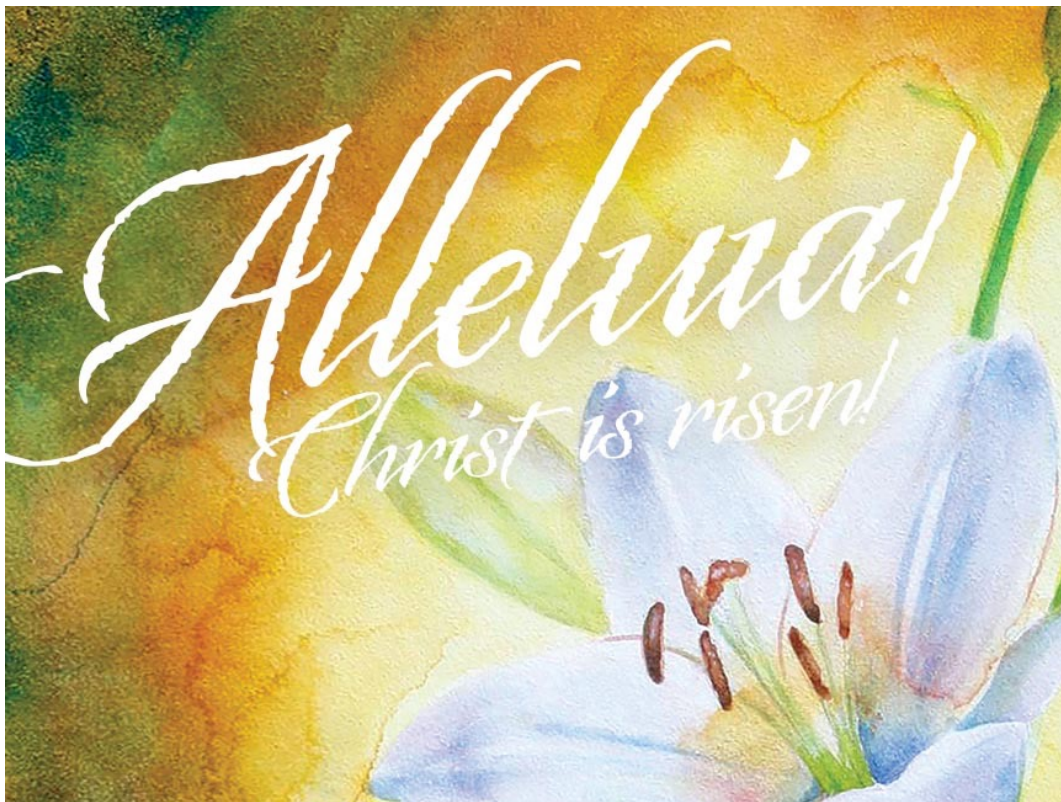


A Mission Congregation of the ELCA
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 64 - 8520 Oakes Rd - Pittsburg, Ohio 45358

The Resurrection of Our Lord!
Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021



GATHERING

- **Prelude** **Roxanne Groff**
- **Office of the Acolyte and Ringing of the Bell**
- **Welcome** **Pastor Mel Musser**

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

* **GATHERING SONG**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

LBW 151

(Verses 1 & 4 Only)

1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

* **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

* **KYRIE**

A: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: For this Holy House, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord have mercy.**

A: Help, save, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

* = Please stand if able

• = Please be seated

• **SPECIAL MUSIC** **“Holy, Holy, Holy”** **Larry Harter**

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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.**

WORD OF GOD

* P: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th Chapter

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (*Spoken*) **“Glory to you, O Lord”**

* **READING OF THE GOSPEL** **Luke 24:1-12**

¹On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** (*Spoken*) **“Praise to you, O Christ”**

• **SERMON** **Pastor Mel Musser**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the risen Savior, Jesus

Christ, amen.

He is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia! It seems like forever that we've been going through this pandemic. Over a year now... For many people it's been a very long and sad time. This year we're close to being back to normal, whatever that is, and so, I figured we could all use a small dose of Holy Humor. We're still learning and adapting to worshipping online and using streaming video on FaceBook and YouTube but it's good to know that the more things change the more they stay the same... (SLIDE) Is this how you set up your worship space at home each Sunday? If not, this template might help you feel more like "Church..."

Over the past year I've thought about what Jesus might do and say during a virus pandemic. Here's a few of the saying Jesus might have said from the past year... "If someone takes your toilet paper, give them your hand get also..." At the feeding of the 5000, Jesus told the disciples to have the crowd sit in rows at least 6 feet apart... If the last Supper was held today it would of course have to be done in a Zoom meeting. (SLIDE) Judas was late for everything...

We've done a few baptisms during this corona virus, but none as creatively as this one pastor who seems to have forgotten we Baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, not in the name of Super Soaker... (SLIDE)

I was in the men's room a few weeks ago and noticed this sign as I was washing my hands... (SLIDE) I'll be staying after Worship today in case anyone wants to come by for Confession...

I think we need to get our children back into Sunday School as soon as possible. The other day I overheard a conversation between a child and her mom. The little girl asked what Jesus first words were when he came out of the tomb. The mom explained that Jesus first words were not in the Bible, but the girl quickly replied, I know what he said. When he came out of the tomb. What asked her mother. He shouted TaDa!

I think I need to stop here, before I get into any more trouble... The idea for Holy Humor isn't new. It's a tradition extending to some of the earliest Christian theologians who noted that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was "God's supreme joke played on death." All of our Sunday Worship services should be filled with joy and laughter. In the church, for of the first 1000 years people played jokes on each other, they sang, danced, told jokes and had fun. I'm not going to pull any practical jokes on you, but I do hope these few attempts at humor have lightened your spirits and maybe even eased your anxiety over things that are happening in our country and in the world today. (SLIDE)

For some of you, this is the first time back inside our sanctuary since the pandemic began and I want you to feel safe and welcome. I'm so happy to see you! If we can feel

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- * = Please stand if able
 - = Please be seated

this joyful after a few months of being apart, imagine the joy we'll experience when we're all reunited as one huge joyful family reunion when Jesus returns again. As the song by Mercy Me says, I Can Only Imagine what that day will be like. Until then, we have these small foreshadowing's of what's to come. We speak of Holy Communion, which we'll celebrate in a few minutes, as a foretaste of the feast to come. I believe it'll be so fabulous it literally will make us forget the pain and suffering of this world. After all we have the promise of Jesus that when we finally arrive at the home of our heavenly father, there will be no more pain and no more suffering. In fact, God himself will wipe away our tears and when God wipes tears away, they're gone, forever!

On this easter morning 2000 or so years ago, the women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. They were intending to do the normal things ancient women did after someone died. They were going to anoint the body with spices and oils because decaying bodies tended to give off odors that would make most people stay away. They wanted the body of Jesus to stay sweet smelling so his followers could come and see for themselves how the Romans and the Religious Leaders had killed their Messiah. It seems like God wasn't just playing a practical joke on the devil here. First, God chose women to be the first ones to discover the empty tomb and God had to send two of his messengers to explain why Jesus wasn't there. The angels had to ask the women why they're looking for the living among the dead. Even though Jesus had spoken very plainly about rising from the dead, until you witness it for yourself it's something too

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- * = Please stand if able
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fantastic and supernatural to believe. Death is like some cruel joke, but death is a cruel joke no more! Not since those women found the tomb to be empty. Of course, the testimony of women in ancient times wasn't considered credible, so Peter had to run to the tomb to see for himself. What he saw amazed him.

Our Gospel text for this Easter Sunday ends there, but we know the rest of the story. The resurrection of Jesus changed not only Peter, but all Jesus' disciples. Peter turned from being a brash, speak and act before you think kind of guy, into one of the great Apostles and Fathers of the Church. All the other disciples were also transformed from being so afraid for their own lives that they hid in the upper room for fear of the Jews and the Romans, into bold doers and proclaimers of the Gospel-Good News of Jesus Christ. This small band of 12 Apostles plus one player to be named later, the Apostle Paul, spread the Gospel to the entire known world. They all faced death at the hands of the Romans, except John, the one the Bible says was the disciple Jesus loved. John was exiled and spent his old age isolated from his congregation and all the people he loved, on an island with murderers and other violent felons who were so bad they had to be exiled from the rest of the world.

The opponents of Jesus tried to stop the spread of the news of Jesus resurrection by spreading the rumor that his body was stolen away during the night. I imagine other rumors floated around as well. Maybe Jesus had bribed Pilate to take his body down from the cross before he had actually died, or maybe someone had given Jesus a potion

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that only made him seem to be dead, but he was really just in a coma. None of those false rumors could have produced the transformation in the disciples that turned them into super Christian preachers and heroic evangelists who converted so many in the early church. What could have transformed them in the face of rejection and persecution from scaredy cats into heroes of the Bible? They had seen the risen Christ and had touched the nail holes in his hands and seen his wounded side. They even ate with him. No ghost can do that! Once seeing the risen Christ, they knew his promises were real. We have the gift of the Holy Spirit who imparts faith into us, but those first apostles only had their own eyewitness testimony. We believe and trust in the resurrection because God gives us the Holy Spirit and along with the Holy Spirit comes the gift of faith.

By the way, I hope if I ever encounter an angel of God in person, he or she doesn't ask me why I'm seeking the living among the dead... I mean how embarrassing would that be. I think I can tell the difference between the living and the dead... But is that so easy? I'm reminded of an old song that said I'm Looking for Love in all the wrong places... I wonder how many of us are looking for Jesus, or salvation, or love, in all the wrong places... Jesus told us where to find him. I can think of four places off the top of my head... He said he would be present where two or more gather in his name. He said when you help out the least of these our brothers and sisters, we do it to him. He said this is my Body and this is my Blood in the meal we call Holy Communion. If you are looking for Jesus, you will find him in each and every book of the Bible. They all point

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to Him. If you're seeking joy or happiness or fulfillment in this life I suggest to seek Jesus where he can be found and the rest will take care of itself.

One thing Jesus said that wouldn't change, even during this past year of virus, sickness, and death. He said that God so loved the world that he gave his only son, not to condemn us, but to save us. That plan of God is what Jesus accomplished by his death and resurrection. He showed us just how much God loves us. And that my friends, is no joking matter.

May God's love fill you and your home this day. May the empty tomb remind all of us not to look for Jesus among the dead, but look for Him in the faces and in the hearts of all those who are our neighbors. He is Risen! Amen!

Silence for reflection may follow

- **SPECIAL MUSIC**

- * **NICENE CREED**

The Nicene Creed is said on all festivals and on Sundays in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Apostles' Creed is said at other times. The Creed is omitted here if the service of Holy Baptism or another rite with a creed is used.

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

- **PRESENTATION OF BIBLES**

P: The following children, Baptized members of this Congregation have reached milestone ages where they are ready to receive a new Bible appropriate for their age. We start out with the youngest, who receive a storybook with Bible stories. Then, as they get older and begin to read, we provide them with a story Bible that has more pictures, but also more words... then when they are fully able to read we provide them their first real Bible, It still has lots of pictures, but it also has every word of the entire Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Then Finally, when the enter Confirmation we provide them their final study Bible that will last them into adulthood. Today, we're fulfilling the promise you all made to these children on the day of their Baptism, when you said you would provide them with the Holy Scriptures. So, let's do this. Marge Warner is our Sunday School Superintendent and she will hand out the Bibles. If you are here this morning please come forward and receive your new Bible lovingly given to each of you by your Brothers and Sisters in Christ here at Trinity Lutheran Church.

(Read list of Names)

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- * = Please stand if able
 - = Please be seated

2021 Bible Recipients

Life of Jesus Activity Books (ages 3-5)

Ruby Baker
Russell Daniels
Brynnlee Groff
Carter Kemp
Beckett Schmitmeyer

Spark Story Bible (6-8)

Gabe Angles
Miles Baker
Marie Beard
Rhyan Cool
Crew Diceanu
Colton Groff
Carlee Kemp
Finley Schmitmeyer

Spark Bible Gift Edition (9-12)

Lexie Angles
Micah Angles
Jackson Baker
Braxtyn Cool
Noah Harleman
Claire Hein
Brooklyn Proffitt
Callie Schmitmeyer

Confirmation students received their Bibles when class began in the Fall

Stephen Angles
Robby Arling
Helena Proffitt

After all the children have received their Bibles...

P: Let us pray for God's blessing on these Bibles... Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the faith of these little children. We ask you to guide their learning, increase their wisdom, and keep them hungry for your Word. May you bless these children each and every time they open these Bibles and make studying your Word fun and a joy for them. In the words of these Bibles, may your Son, Jesus Christ come alive for these children so that Jesus will be their life long friend as well as their Lord and Savior. In Jesus Name, amen

P: Our service continues with our Prayers. Please rise if you're able...

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

L: Give us the faith of the women who ran to share the news of your resurrection despite their shock and amazement at the empty tomb. Forgive us when we fail to believe and discredit the witness of others, as the disciples did. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Disrupt our routine with the inbreaking of your amazing grace, and shake up our world so that we pay attention to your Spirit at work today. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: As the earth bursts forth with new life, we see, smell, and feel resurrection all around us. May we also be part of the renewal of this planet with new strategies and technologies to clean it and preserve it for future generations. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

* = Please stand if able

• = Please be seated

L: Comfort those who feel no joy on this day, due to grief, illness, or other life challenges. May we reach out to those who need a companion or a listening ear. Bless all those whom we know need your healing, especially... Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We honor St. Benedict of Sicily, known for his monastic and charitable work as well as his humble service and deep spiritual understanding. Bless all those who use their gifts for the benefit of others rather than attempting to glorify themselves. Risen Lord,

C: Hear our prayer.

Here other petitions may be offered.

P: Incline your ear to our prayers and fill us with power to begin living out our faith, by the power of your Son our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

C: Amen.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

(The Sharing of the Peace that began when the congregation arrived is shared with the pastor at this time.)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

While the congregation is still standing say:

P: Instead of passing the offering plate, we ask you to please place your offering in the Offering Plates conveniently located on your way out of worship. For those worshipping with us from their vehicles, there is a ceramic flower pot located near the back door of the church and for those worshipping with us on FaceBook or YouTube, please visit our website at www.pitsburgtlc.org to make your offering..

P: Let us pray for the offering we receive this day... Before your altar we bring these offerings, asking you to bless them and us. We give thanks for your mercy which allows us to serve another day in your kingdom and be instruments of your grace and peace.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*** DIALOGUE**

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 him thanks and praise.

* = Please stand if able

• = Please be seated

* **THE PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his 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:

* **THE SANCTUS**

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

* **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P: Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C: **Amen**

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: We are united into one Body of Christ by this heavenly food, so let us pray as Jesus taught...

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

* = Please stand if able

• = Please be seated

- **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: With joy we come again to your feast of redemption, glad to receive your gifts of grace for the strengthening of our spirits. Let us celebrate our Lord's resurrection and come to his holy supper!

- **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

During the distribution the minister says these words to each communicant:

P: At this time you may open the communion bread and partake. This is the body of Christ, given for you.

Now please open the wine and you may now partake. This is the Blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen.***

- * **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: May this Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen, keep, and unite us.

C: Amen.

- * **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray... Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

SENDING

- * **SENDING BLESSING**

P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C: Amen.

* SENDING HYMN

“Christ Has Risen! Alleluia!”
(Verses 1 & 2 Only)

LBW 131



1 Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!
2 Christ is ris - en! All the sad-ness of our Lent-en fast is o'er;



Sing his prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!
through the o - pen gates of glad-ness he re- turns to life once more;



Grate-ful - ly our hearts a - dore him as his light once more ap - pears;
death and hell be - fore him bend-ing see him rise, the vic - tor now,



bow-ing down in joy be - fore him, ris - ing up from griefs and tears.
an - gels on his steps at - tend-ing, glo - ry round his wound-ed brow.

Refrain



Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Ris - en our vic - to - rious head!



Sing his prais-es! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en from the dead!

* DISMISSAL

P: Thank you for worshipping with us either in person or through the internet. Until we gather to Worship our great God next week, depart in Christ's Love,

C: **Seeking, welcoming, and serving all. Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Roxanne Groff

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- = Please be seated

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

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Trinity Worship Assistants and Staff

Ministers	All the People of Trinity
Greeters	8:30 - Teresa Neitzelt 10:30 – Dean Thompson
Organist	Roxanne Groff
Parrish Nurse	PJ Musser
Custodian	Mark Groff
Secretary	Sharon Fourman
Facebook Live Recorder	PJ Musser
Flowers	

Health Tips for the Week
BODY: Eat some fresh fruit
MIND: Get 8 hours of sleep
SPIRIT: Sing Grace at mealtime



Scripture readings for next Sunday, April 11th
 Luke 24:13-35



- * = Please stand if able
- = Please be seated

This Week @ Trinity – April 4 – April 11, 2021

Sun, April 5 Resurrection Sunday – He Is Risen!

8:30 am Early Worship Service

10:30 am Second Service

Wed, April 7

6:30 pm WELCA Meeting

Fri, April 9

3:30 pm FISH Pantry @ 400 Markwith, Greenville OH

Sun April 11

10:30 am Worship Service

Trinity is on the Air at FM 88.3 - If you are near the Church on Sunday morning, you can tune in to FM 88.3 at 10:30 AM and hear the sermon from your car.

Trinity Contact Info

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Secretary:	Sharon Fourman
Email:	secretary@pitsburgtlc.org
Office Hours:	By Appointment
Office Phone:	937-692-5670
Website:	www.pitsburgtlc.org

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