

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

Welcome

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made!

**C** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

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

**P** Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**P** God of grace and glory, you have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection. Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin. Make us alive in Christ, O God. Make us new as you make all things new. Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace, and restore us to living in your holiness, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**P** Rejoice with all creation around God's throne! The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin, restores innocence to the fallen, casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride. Jesus Christ loves you and ☩ frees you from your sins by his blood. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! **Amen.**

Praise Songs

*I Worship You, Almighty God*

I worship You, Almighty God, there is none like You.

I worship You, O Prince of Peace, that is what I want to do.

I give You praise, for You are my righteousness.

I worship You, Almighty God, there is none like You.

### *Jesus, Your Name*

Jesus, Your name is power, Jesus, Your name is might.  
Jesus, Your name will break ev'ry stronghold,  
Jesus Your name is life.

Jesus, Your name is healing, Jesus, Your name gives sight.  
Jesus, your name will free ev'ry captive,  
Jesus, Your name is life.

Jesus, Your name is holy, Jesus, Your name brings light.  
Jesus, Your name, above ev'ry other,  
Jesus, Your name is life.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray together. 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. **Amen.**

### The Peace

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

**C And also with you.**

### First Reading *Acts 8:26-40*

An 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.) So 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When 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. But 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.

....*The Word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 22:25-31

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In 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. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So 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.

Love 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. There 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. We love because he first loved us. Those 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. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

....*The Word of the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Verse

*Please stand as you are able*

*Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 15th chapter.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

Gospel    **John 15:1-8**

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide 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. I 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

....*The Gospel of the Lord.*        ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Youth Time

*Please be seated*

Choir Anthem        ***Open My Heart, O God of Grace***

Meditation

Hymn

# 4 Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

*Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. Psa. 148:1*

1. Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, a - dore him; Praise him, an - gels in the height;  
 2. Praise the Lord! for He is glo - rious; Nev - er shall His prom - ise fail;  
 3. Wor - ship, hon - or, glo - ry, bless - ing, Lord, we of - fer un - to Thee;

Sun and moon, re - joice be - fore Him; Praise Him, all ye stars of light.  
 God hath made His saints vic - to - rious; Sin and death shall not pre - vail.  
 Young and old, Thy praise ex - press - ing, In glad hom - age bend the knee.

Praise the Lord! for He hath spo - ken; Worlds His might - y voice o - beyed;  
 Praise the God of our sal - va - tion! Hosts on high, His pow'r pro - claim;  
 All the saints in heav'n a - dore Thee; We would bow be - fore Thy throne:

Laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken For their guid - ance He hath made.  
 Heav'n and earth and all cre - a - tion, Laud and mag - ni - fy His name.  
 As Thine an - gels serve be - fore Thee, So on earth Thy will be done. A - men.

WORDS: *Foundling Hospital Collection*, 1796; St. 3, Edward Osler, 1836; based on Psalm 148  
 MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797

AUSTRIAN HYMN  
 8.7.8.7 D.

## The Apostles' Creed

**A:** Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

## Prayers of the Church

**A** Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering *especially* Glenda, Ralph and Shirley.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for first responders. We also ask for your mercy and blessing on those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud: *Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the caring ministries of TOL and Augustana, for all who visit and minister to one another, and for all who seek to share your love with the world.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and bring us at last to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table.

God of grace, **hear our 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.**

### Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able*

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn (*sung*):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

*{P The risen Christ dwells with us here.  
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.}*

### Hymn before Communion (sung)

*Please be seated*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion: *Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.*  
The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

**A** Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Blessing

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C 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, † in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**



## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## Dismissal

**A** Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Liturgical elements: Sundays & Seasons Augsburg Fortress-License No. 20817

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

PASTOR: The Rev. Frederick Kopp

Church Office: 716-836-4868      Office Email: [trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com)

Pastor's Study: 716-836-4990      Email: [pastor\\_tol@verizon.net](mailto:pastor_tol@verizon.net)

Website: [www.trinityoldlutheran.com](http://www.trinityoldlutheran.com)

Music Minister: Don Grabau      Media Minister: Jeff Ward

Today's Worship Assistant: Lanny Repman

Today's Prayer Partner: Don Grabau

Today's Ushers: Karen and Frank Modlich

## Prayers and Announcements

**Welcome:** We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

**Prayer Partner Ministry:** If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the Parents' Room in the back of church following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Don Grabau.

**Altar Flowers:** Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God from Velma Achenbach in honor of daughter Linda's birthday, and in loving memory of her husband Werner on the anniversary of his passing.

**Coffee Hour:** Coffee hour hosted by WWI will be held **following worship today!** Everyone is invited to join us for some desserts and fellowship. Please stop by!

**Mission for April and May:** In April and May, we will help support Augustana's RIDE (Refugee and Immigrant Driver Education) program, which assists people in obtaining drivers' permits and licenses enabling them to access employment, healthcare, education, etc. Our goal for the ministry in April is to provide one person's lessons and license cost of approximately \$650. Also, volunteers are always needed to help. Envelopes are on the table in the narthex, or use [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly) through the TOL website. Thank you!

**Offering:** Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only—please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through [tithely](http://tithely.com), which can be accessed through TOL's website homepage ([www.trinityoldlutheran](http://www.trinityoldlutheran.com)) or on your smartphone.

**Adult Ed:** The final class for this semester, *Destruction of the Second Temple*, is on **Monday, May 6**. We meet in the Fireside Lounge and on Zoom, from 1 – 2:30 pm. Please contact Charlie Schmidtke for a Zoom link if interested:

**Women's Luncheon Group:** We will meet next at Alton's Restaurant, 2250 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, on **Thursday, May 9, at 12:30 pm**. If you need a ride, please contact Judy Menz at 716-435-6077 or Barb Maugans at 716-692-8116. All are invited!

**Men's Breakfast:** The next breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 18**. More details about the speaker will be coming, and there is a signup sheet on the main bulletin board.

**Sermon Discussion/input:** Pastor Fred is asking for participants to join him in a **bag lunch** discussion of the texts for the next month of sermons. We will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month in the Fireside Lounge. The next discussion group is on **Wednesday, May 22**. Please let Pastor Fred know if you are interested.

**WWI Craft Night:** You're invited to join us here on **Wednesday, May 23 @ 7 pm**. There will be two crafts to choose from: either fashion a Job's Tears necklace, create some greeting or note cards, or both! All materials will be supplied.

**Pentecost Ecumenical Service:** St. Benedict Church, 1317 Eggert Road, has invited TOL and others to an Ecumenical Service on **Monday, May 20 at 7 pm**. Everyone is invited for a night of song and prayer, followed by refreshments.

**Ushers Needed for May and June:** Please use the signup sheet on the main bulletin board if you can usher for communion on any Sunday in May or June. Even if you can just usher for one week, that would be helpful. Thank you.

**Operation Christmas Child:** Suggested donations for April are small toys (ball, jump rope, plastic animals, yoyo, etc.) We also continue to collect yarn. Donations may be placed in the labeled box in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

**We continue to collect for these ministries:**

- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – box in narthex.
- Dash’s Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – box in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- 2024 Calendars for the VA Hospital – box in narthex.
- *We’re suspending the egg carton collection for a while!* Your response was overwhelming. Thank you for all your contributions to this.

***This week’s calendar***

<p><i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 am–12 noon. Please note that the office is unstaffed on Mondays. For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i></p>	Sun	4/28	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 4 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Coffee Hour Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings
	Mon	4/29	10 am 5:45 pm 6:30 pm	OA Meeting Yoga (in Studio and on Zoom) Sandwich Team #3
	Tues	4/30	All day 7:30 pm	Special Election CoDA
	Wed	5/1	12 noon 5:45 pm	Yoga (Zoom only) Yoga (in Studio and on Zoom)
	Thurs	5/2	9:30 am 5:45 pm	Yoga (in Studio and on Zoom) Yoga (in Studio and on Zoom)
	Fri	5/3	10 am	South Asian Lutheran Community
	Sat	5/4		
	Sun	5/5	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA and GAMAnon Meetings

**Announcements:** *If you’d like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to [trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com) or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning. Thank you.*

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***TOL’s Free WiFi and Password:  
N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig***