

# **Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA**

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**April 26, 2020 Third Sunday of Easter**

**9:00 a.m. Worship – Live streaming on Facebook**

**Our worship service will also be recorded  
and will be available on our website [www.tlcsparta.org](http://www.tlcsparta.org)**



## Order of Worship

Prelude

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

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**Welcome and Announcements**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

In the beginning the Spirit of God moved over the waters and with words of life the Creator's world was made. When Eve and Adam were created, you provided them with flowing waters that nourished the land.

**We thank you, O God, that through water and your Spirit, you call us your beloved and fill us with grace and love.**

When Hagar and her son cried out to you for mercy, you provided a well of water. When Miriam sought protection for her brother Moses, she placed him in your river.

**We thank you, O God, that through water and your Spirit, you call us your beloved and fill us with grace and love.**

When the women, children and men of your people Israel gathered at the edge of the Red Sea, you parted the waters and led them to freedom. When the servant girl's master Naaman needed healing you cleansed him in the river Jordan.

**We thank you, O God, that through water and your Spirit, you call us your beloved and fill us with grace and love.**

When Mary greeted Elizabeth, Jesus and John leapt in the waters of their mother's wombs. When Jesus came to the river, his cousin John baptized him and your words resounded, 'this is my son, my beloved; with him I am well pleased.'

**We thank you, O God, that through water and your Spirit, you call us your beloved and fill us with grace and love.**

At Jacob's well the woman heard your promise of living water and joyfully witnessed to her whole village. At Philippi, your servant, Lydia led prayer by the river and was baptized with her whole household by Paul.

**We thank you, O God, that through water and your Spirit, you call us your beloved and fill us with grace and love.**

You gave John a vision of the waters we long for—where tears and death and pain are no more, the streams make glad the city of God and the waters grow trees with leaves for the healing of the nations. We thank you, O God, for the gift of baptism whose waters nourish, protect, free, heal, nurture, save us.

**We thank you for baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power.  
Amen.**

## **Hymn: Because He Lives**

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives

Refrain: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

How sweet to hold a newborn baby  
And feel the pride and joy He gives  
But greater still the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain day, because He lives (Refrain)

And then one day, I'll cross the river  
I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then, as death gives way to victory  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns (Refrain)

Source: [LyricFind](#)

Songwriters: Gloria Gaither / William J. Gaither

Because He Lives lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

## **Prayer of the Day**

Holy Lord, your followers gave to your children something more powerful and more valuable than riches. They gave healing and hope. Bring healing and hope into our world and show us evidence of your presence in our lives. Amen.

## **Acts 3.1-10**

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms.

4 Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 All the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

## **Sermon**

# Just a Closer Walk with Thee

*Refrain*



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

*Refrain*



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional  
Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

## Blessing and Prayer for Caregivers

When you reach your hands out to provide care, to do your work as part of the care of others, you are saying to others, you are important, and you are cared for by the efforts of many who value you and your needs.

Holding your hands in front of you observe their appearance and think of all that you do with your hands each day which contributes to the needs of those you care for.

You have chosen to bless others with your hands in the work you do. Now we are going to bless your hands in recognition of the holiness of what you do everyday. Extend your hands with palms up to receive the blessing.

O Holy God, bless these hands that they may continue to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Let us pray . . . **Compassionate God, support and strengthen all those who reach out in love, concern, and prayer for the sick and distressed. In their acts of compassion, may they know that they are your instruments. In their concerns and fears, may they know your peace. In their faithful serving, may they know your steadfast love. May they not grow weary or fainthearted, for your mercy's sake. Amen.**

## Prayers

Separated in our residences but united by God's promises of restoration, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, and all who are in need, with the response, **give ear to us.**

*A brief silence.*

Come to the church, so burdened by heartache. Give us faith to know your loving presence among us. Open the scriptures to us, and nourish us with the bread of your word. Direct our clergy and church leaders, in their novel and difficult tasks. Bind into one all denominations around the globe in hope for the renewal of all things, and uphold the work of the World Council of Churches.

*A brief silence.*

O God our merciful Savior, **give ear to us.**

Come to the earth. Bless all the natural world. Renew landscapes, cleanse the waters, and protect the animals. Save your people especially at this time from destructive storms and floods. Keep viruses in check, for the sake of your beloved humans.

*A brief silence.*

O God our benevolent Gardener, **give ear to us.**

Come to the nations. Preserve all peoples from war and violence. Guide the leaders of nations, our president, our governors, and our legislators toward wise decisions in struggling against the virus and in reviving the economy. Teach all peoples how to share limited resources with those in greater need. Guide the work of the United Nations during this unprecedented situation.

*A brief silence.*

O God our mighty Peacemaker, **give ear to us.**

Come to all who suffer from the virus. Comfort the mourners, heal the sick, sustain medical workers. Empower those researchers who are seeking a vaccine. Stay with us, and accompany all those who are isolated or afraid. Give to those with prior ailments and chronic disease their necessary medical care. Especially we pray for those we name here before you (*especially*):

*A brief silence.*

O God our compassionate Healer, **give ear to us.**

As at Emmaus you joined the meal of the disciples, so come also to our tables. Uphold farmers, ranchers, migrant workers, and all who produce, package and market our food. Guard the health of those who work at grocery stores. Bless the efforts of local food banks. Enable us to feed the children who have relied on food given out at school. Show us how to feed the people living in refugee camps and nations experiencing famine and drought.

*A brief silence.*

O God our generous Provider, **give ear to us.**

Walk with us on our roadways, whether marked with sorrow or joy, and receive our petitions, both sad lament or fervent praise.

*A longer period of silence.*

O God our beloved Companion, **give ear to us.**

Accept our praises for those who have died in the faith, including those who stricken with the virus, the medical workers who died healing others. Accompany us now, as you did them, until at the end of all things we feast at your table with all the saints in glory.

*A brief silence.*

O God, the Mystery of Life, **give ear to us.**

With bold confidence in your providence, O holy and gracious God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our saving Lord. **Amen.**

### **Offering**

Thank you to all who have continued to support our mission at Trinity. Our good work has carried on. While we have not had the opportunity to contribute through the passing of the plate, there are many options for giving. Please see the website: [www.tlcsparta.org](http://www.tlcsparta.org) for more information.

### **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray . . .

Gracious God, in the abundance of your steadfast love, you call us from death to life, from silence to speech, from idleness to action. With these gifts we offer ourselves to you, and with the Church through all the ages we give thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught 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.**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. Amen.

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

## What a Friend We Have in Jesus



- 1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
- 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
- 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?  
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

Christ is risen, just as he said.  
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**For April 12<sup>th</sup>:**

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$7155.26

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$107.00