

Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA

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May 24, 2020: 7th 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**



Order of Worship

Prelude

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

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Welcome!

Prayers for Memorial Day

Let us pray: Eternal God, we give thanks for all those who have shown the greatest love by laying down their lives for others. We especially thank you for those in our military throughout history who have sacrificed their lives for their fellow citizens and for us who came after. As we remember their service, keep us mindful of all those for whom this day is a burden, and send your spirit of comfort to them. Be present with all the women and men who are serving in the military today. Though they are at war let them live for the peace known only from you. Help us to be worthy of their legacy, and keep us mindful of their service, that in all things we may live our lives in praise and thanksgiving to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.ⁱ

Hymn: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*ⁱⁱ

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you.
Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see you, I want to see you.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory
Pour out your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Lord of the resurrection, you died and were raised so that ultimately death would not prevail. Remind us daily that sin, and even death, have no power over us. Amen.

Reading: 1Corinthians 15.1-26, 51-57

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being

saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn: *Nearer, My God, to Thee*ⁱⁱⁱ

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raise the me.
Still in my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto Heav'n;
All that Thou sendest me, in mercy giv'n:
Angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to Thee.
Nearer, my, God to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts right with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee
Nearer, my, God to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Or, if on joyful wing cleaving sky,
Sun, moon and stars forgot, upward I'll fly,
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my, God to Thee, nearer to Thee!

There in my Father's home, safe and at rest,
There I. My Savior's love, perfectly blest;
Age after age to be nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my, God to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Prayers: *Lord, Listen to Your Children*^{iv}

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, we gather in our homes and yet together as one, praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Our response to each petition is, "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

In this time of troubling separation, we pray to you, triune God, for the unity of your churches. Bind us together in the truth of your gospel. Make us witnesses of your mysterious might.

As you blessed the early disciples for their unfolding ministry, bless those who lead and serve our local congregation. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Nurture the life of your creation. Support those who explore the mysteries of your universe. We thank you for all the scientists who have enriched our understanding of creation. Help all online teachers to instruct our children in the ways of nature. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

As we prepare for Memorial Day, we pray for peace around the world. Protect all soldiers, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Shield the vulnerable who live in paths of violence. We pray especially for the people of Afghanistan and Syria. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Come to the aid of all who suffer. We pray for those who are laden with grief, overwhelmed by anxiety, or struggling without medical care. Uphold all health-care workers who attend to coronavirus patients. Comfort all families and friends who cannot embrace their loved ones at the time of death. We give into your care all the sick, especially those we name here before you;

A brief silence. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

Grant your oneness to humankind, so marked by isolation and division. Bring harmony to families, rival gangs, distraught citizens, racial groupings, and members of our legislatures. Give to each individual a wholeness that is birthed in you. Make us one, as you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

To know you is to have eternal life. We praise you for the lives of all who have died in the faith and who now live in you. At the end, bring us with all your saints into your presence. God of unity, hear us: **Your mercy is great.**

With bold confidence in your love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God of our past, our present, and our future, we place all for whom we pray into your circle of love, now and forever. **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, the following options are available to us:

Simply Giving - Automated giving with Simply Giving via a transfer from your savings or checking account to Trinity's bank account. To start, please complete the Simply Giving form located on our website <https://tlcsparta.wixsite.com/trinity/copy-of-give>. Please sign the form, take a picture of the form, and also take a picture of a voided check and email both pictures to office@tlcsparta.org. In addition, you can mail your Simply Giving form to Trinity (address below) or to Myrt, Trinity's administrative assistant, at Mary Holte, 302 Ulland Ave., Westby, WI 54667.

Check - Mail your check to the Trinity Lutheran Church, 612 N. Water St., Sparta, WI 54656

GivePlus - Online giving is available through GivePlus. The link is available through our website. <https://tlcsparta.wixsite.com/trinity/give>

GivePlus Mobile - Download the GivePlus mobile app from the App store (Apple) or Google Play (Android) https://giveplushelp.vancopayments.com/images/GivePlus_Mobile_How_it_work.pdf

Text by GivePlus - Send a text with your donation amount to 844-554-1086. Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and debit or card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via e-mail.

Offering Prayer

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. We give back to you all that you have given us, for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

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.**

Blessing

May Jesus, who has defeated death and sin, once and for all time, be with you always. Therefore, beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. **Amen.**

Hymn: *10,000 Reasons*^v

Chorus:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul
Worship His holy name.

Verse 1

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me.
Let me be singing when the evening comes. (Chorus)

Verse 2

You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great, and your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Chorus)

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength. Is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending;
Ten thousand years and then forevermore (Chorus)

Sending: Go in peace, serve the Lord! Alleluia! Ok, we will! Alleluia!

For May 10th:

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$7242.50

Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$1830.75

ⁱ Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Prayer Book for the Armed Services. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2013.

ⁱⁱ Songwriters: Paul Joseph Baloche. Open the Eyes of My Heart lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

ⁱⁱⁱ Sarah Flower Adams

^{iv} Ken Medema. Text and Lyrics ©1973 Hope Publishing Company

^v Text and Music: Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin. Text and Music ©2011 Shout Publishing