

Easter Sunday 1976

March 31st, 2024

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD: EASTER DAY 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.

EASTER

The earth doesn't deserve the sun.

We pollute her skies and poison the air.

And yet, day after day,

She keeps coming back.

Day after day, she warms my skin,

Lights the night, and draws me in.

I think that's what Easter feels like.

We haven't earned love,

And yet, love couldn't stay away.

The stone had to roll,

The dawn had to break,

Love had to win.

So each morning I thank God for this tiny glimpse of Easter—

Light that breaks through the night,

Love that can't stay away.

Poem and Liturgy by Sarah Are

PRELUDE

Christus Bells

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 **Ḥ** forgiven.

C Thanks be to God.

GATHERING HYMN



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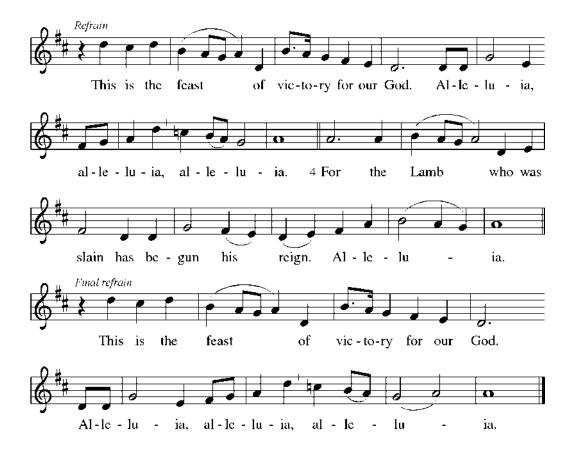
Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, Lyra Davidica, 1708

GREETING

- P This morning, this joyous morning, we journey to the tomb with Mary Magdalene and discover the stone is rolled away. An empty grave remains to show our Savior lives. With joy, we discover that Christ Jesus has risen. Come, let us offer praise and thanks to God for fulfilling the resurrection promise.
- C Alleluia.







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

ANTHEM

SECOND READING: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,

"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the Lord is exalted!

The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

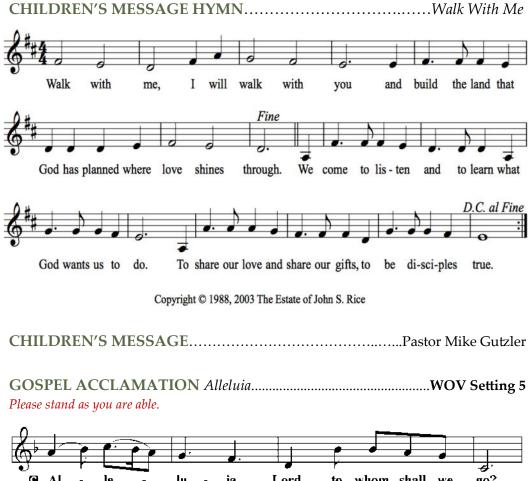
²²The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God





GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1-8

- P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the sixteenth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

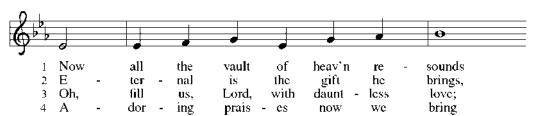
¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus' body]. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁶But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁶So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON......Pastor Mike Gutzler

MESSAGE HYMN

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds..... ELW 367





Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln. 1623 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hamual, admin. Augsburg Fortness.

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APOSTLE'S CREED

- A Lord, help us comprehend and affirm our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.
- \mathbf{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

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.

- A Holy God, we pray for the body of Christ, the church. Where the church is persecuted, protect it. Where the church is privileged, grant it humility. Where the church is fractured, heal it. Guide us all to embody Christ's love in the world. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.
- A Life-giving God, we pray for the earth, your good creation. Join our prayers with branches lifted in praise and roaring waters of new life, that together we may proclaim Easter hope. God of grace,
- C hear our prayer.

P Merciful God, we pray for all peoples and nations. Free oppressed communities from occupation, exploitation, and abuse. Teach leaders your way of justice. Empower peacemakers and all who work to end violence and strife. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Liberating God, we pray for people everywhere who long for good news. Roll away the stones that keep people from living with dignity and wholeness. Breathe new life and hope into people struggling to make it through each day. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A 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.

A 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.

A Loving God, we pray for this community of faith (name/s may be spoken here) and for your Spirit in our midst. Feed us at your Easter table and fill us with your wisdom, that we may serve and care for others. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Eternal God, we remember those who have gone before us in death (especially John Donne and all whose ministry in the arts inspired generations to faith). Renew our trust in your promises, that we live with joyful courage and compassion. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A 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.

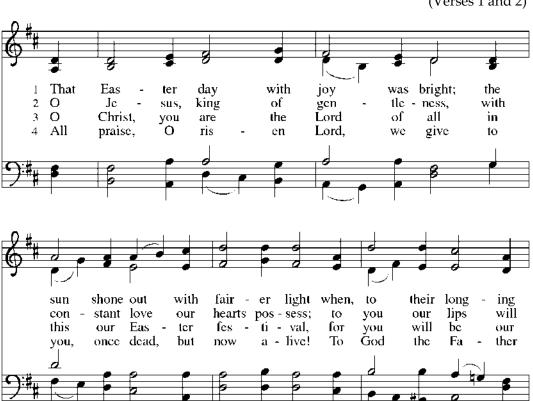
C Amen.

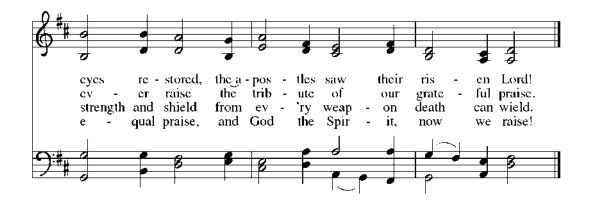
PEACE

- P The peace of the risen Christ be with you.
- 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





Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Your offering can be received in many ways. You may use the offering plate in the Sanctuary, give a gift at <u>www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/giving</u>, or mail your offering to the church.

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able

A 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.

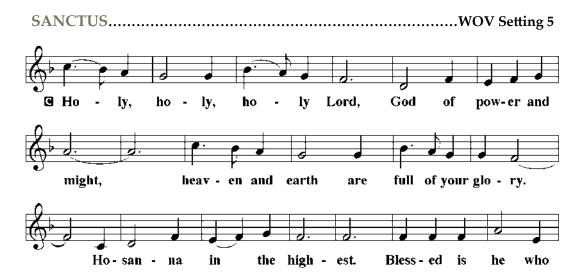
In your name we live, and in your name we pray.

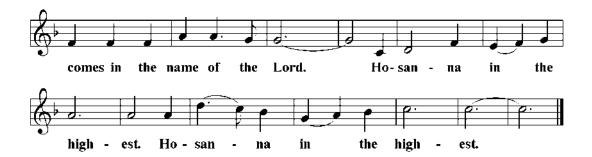
C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P God,

You are like the sun—for just as the sun never stops rotating around the earth, you never stop running toward us. And God, you are like the wind—for we can't see you, but we can feel you. We feel you when we come together, when joy escapes our bones in the form of laughter, and when we hold a newborn.

And God, you are like the feeling of coming home—for no matter how long we are away, or how much time has passed, the doormat still says, "welcome," and there is still a place for us at the table.

So today we bow our heads and close our eyes, hoping to feel you as strongly as we feel nostalgia and fear, or love and loss, which permeate our bones. We hope to feel you as strongly as the wind and the sun, for faith and doubt have always been intertwined for us.

Wonder stands at the heels of praise and joy has the memory of suffering.

C So God of the grave, we pray—

Be among us moments in our darkest moments.

P Be among us in our miscarriages and divorce, in our stress and anxiety, in our fear and doubt.

Be among us in our loneliness and grief, in our isolation and our regret. Be among us in our addictions and depression, in bullying and self-doubt. Be among us when Easter feels far away and the grave feels too close.

C God of life after death—

Enable us to be Easter people.

P People who live into joy, wonder, and gratitude as a spiritual practice.

People who acknowledge death in the world, but do not fear it.

People who trust that nothing can separate us from your love.

God you are like the sun, and the wind, and the feeling of coming home.

You are all too great for us and simultaneously present in our midst.

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.

So rise again in our suffering, and rise again in our joy. Hear our songs of praise today and know that we love the way you love and long to live the way you lived. And while you linger here, please pour out your Spirit on this Table so that this ordinary bread and cup can remind us of your love. Pour out your Spirit on this Table so that in this meal we get a glimpse of your promised day—where all are welcomed, all belong, and all are fed. And pour out your Spirit on us, for we long to be your Easter people.

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.

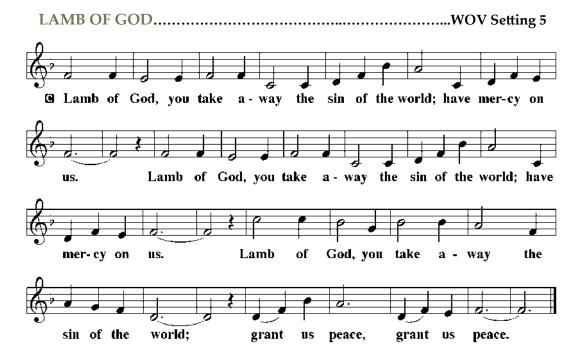
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P No matter where you are in your journey of love and faith, you are welcome here.

For Jesus Christ who died on the cross, died for you, and you matter. You belong here. There is a seat saved for you.

So come to this Table with your fears and your hopes and your heart on your sleeve; for this is God's Table. It is real, and it is strong, and it is for you. All are welcome here.

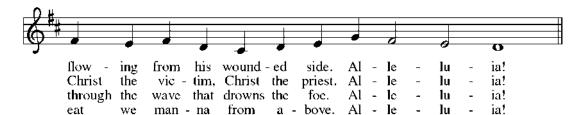
C Amen.



- P This is the body of Christ, given for you.
- C Amen.
- P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.
- C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

(Verses 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, & 8) At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to Praise we Christ, whose love dì - vine his gives Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed. pas - chal vic our to rious king, who has washed us in the tide sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go an - gel with sin - cer - i - ty vic - tim, chal bread; pas



- 5 Mighty victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie; you have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall; you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy; from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live, Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.: tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-1868. alt.

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT. Bohemian Brethren, Kirchengeseng, 1566

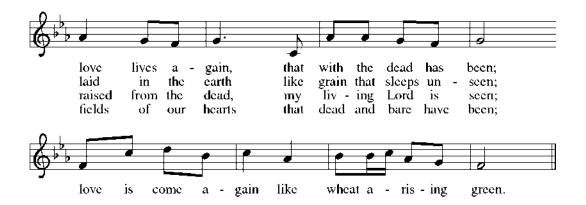
COMMUNION HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises. ELW 379





(Continued on next page)



Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French carol

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able

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, this Table, 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.

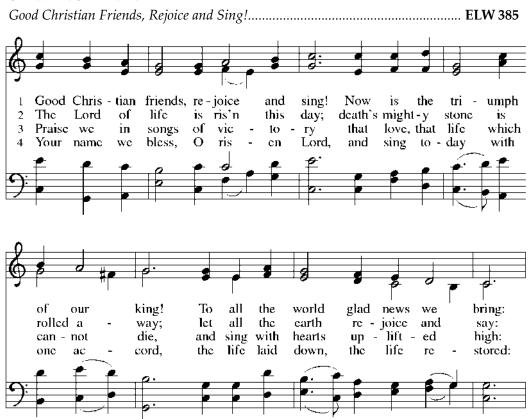
BLESSING

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



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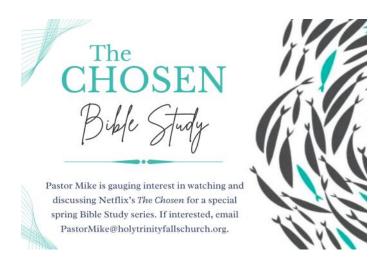
Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Mckchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
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SENDING

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

POSTLUDE



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Preaching/Presiding Minister Pastor Mike Gutzler

Assisting Minister Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman
Tech Team Ben French and Jeff Taylor

Musicians Josh Brown, Director of Music & Cantor and

Christus Choir Director

Greg Bloy, Organ Christus Choir

Erika Johnson, Christus Bells Director

Christus Bells

Dan Bergman, trumpet;

Barry Bocaner, alto trombone;

Anna Hill, trombone; Mark Shoun, trombone

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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REMEMBER IN PRAYER - Prayers for strength and comfort for Anne Anderson and family on the passing of her husband, Joe.

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

Prayers for strength and comfort for Bill, Deb and Sam Haynes on the passing of Bill's father.

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).



In 2024, Holy Trinity is celebrating our 75th Anniversary! Each month we will be celebrating a different decade of our history.

March: The 1970s

Our thanks to Jerry Artman and David Popelier for leading us thru the 1970s

April: The 1980s

Our Celebration Team: Tina Bertrand, Jason & Joanna Forbes and Tracy Strunk.