



Easter 1985

April 7th, 2024

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER
10 A.M. WORSHIP**



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lifting Up, Reaching Out**

WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY!

We are so glad you are joining in our worship. Whether this is your first time or you are a regular participant, we are happy to welcome you today.

THOMAS

Thomas, thank God you weren't there
When Jesus moved into the room,
when love conquered death,
when hope outweighed fear.
Thank God you weren't there
When Jesus first showed his scars or held onto those disciples.

You were missing.
People said you were doubting.
But I wonder—
Is it possible that you were the only disciple brave enough to leave the upper room?
Maybe you weren't missing, maybe you were seeking.
Maybe it wasn't doubt, but irrational hope.

Whatever it was,
You were missing,
So Jesus came back for you.

And if Jesus came back for you,
Then Jesus will keep coming back for me.

Love is not abstract.
It had your name on it.
It has our name on it.

So thank God you weren't there, Thomas,
When Jesus moved into the room.
For Easter happened again and again.
I choose to believe it still does.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand as you are able

- P They went to the cross,
C **And watched you breathe your last.**
P So they ran to the upper room,
C **And locked the door in fear.**
P Then, on this day so many years ago,
some women went to the tomb,
C **But you were not there.**
P You were not there.
C **You were already set loose in the world—spreading a holy type of love.**
P So find us here.
C **Spread love here.**
P Family of God, Christ is risen!
C **Alleluia! Amen!**

CALL TO CONFESSION

- P Easter is a story of transformation—
Death to life; despair to hope; betrayal to forgiveness.
We need that type of transformation—every day and all the time.
So join me in the prayer of confession, for in our truth-telling with the
divine, we are transformed.
- P Let us pray—
God of new life,
We need Easter like the desert needs rain.
For you give us unending love, and we turn it into a commodity.

You give us mystery, and we force it into certainty.
You give us community, and we set rules about who is in and who is out.
You give us grace, but we hold grudges against our neighbors.
You give us light and we ration it out to those we believe deserve it.
God of grace,
Forgive us for our shortcomings.
Dwell among us like rain in the desert—holy and unexpected—until new life
grows here. Gratefully we pray,

C Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P Family of Faith—

In the act of the cross, Jesus Christ experienced almost every type of hardship
humans can inflict on one another— isolation, abandonment, physical and
emotional abuse, shame, betrayal. You name it, he faced it.

And still—

and still—

He came back for us.

Friends—

No matter what you have done or left undone, you are known and loved by a
God of unimaginable grace. Like rain in the desert, your sin is washed clean.

So on this Easter day, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

You are **✝** forgiven.

C Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN

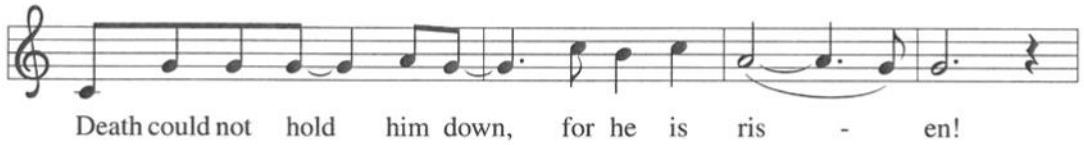
Blessing, Honor, and Glory (1989)..... ELW 433



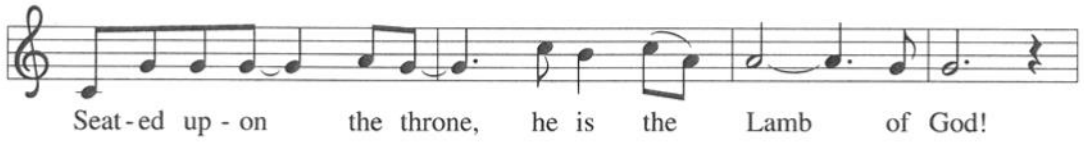
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.



Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.



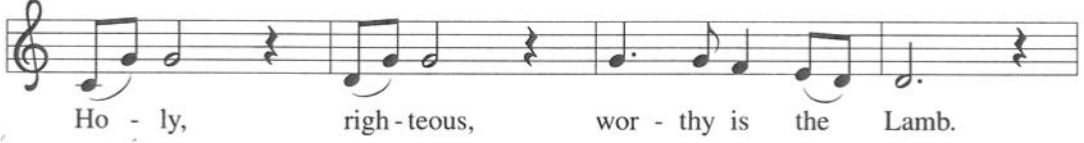
Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!



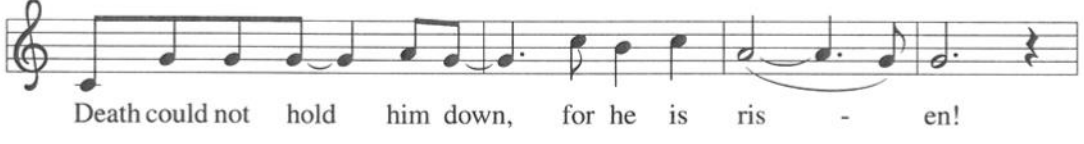
Seat - ed up - on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!



Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry to the Lamb.



Ho - ly, righ - teous, wor - thy is the Lamb.



Death could not hold him down, for he is ris - en!

(Continued on next page)

Seat-ed up-on the throne, he is the Lamb of God!

Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry to the Lamb. Ho-ly,

righ-teous, wor-ty is the Lamb of God.

Text: Geoff Bullock and David Reidy
 Music: Geoff Bullock and David Reidy
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BLESSING, HONOR, AND GLORY
 P/M

GREETING

P God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth. Come, let us offer praise and thanks to God for fulfilling the resurrection promise.

C **Alleluia.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35

While the apostles testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God**

ANTHEM

Friends (1983).....Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith
Joshua Brown, baritone

SECOND READING: 1 John 1:1--2:2

The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed reality has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's death so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. ⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are

walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. ^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE HYMN.....*Walk With Me*

Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that

Fine

God has planned where love shines through. We come to lis - ten and to learn what

D.C. al Fine

God wants us to do. To share our love and share our gifts, to be di - sci - ples true.

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.....Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*.....WOV Setting 5

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offer a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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.”²⁷ 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.”²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”²⁹ 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.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

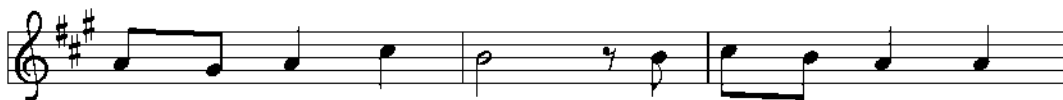
SERMON.....Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

MESSAGE HYMN

We Walk by Faith (1984).....ELW 635



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

Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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APOSTLE'S CREED

P Lord, help us comprehend and affirm our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C **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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P 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.

P Your church cries out, O God, and you listen. As you drew near to the disciples, draw near to us this day. Breathe on us your Holy Spirit, that our faith is renewed and we witness to your love. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Your creation cries out, O God, and you listen. Nurture trees, crops, wildflowers, and all growing things. Guide farmers, gardeners, arborists, and others who tend the soil and nurture plants into life. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Your world cries out, O God, and you listen. Guide police, firefighters, paramedics, and other first responders to work for the well-being of communities and the dignity of every person, that no one may need to live in fear. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Your children cry out, O God, and you listen. Hear your people crying out for justice, for an end to racism and other oppression, and for a world where all are fed and safe. We pray for all who cry out in suffering or pain (*especially*). God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Watch over our military and members of agencies serving to keep us safe and free. Bless, strengthen, and defend them with your heavenly grace, give them courage in the face of peril, and grant them a sense of your abiding love and presence wherever they may be throughout the world. God of Grace.

C hear our prayer.

P Watch over all your children, Lord, including any who have not felt welcomed by the members of your church. Help us to truly be a Reconciling in Christ congregation: a welcoming and safe community for all. God of Grace

C hear our prayer.

P Your congregations cry out, O God, and you listen. Renew pastors, deacons, musicians, and other staff, administrators, and volunteers who facilitated

Holy Week and Easter worship. Open our hearts to discern where God calls each of us to serve. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P Accept our gratitude, O God, for the lives of those who now rest in you (especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer and all whose lives have been given in faithfulness to the gospel). Grant us your peace amid our fears. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P 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.

C Amen.

PEACE

P May the peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated. Please also sign the red Friendship Register and pass it to the next person in your pew.

OFFERING HYMN

Accept O Lord, the Gifts We Bring..... ELW 691

(Verses 1 and 3)

1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea - sure.
3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.

(Continued on next page)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed between the two staves.

We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.
 What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
 Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957
 Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune; arr. Alice Parker, b. 1925
 Text © 1990 and arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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Your offering can be received in many ways. You may use the offering plate in the Sanctuary, sign-up for online giving at www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/giving, mail your offering to the church, or drop your offering in the mail slot by the office door.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

- P Let us pray.
 God of Hallelujahs—
 You have given us purpose and hope, forgiveness and grace, a place to belong and a job to do.
 You have given us all that we could need and more, so we wonder—how do you repay someone for that?
 How do you repay someone who died for you?
 The obvious answer is that we could try living for you.
 So today we lift up this offering as a gesture of our love for you.
 We pray that you can use it to bring about your promised day where all are known, all are loved, and all are safe—where swords are beaten into plowshares and justice runs like a river.
 In your name we live, and in your name we pray.
- C **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

- P Let us pray.
Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought
life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
- C **we give you thanks and praise.**
- P By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from
exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
- C **we give you thanks and praise.**
- P Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to
witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the
way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
- C **we give you thanks and praise.**
- P Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our
faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in
need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy
Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
- C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P And now, in gratitude for your consistent presence among us, we join our
voices together in the prayer you taught us to pray, saying—
- C **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.**

SENDING PRAYER

P Let us pray.
God of Grace—
There are simply not enough ways to say thank you.
We want to thank you for the way you designed joy to be contagious, for
sunsets and sunrises, and for the air in our lungs. We want to thank you for
summer rains, starry nights, and home-cooked meals shared together.
We want to thank you for this sacred space and for this day— which all
hold the promise that love is enough.
God, you give us new life, beautiful life, full life—
and there are not enough ways to say thank you.
So we start by acknowledging that our gratitude overflows.
We start by acknowledging just how much we need you.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P God of love,
There are so many words in a day—
To-do lists and stress, self-talk and notifications.
There are so many words, and yet the only words we really need are
yours. So today we pray—drown out every voice but your own.
Drown out every voice but your own, and speak to us through this text,
for we are craving good news. We are desperate for your risen love.
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.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light of God (1984).....ELW 866
 (Additional Verses: Dancing, Praying, Singing)



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.



nyen' kwen - khos', light of God. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 we are march - ing in the light of, the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

(Continued on next page)

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
 We are march - ing _____ oo _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - , kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of. the light of God.

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba _____ oo _____
 We are march - ing _____ oo _____

Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba,
 We are march - ing, march - ing, we are march - ing, march - ing,

Text: South African traditional; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984
 Music: SIYATHAMBA. South African traditional; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
 Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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SENDING

P Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.
 C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Sing Your Praise to the Lord (1981).....Richard Mullins
 Linda Stone, vocalist

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Piscataway, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Preaching/Presiding Minister

Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman

Lector

Richard Chancellor

Tech Team

Ben French and Jeff Taylor

Musicians

Josh Brown, Director of Music & Cantor

The Praise Project:

Greg Bloy, Keyboards and Winds

Bill Merkel, Guitar;

Caleb Merkel, Guitar;

Brent Stone, Bass;

Bill Richards, Percussion;

Jonathan Hill, Saxophone;

Mark Shoun, Trombone and Piano

REMEMBER IN PRAYER-Prayers for strength and comfort for Jason and Joanna Forbes on the sudden passing of Jason's stepfather.

Prayers of healing for Lynn Tedesco, recovering from surgery.

Prayers for safe travels for Joan Buscher's son, Mike.

Prayers for strength and comfort for Jean Strandlie and family; Julie Strandlie, Jerry, Carolyn and Nicholas Lemens on the passing of Jean's brother, Clair Thompson in WI..

Prayers of healing and strength for Kathy Chelsen. (Kathy would appreciate phone calls from HT members. Please contact the HT office for details.).

Prayers also for Joel and Donna Cook (health concerns); Anne Simmons' husband, Rich (liver transplant); and Rita Juhasz (ongoing health concerns).