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

# Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!



- 1 Christ is ris-en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
- 2 Christ is ris-en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;
- 3 Christ is ris-en! All the sor-row that last eve-ning round him lay
- 4 Christ is ris-en! Hence-forth nev - er death or hell shall us en - thrall.



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re- turns to life once more;  
 now has found a glo-rious mor-row in the ris - ing of to - day.  
 We are Christ's, in him for - ev - er we have tri-umphed o - ver all.



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;  
 death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,  
 See the grave its first-fruits giv - ing, spring-ing up from ho - ly ground;  
 All the doubt-ing and de - jec - tion of our trem-bling hearts have ceased;



bow - ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.  
 an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.  
 Christ was dead, but now is liv - ing; he was lost, but he is found.  
 hail the day of res - ur - rec - tion! Let us rise and keep the feast.

## *Refrain*



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2055 E. Columbia Avenue**

**Battle Creek, MI 49014**

**269-963-5356**

**Welcome!** We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are what strengthen the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

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For emergency pastoral care contact:

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Email: [pastor@saintpeterbc.org](mailto:pastor@saintpeterbc.org)

***Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting with worship today:***

Preacher

Laurie Swanson

Assisting Minister

Kendra Witkowski-Lehman

Musician/Choir Director

Ronald Cung

Sound Board

Streaming



**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY**  
**April 27-May 4**

**TODAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Coffee Hour

**MONDAY:**

**TUESDAY:** 7:00 pm Council via Zoom

**WEDNESDAY:**

**THURSDAY:**

**FRIDAY:**

**SATURDAY:**

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 10:30am Worship with Pastor Cheri Johnson| 11:30am Coffee Hour

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Acts 9:1-6 [7-20], Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:1-19.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing to [office@tlcbattlecreek.org](mailto:office@tlcbattlecreek.org). Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.*