

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 5, 2024**

*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**\*THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.  
**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia! Amen.**

# Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789  
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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, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48**

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Acts:

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

A Word for God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 98**

<sup>1</sup>Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.

## **SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6**

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

A reading from 1 John:

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

A Word for God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce 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 - joi - ce 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!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.  
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615  
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**\*GOSPEL – John 15:9-17**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

# Spirit, Open My Heart

*Refrain*



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's  
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my  
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and  
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and  
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

*Refrain*



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.  
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.  
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: WILD MOUNTAIN THYME, Irish melody; adapt. Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953

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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

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a-fraid, sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

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."*

Lord, we thank you for your love and ask you to keep our hearts united in the hope we have together for all things. Keep us true to the calling you have given us and let your light shine out into the world, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

Heavenly Father, may those who suffer in poverty have the faith, courage, and the wisdom to rise up and take hold of the opportunities available to them. Bring revival to their love and knowledge of you and bring your kingdom and Jesus into their hearts, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

Oh God, have mercy on our times and on our world. Grant that with thanks and praise we may soon see the signs of the fulfillment of your promise, for Christ is risen:

**Christ is risen indeed.**

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit. Today we pray especially for Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos and their pastor, Rev. Bruce Thorsen. also pray for those participating in the Synod Assembly, especially Bishop Craig Satterlee and Vice President Sandy Schlesinger, and Doug and Gloria, our congregational voting members, 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.**

### **PRAYER REFRAIN**

**ELW 388**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

## 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

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Risen One,**

**you call us to believe and bear fruit.**

**May the gifts that we offer here**

**be signs of your abiding love.**

**Form us to be your witnesses in the world,**

**through Jesus Christ, our true vine.**

**Amen.**

## \* THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

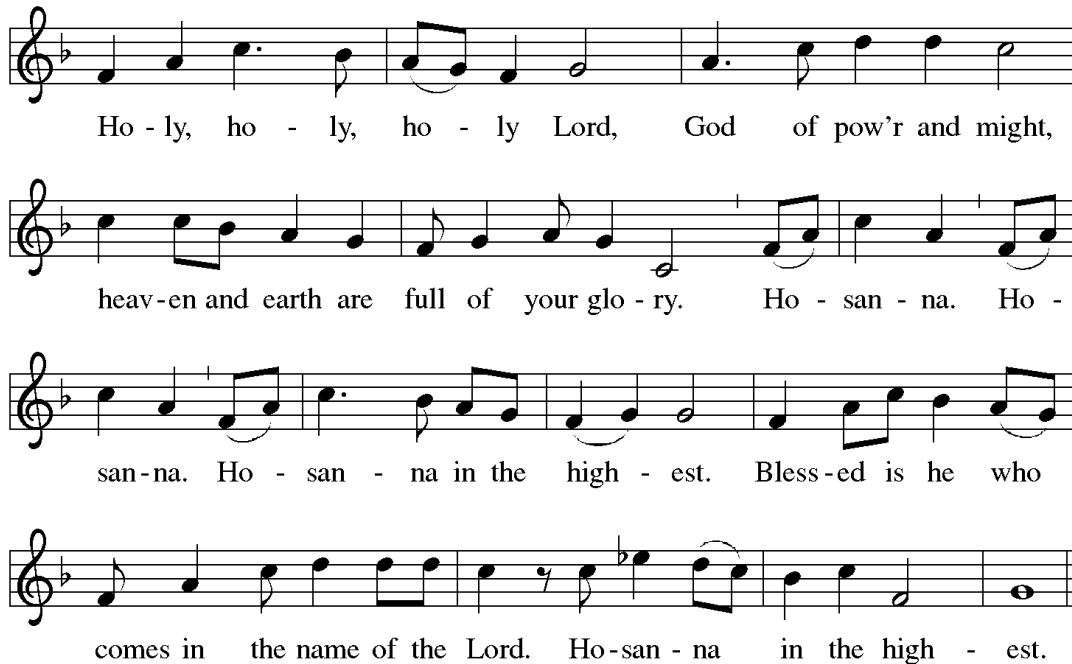
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our 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, through 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever. **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.**

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

### **\*COMMUNION**

*This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.*

**\*TABLE BLESSING**

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

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope  
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

# Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*Refrain*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.  
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
 this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.  
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin  
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## DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## 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).

*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:*

Presider	Rev. Kjersten Sullivan
Assisting Minister	Doug Martens
Musician/Choir Director	Ronald Cung
Sound Board	John Kolodizieizyck
Prayers	Linda Hermann

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**Sermon transcripts can be found at: [www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons](http://www.tlcbattlecreek.org/sermons)**

**THIS WEEK AT TRINITY**  
**April 28-May 5, 2024**

**TODAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Special Congregational Mtg., Coffee Hour following

**MONDAY:**

**TUESDAY:** 10:30am Worship & Music Mtg | 1pm Facebook Live Bible Chat

**WEDNESDAY:** 10:30am Bible Chat | 5:30pm Bible Chat | 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY:**

**FRIDAY:**

**SATURDAY:** 9am-3pm North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly Watch Party

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 10:30am Worship | 11:30am Tech Team Training / Coffee Hour

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19.



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing Pastor Kjersten. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed.*

April 28: Kathy, Wayne and Vicki, Linda and Jan, Deweyna, Nichole, Tish

April 21: JoAnn, Steven, Steve (friend of JoAnn), Debbie (friend of JoAnn), family of Ron Place

April 14: Margee, Witkowski-Lehman family, Hoshanna, family of Don Casey, family of Lori Carpenter, niece of Allen Stolton, family of Michael Hay

## **SYNOD PRAYER PARTNER**

Today in worship we hold in prayer our brothers and sisters at Faith Lutheran Church in Okemos and their pastor, Rev. Bruce Thorsen. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://faithlutheranokemos.org/>. We also pray for those participating in the Synod Assembly, especially Bishop Craig Satterlee and Vice President Sandy Schlesinger, and for our congregational voting members, Doug and Gloria.

Our prayer partner for next week is Hope St. John's Parish in Oscoda. Learn more about their ministry at: <https://hopestjohnsparish.com/>.