

THE PARISH CONNECTION



**Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Issued on April 14, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter**

Parish Connection (with letter from Pastor Beth)	pp. 2-15
Devotions & Prayers	pp. 15-18
Sermon by Pastor Beth	pp. 19-21
Bulletin	pp. 22-32

From Pastor Beth—

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

We often refer to these verses as the Great Commission. Jesus spoke these words to the disciples after he had been resurrected. The disciples went to Galilee and Jesus met them there. These verses speak to the mission of the Church since the beginning.

Yet many of us feel inadequate to fulfill this commission. I often hear faithful people say that they don't know the bible well enough to be able to answer questions. I confess that I often feel that way as well. As often as I have read through the bible, I still feel that way. Let's face the fact that not all of us have memories that can retain every detail. People who can are rare, impressive, but rare.

So how do we get past this if we are to fulfill the commission Jesus has given us? It always helps me to personalize the story. For example: Take the verses we started with, Matthew 28:18-20. How can I envision myself in this commission? What would my life look like if I took this commission seriously? How would it be different?

I don't think that the average unchurched person expects us all to be bible scholars. They want to know how your faith has impacted your life. If we Christians cannot tell them that, then they are not going to invest time and energy into a church. This really is about bringing the bible stories alive in our communities.

Pastor Sam has worked with the parish Outreach Committee to develop a training program to help us speak about our experience with bible stories. We will be using this training program to look at several bible stories and discover their relevance for our lives today. This will take place during the bible study groups on Monday and Tuesday. Check the parish connection for zoom links and schedule. Hopefully, you will make this a priority and join us!

News and Information

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam ([**whiteginger20@gmail.com**](mailto:whiteginger20@gmail.com)) or Pastor Beth ([**chellman4557@gmail.com**](mailto:chellman4557@gmail.com)) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
 - If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery ([**harryavery@yahoo.com**](mailto:harryavery@yahoo.com)).
 - If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.
-

Bible Study & Book Study

Bible Study Schedule

April 19th (7PM) and 20th (10AM) - Pr. Sam
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84463965481>)

April 26th (7PM) and 27th (10AM) - Pr. Beth
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>)

May 3rd (7PM) and 4th (10AM) - Vicar Care
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942949555>)

May 10th (7PM) and 11th (10AM) - Pastor Sam
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84463965481>)

May 17th (7PM) and 18th (10AM) - Pastor Beth
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>)

May 24th (7PM) and 25th (10AM) - Vicar Care
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942949555>)

May 31st/June 1st - No Bible Study for Memorial Day observance

Book Study Schedule: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117264894>

***Sunday, April 18th Zoom service will be from St. Stephen's at 11 a.m.
with Vicar Carolyn Lawrence***

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone for Worship

Use this Meeting ID: 770 099 7419

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88996300296# US (New York)

Dial by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 770 099 7419

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJm PrA-l1qlv8PJ-g>

Social Media Sharing

Hopefully, you now understand the difference between our Facebook group and page. So, let's look more closely at the page. These are the public things that we really want you to share such as our worship services, special events, and other public information.

Why is this an important step? Because that is how we get the word out! When you share a post from our page to your newsfeed, all your friends will be able to see it. And when each Facebook user in the whole parish does it, that's a lot of free advertising. Even if you are going to worship in-person, please still share the zoom worship information. We have been getting some visitors on zoom because of this. It can be a first step to getting people to join us in person.

If you have questions or need more technical help, please just ask. Let's make the most of this free tool so others will know we are here.

The Parish Prayer Group is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

Also – Pastor Sam has been hearing some thoughts around to start **an all-parish Sunday School** (likely on Zoom, due to distance/Covid). To make this happen **we need volunteers to teach and lead**. Do you have a gift for teaching and like to work with kids? Please let Pastor Sam know so we can try to get something started!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

Opportunity to Help!!! Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: mmcps@tclparish.org, which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Karen Schubert 4schubertkara4@gmail.com (H) 518-731-1190

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to parishadmin@tclparish.org. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voicemail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: parishadmin@tclparish.org

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

Bible Study

Have you ever said, "I don't know the Bible stories well enough to talk to people about faith"? Have you forgotten some of those stories you learned back in Sunday School? Or are you new to the faith and finding some of the stories confusing?

In Bible Study, we will be going back to the basics to examine some major Bible stories! We will listen to the stories, hear what God is doing in the story, see how these stories impact our own lives and make God's story our own.

The clergy team will take turns leading and hosting this new study so keep an eye on the Parish Connection for the appropriate link! We will be meeting on Mondays on Zoom at 7pm and Tuesdays on Zoom at 10am. For April 19 here is the link for both: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84463965481>

Book Study

The TCLP book study has started with a new book: Erika Lee's America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States. We are looking into the history of anti-Asian racism.

If you are interested, please join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84117264894>

2021 TCLP Board

Harry Avery	Chair	harryavery@tclparish.org
Jackie Menagh	Vice-Chair	jamspirit@tclparish.org
Teresa Avery	Recorder	harryavery@yahoo.com
Chuck Race	Treasurer	ctracejr@tclparish.org

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MAY

April 18

ESF & SLV - Pr. Beth
TC & SSES - Vr. Care
COE & ESJ - Pr. Sam
ZA & SPOH - SAM Duane Keeler

April 25

ESF & SLV - SAM Charles Senrick
TC & SSES - Pr. Beth
COE & ESJ - Vr. Care
ZA & SPOH - Pr. Sam

May 2

ESF & SLV - Pr. Sam
TC & SSES - Pr. Paul Rees-Rohrbacher
COE & ESJ - Pr. Beth
ZA & SPOH - Vr. Care

May 9

ESF SLV - Vr. Care
TC & SSES - SAM Duane Keeler
COE & ESJ - SAM Charles Senrick
ZA & SPOH - Pr. Beth

May 16

ESF & SLV - Pr. Beth
TC & SSES - Vr. Care
COE & ESJ - Pr. Sam
ZA & SPOH - SAM Charles Senrick

May 23 (Pentecost Sunday)

ESF & SLV - Pr. Sam

TC & SSES - Pr. Beth

COE & ESJ - Vr. Care

ZA & SPOH - Pr. John Knarvik

May 30 (Holy Trinity Sunday)

ESF & SLV - Vr. Care

TC & SSES - Pr. Dan Hahn

COE & ESJ - SAM Duane Keeler

ZA & SPOH - Pr. Sam

Congregation Announcements

In-person worship has returned!

Check your congregation's announcements.

EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact – Leslie Dumont lesliesd35@gmail.com

In-person worship 8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leslie Dumont	Term Expires 2023	President
Olivia Dumont	Term Expires 2022	Vice President
Linda Frick	Term Expires 2022	Co-Treasurer
*Dick Frick		Co-Treasurer
*Chuck Albertson		Secretary
Jennifer Dunn	Term Expires 2024	
Shirley McThenia	Term Expires 2024	
Pr. Sam	Ex Officio member	
Pr. Beth	Ex Officio member	

* Non-elected council member

PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Chair: Harry Avery (Chair)
Primary: Harry Avery
Alternate: Chuck Albertson

Committees

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke’s)

Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson, Phyllis Keeler

WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke’s)

Phyllis Keeler

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)

Karen Albertson

HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)

Will be from St. Luke’s this year.

ST. LUKE’S, VALATIE

Contact -- Karen McIntyre klym61@hotmail.com

In-person worship 10:30 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021

Tim McGlaulin Mike Schunk Janis McGlaulin Dana Berntson
Sharon Smith Karen McIntyre Gail Paone Ted Fiebke

Council Officers

Karen McIntyre -- President
Ken Schomaker -- Treasurer (not on council)
Sharon Smith – Secretary

Sharon Campbell is the new financial secretary (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – Tim McGlaulin, Jon Strodl

Readers during Worship

4/18 Larry Eleby
4/25 Brian Smith
5/2 Karen Lasher
5/9 Ethan Race
5/16 Beegee Roppolo
5/23 Kara Udway
5/30 Sharon Smith

EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

In-person worship 11 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

TCLP Board Reps – Richard Fitzgerald, Joanne Lugert

ZION, ATHENS

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

In-person worship 9 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
<u>Gethen Proper</u>	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
<u>Carol Serazio</u>		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
<u>John Wais</u>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

Financial Secretary needed! Please see Bill, Gethen or anyone on the Council.

TCLP Board Reps: Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact – Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie Menagh President 518-634-2026 home -- leave a message
(TBA) Treasurer
Sally Lord Secretary

TCLP Board Rep – Jackie Menagh

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

Since we are not all meeting in-person at this time, our usual way of doing things has been disrupted. As a result, we do not have a specific list of donors for the Lilies that will be at the altar for Easter this year. I apologize for this oversight. I have ordered 10 plants which will be in Memory of the people we have lost this past year. Specifically, in order of their passing, Karla Tyson, Vivian von Schenck, Robert Lord and Fred Pfrommer. If you would like to donate toward these Lilies, please mail a check or money order to the church, PO Box 66, Oak Hill NY 12460. I know many of you would have wanted to purchase lilies and have your own loved ones listed in the bulletin but that is unable to happen this year. Again, please accept my apology. Wishing you all a Blessed Easter!

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever. *As discussed at our Annual Meeting in March, we are very short on our budget each month and will need to start dipping into our savings to pay the bills unless giving increases. Hopefully, once we return to full attendance at in-person worship things will improve. Until then, please continue to mail in your offering. Thank you!*

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact – Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

In-person worship 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeanette Wilber President
Kurt Hoelter Vice President
Heidi Brennan Recording and Corresponding Secretary
Cate MacPherson
Richard Mac Donald (Mac)
Henry Bartel
Patty Bervy

TCLP Board Reps – Jeanette Wilber, Patty Bervy

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal! Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

**Contact – Charles Mayrer 518-479-3640 or
cjmay33@gmail.com**

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charles Mayrer President
Brian Schell Vice President
Charles Senrick Treasurer
Cathy Teeter Secretary
Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.

OUTREACH : Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com
518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504 (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – Brian Schell, Charles Senrick

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact –Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Nicole Gardner scullynik@yahoo.com (H) 518-336-4077 (C) 518-312-8603

In-person worship 9 a.m.

Council Members

Anne Philipp	President
Eric Knodler	Vice President
Elaine Dickson	Treasurer (not on Council)
Rik Cosgrave	Financial Secretary (not on Council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email scullynik@yahoo.com.

Financial Secretary Needed Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm. Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: parishadmin@tclparish.org and she can help direct you to the right person!

CONTACT US:

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whiteginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --pastordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

**Devotions and Prayers for the Third Sunday in Easter- curated
by Vicar Carolyn**

A Prayer of Teilhard de Chardin

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown,
something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;
your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

A Reflection on Easter: "The Glad Surprise" by Howard Thurman

There is ever something compelling and exhilarating about the glad surprise. The emphasis is upon *glad*. There are surprises that are shocking, startling, frightening, and bewildering. But the glad surprise is something

different from all of these. It carries with it the element of elation, of life, of something over and beyond the surprise itself.

The experience itself comes at many levels: the simple joy that comes when one discovers that the balance in the bank is larger than the personal record indicated – and there is no error in accounting; the realization that one does not have his doorkey – the hour is late and everyone is asleep – but someone very thoughtfully left the latch off, “just in case”; the dreaded meeting in a conference to work out some problems of misunderstanding, and things are adjusted without the emotional lacerations anticipated; the report from the doctor’s examination that all is well, when one was sure that the physical picture was very serious indeed. All of these surprises are glad!

There is a deeper meaning in the concept of the glad surprise. This meaning has to do with the very ground and foundation of hope about the nature of life itself. The manifestation of this quality in the world about us can best be witnessed in the coming of spring. It is ever a new thing, a glad surprise, the stirring of Life at the end of winter. One day there seems to be no sign of life and then almost overnight, swelling buds, delicate blooms, blades of grass, bugs, insects – an entire world of newness everywhere. It is the glad surprise at the end of winter.

Often the same experience comes at the end of a long tunnel of tragedy and tribulation. It is as if a man stumbling in the darkness, having lost his way, finds that the spot at which he falls is the foot of a stairway that leads from darkness into light. Such is the glad surprise.

This is what Easter means in the experience of the race. This is the resurrection! It is the announcement that life cannot ultimately be conquered by death, that there is no road that is at last swallowed up in an ultimate darkness, that there is strength added when the labors increase, that multiplied

peace matches multiplied trials, that life is bottomed by the glad surprise. Take courage, therefore:

When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

Isaiah 25:1-6, NLT

In that day, everyone in the land of Judah will sing this song:

Our city is strong!

We are surrounded by the walls of God's salvation.

Open the gates to all who are righteous;

allow the faithful to enter.

You will keep in perfect peace

all who trust in you,

all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Trust in the Lord always,

for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.

He humbles the proud

and brings down the arrogant city.

He brings it down to the dust.

The poor and oppressed trample it underfoot,

and the needy walk all over it.

Sermon by Pastor Beth 4/11/21

I've always liked the story of Thomas, the skeptical disciple, who did not at first believe that Jesus was back from the dead. I wonder how many of us feel like him...at least every now and then. I suspect there is a bit of Thomas in all of us.

It's Easter evening, after dark. The disciples are gathered behind locked doors because they are afraid. We tend to lock doors to prevent something from scaring us or to keep others away from us. I am in the habit of locking my doors every time I leave and enter. I don't like surprises like someone walking into home. Locked doors give us a sense of safety.

Jesus appears before the disciples this night in spite of being behind a locked door. He says, "Peace be with you" and then does a rather odd thing. He shares the peace and then "He showed them his hands and his side." Look closely at the story and you will notice there is not even a breath separating these comforting words of Jesus and then parading his scars. There is something important going on here that connects the peace of Christ with the wounds of Christ. Jesus stands among them, shows off his palms, hikes up his shirt and lets them take a gander at where the spear went in. "Peace be with you," and then his wounds are immediately on display.

We have been sharing the peace in the Lutheran liturgy since at least 1978 when the Lutheran Book of Worship made its debut. Of course, the practice actually goes back to biblical times, but perhaps nothing has generated more controversy and resistance in liturgical reform among Lutherans than this ancient and very scriptural practice in our worship order.

What would happen if we took our cues from Jesus in sharing the peace? Imagine what that would sound like. "Peace be with you and take a look at my surgery incision." "Peace be with you and let me show you the bills I had a hard

time paying last week.” “Peace be with you and let me tell you about my son who is struggling with drugs and alcohol.” Peace be with you and I’m so lonely in this pandemic world. Would the sharing of the peace become more important than just saying hello to someone? Could we, who are so private, open our arms to show our wounds to others so that they could see Jesus working in us?

A week later the disciples are all together again - same house, same shut doors. I think it is significant that Thomas is allowed to remain with the community in spite of his unbelief. There doesn’t seem to be a hint of pressure to believe. He stayed with the community, roamed the fields and asked questions that whole week. I suspect nobody would have minded if he had done that for a month, a year or even longer.

But it is a week later. Jesus again says those same words: “Peace be with you.” He offers his hands, hikes up his shirt. Jesus wants Thomas to touch his wounds, if necessary, for Thomas to believe.

Thomas came to belief because the wounds were on display in that first community of believers. Jesus’ wounds were shown to them, but also the wounds of the disciples. Their wounds of guilt, betrayal, and dishonesty were evident in every face. Our wounds are part of who we are and it is important to acknowledge the role they play in making us who we are.

In 1958 Lili Jacob was the winning contestant on the show Queen for a Day. When asked what they wanted if selected as queen, most contestants asked for a washer and dryer or a vacation.

Not Lili Jacob. She asked for 500 dollars to have a plastic surgeon remove the number A-10862 from her arm. It had been tattooed there at Auschwitz. She was the winner that day.

But even though Lili Jacob had that tattoo number removed, she would not, could not ever forget that it was there. She would bear the scar, not just on her

arm, but in her heart. We are a wounded people. Sometimes we pretend that nothing is wrong, even to our friends. It is often considered bad form to confess our weaknesses, so we say, "fine, everything is fine," lying through our teeth. But on this first Easter evening, Jesus refuses to pretend. He refuses to pretend that nothing has happened.

Words alone fail to convince Thomas. Thomas was called the twin. Perhaps there is a side of us that is sibling to Thomas. We need an authentic look at our Lord's wounds.

True peace - and perhaps true belief - are possible only when we deal seriously with the wounds of the body of Christ, the church. How shall we move beyond the locked doors where we hide so adeptly in fear? We acknowledge the hurt, the wounds, the pain. We allow ourselves to be vulnerable. We see the scars and we begin the process of healing.

Peace be with you he said. Then he showed them his hands and his side.

Tri-County Lutheran Parish
April 18, 2021, Third Sunday of Easter
Based on the ELW, Setting 1, with Communion
Worship Leader: Vicar Carolyn Lawrence
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Announcements

() stand, if able*

Gathering Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

Call to Worship

L: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God, and of one another.

C: Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Greeting

L: 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.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**"You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?"**

³Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; the LORD will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶**Many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me rest secure.**

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.

⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Bless our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians, Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration (*local concerns for creation may be named*). Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. We pray for military personnel John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness especially Layla Roman, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., , Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield,

Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. Grant respite and renewal.. Assure them of your promises. Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us. We prayer for the family and friends of Gloria LaCrosse. Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

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

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings given for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Dialogue

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

L: 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

Thanksgiving at the Table

L: 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.

L: 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.

Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

*** Distribution of Communion**

Post Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

*** Prayer After Communion**

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

*** Blessing**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

L: And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA !!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of Gloria LaCrosse.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Layla Roman, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Phyllis Keeler, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Lorene Bowes, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefina Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship