Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00 AM Worship Service • March 30, 2025



The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away...the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice! **Welcome members and guests** to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

The nursery is available, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T." If you are unsure if your hearing aid is compatible, please contact your audiologist.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607 (757) 245-7861 — http://trinitylutheran-nn.com Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



REV. TINA MELUSKY — Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

GEOFFREY BELL — Director of Music Ministries (music@trinitynn.org)

SHARON MATHISON — Administrative Assistant (admin@trinitynn.org)

CAROL BESSOM — Treasurer (cbessom@trinitynn.com)

THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN — Ministers of the Word

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: http://facebook.com/TrinityNN
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: http://trinitynn.org

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm; Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm
Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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CARILLON CALL TO WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Coming Home Joseph M. Martin

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In + Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

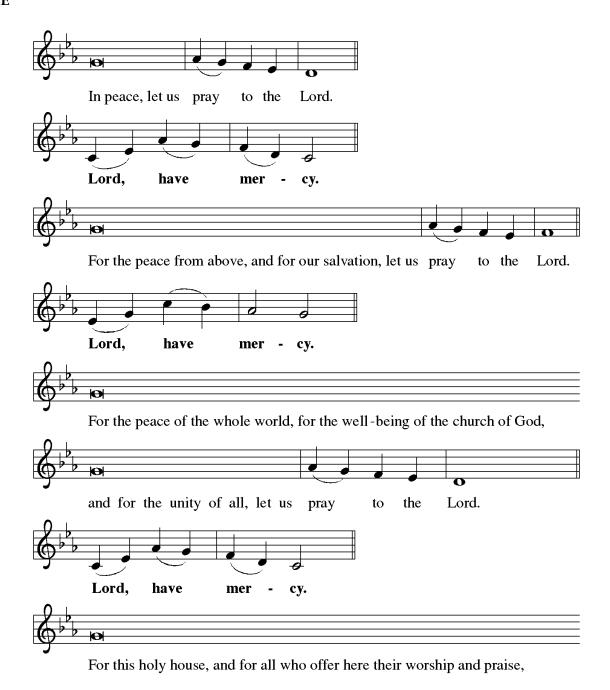
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say KINGSFOLD

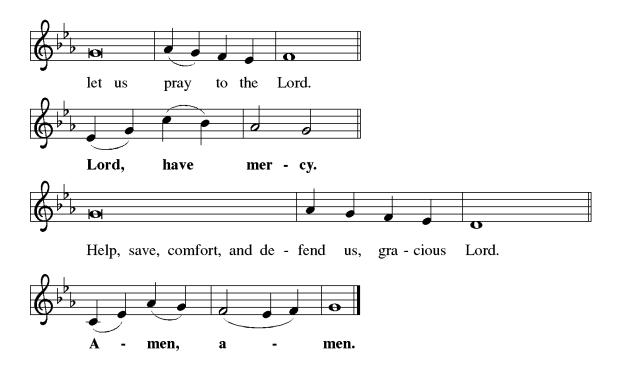
ELW 611

GREETING

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

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 (read responsively; sing response when denoted by "R")



Psalm 32:11
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! R

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. R

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;

but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

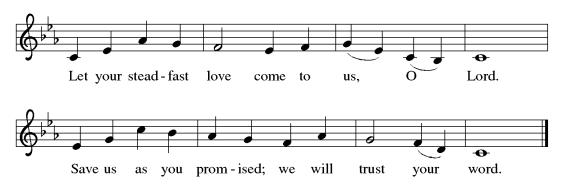
One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to God's Self through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God's Self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making God's appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands.



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' So, he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is

found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house,

he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Tina Melusky

FAITH REFLECTION

Jacob Wessler

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Is the World Like
NEW WORLD

ACS 1047

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints.

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy, Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

And the Father Will Dance

Mark Hayes

And the Father will dance over you in joy!

He will take delight in whom He loves.

Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?

No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!

And he will joy over you in song.

My soul will make its boast in God, for He has answered all my cries. His faithfulness to me is as sure as the dawn of a new day.

Awake, my soul! Awake my soul, and sing! Let my spirit rejoice in God!

Sing, O daughter of Zion, with all of your heart!

Cast away fear for you have been restored!

Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day.

Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song.

And he will joy over you in song.

And the Father will dance over you in joy!

He will take delight in whom He loves.

Is that a choir I hear singing the praises of God?

No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song!

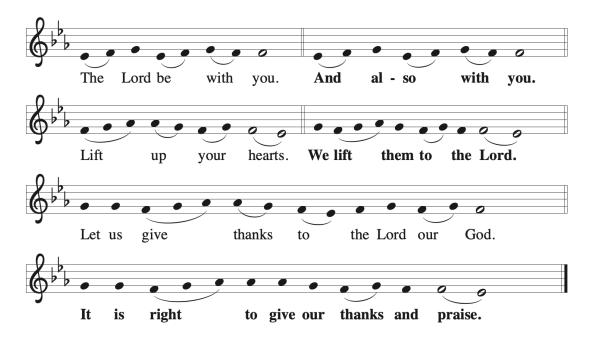
God rejoices over you in song!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

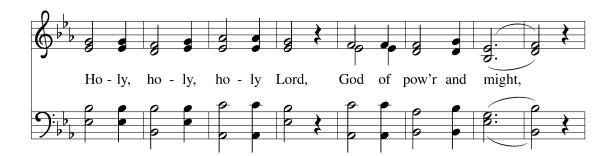


PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS





Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937 Adapt. © 1985, 1999 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,

burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

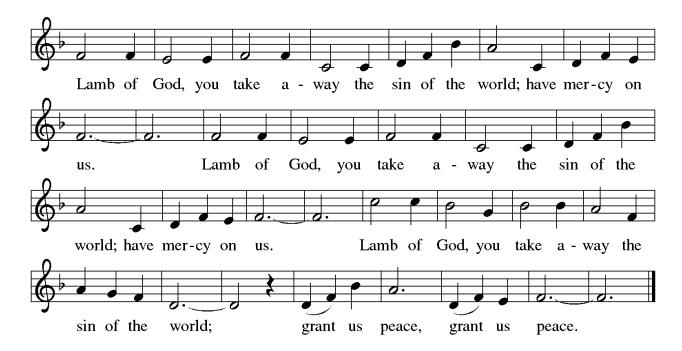
With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all of its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

AGNUS DEI



Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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COMMUNION

Communion is held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a *clear* cup with wine or a *purple* cup with grape juice from the tray. Recycling baskets for your plastic cups are located outside the doors of the sanctuary. Trinity has an open table – all are welcome to come to the feast.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound NEW BRITAIN ELW 779

The assembly stands.

SENDING

TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
NETTLETON

ELW 807

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Michael Burkhardt



SERVING THE ASSEMBLY

Crucifer Abbi Wessler

Acolytes Carter Recupero

Andrew Rummel

Lector Abbi Wessler

Ushers/Greeters Tricia Wessler

Jacob Wessler

Camera/Livestream Doug Hill

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TLC WELCOME STATEMENT SURVEY/CONDUCTED BY THE RIC CORE TEAM

Our congregation voted in December 2024 to approve an amended version of our Statement of Welcome as part of our most recent constitutional review and update. It is set to be voted on for formal ratification, along with other approved constitutional amendments, at the next congregational meeting in June 2025. This Statement of Welcome includes specific language demonstrating our congregation's commitment to the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of all people. The RIC Core Team would like to know your thoughts and feelings about this mission of welcome and inclusion in our church. Your responses will help us to better understand everyone's perspectives and help to honor them as we continue our Welcoming Journey together.

For more details about Trinity's mission, visit the **What We Believe** page of our website (https://trinitylutheran-nn.com/what-we-believe)

FFF UPDATE

Due to a scheduling conflict after service on April 13th (first communion reception) RIC will move their April discussion to **April 6th following Worship**.

NEW PIANO UPDATE!

A huge THANK YOU to all who have already donated to support the fundraising campaign for our new sanctuary piano! As of March 11th, we have received \$21,220 in donations from the congregation. Combined with our \$25,000 grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, this means we have raised \$46,220 of our \$59,000 goal. We're getting close! Our goal is to have the funds for the piano on-hand by April 6, with the hope of having the new piano delivered and in place for worship during the Easter season. If you haven't already, please prayerfully consider donating to this project that will richly enhance our music and worship life at Trinity. When donating, please mark that offering as "Piano Fund," while also remembering this is a project that exists alongside the needs of our general fund, which is always in need of support and faithful stewardship. Please let us know if you would like to make your donation in honor or in memory of someone. Thank you once again for your faithfulness and generosity!

RED FOOD BOX

Thank you so much to all who are so faithfully donating items for the Red Food Box! This ministry of outreach to our siblings could not happen without your willingness and generosity. We who have so much can only imagine what these gifts mean to someone who has so little.

Thank you again!

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS UPDATE

Part of a journey is reflection. Lenten services continue **IN PERSON** in the sanctuary where we are worshipping through our senses. This will be a five week series that allows us to explore the themes of Lent through the things we can see, touch, smell, taste, and feel. This is meant to be a family friendly, interactive service. COME AS YOU ARE! If you need to bring a lunch box with you, bring it. If you need to come in sweatpants, wear them. There will be weeks that I will be in my GOTR gear! Lent is meant to be a time of communal journeying and I pray that we will embrace the opportunity to do this together. Faith is not meant to be done alone, but together. Please join us at 6:30 on April 2, 9. & 16.

HELP US SPRING CLEAN FOR HOLY WEEK!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 12 @ 9:00 for brass polishing and cleaning day as we prepare for Holy Week. We will have a team of folks who will be in the library to polish the bells and the other brass worship implements, and another group of folks who will do work around the building to do some spring cleaning to get us bright and shiny for the Easter season.

FLOWERS DURING LENT

In observance of Lent, there will be no flowers in the chancel from March 9 - April 12. Those who wish to remember or honor loved ones during Lent can make a momentary donation to Church. Please specify your donation is for ELCA Good Gifts. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall to the side door entrance. Your loved ones will be mentioned in our Sunday bulletin.

COUNCIL

Council will continue to accept revisions to the TELC bylaws based on feedback from the December Congregational Meeting. We will hold the last session on March 30th after service in the church library. Final vote for the bylaws as well as ratification of the TELC constitution will occur at the annual congregational meeting in June.

REMINDER

Just a reminder that, if you have children with you in the service, there are binders in the narthex with drawing paper and crayons, coloring pages, games, and various puzzles for them to use during the service if needed!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

TELC Scholarship applications are available on the youth bulletin board or through the Constant Contact link. Please reach out to the Administrative Assistant or Kathy Stevens if you need help accessing a form. All forms are due by **May 1, 2025**.

<u>RECEPTIONS</u>: There will be a First Communion cake only reception after worship on April 13th, and a potluck Easter reception during the Sunday School hour before worship on April 20th. Committee members, we will need help setting up the Saturday before each reception at 10am. All are welcome to help us out before, or with clean up afterward.

PRAYER LIST

CELEBRATIONS: Dr. Bill Whitehurst, on his 100th birthday, requested by Dottie Self.

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Nursing Homes/Assisted Living: Jeanette Cantrell, Millie Christensen, and Barbara Olson; Shut- ins at Home: Peggy Cash, and Shirley Anderson.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Al and Andrea Husband; Larry and Linda Jones, requested by Judy Hunt; Family and friends of Robert Albers, stepfather of Sharon Mathison, requested by Carol Bessom and Kathy Stevens; Anne Obara, requested by Cliff Obara; Mary Lucia Spake, Bill Solomon; Sarah Miller, requested by John & Sandy Lunsford; Bill Solomon, requested by the server crew; Susan & Scott Nelson, requested by Laura Davis; Family of Don Hipple, requested by Todd Recupero; Wayne Skinner & Pam Carmean, Carroll Emerson, and Judy Wagner St. Pierre, requested by the Dail Family; Ron Vodenichar, Sandy's brother, and Eddie Bateman, our nephew, requested by the Sniady Family; Astrid Quist, requested by Pastor Tina; Florence & Richard, cousins of Dottie Self, requested by Dottie Self; Connie Hoover, requested by Pastor Tina; Family and Friends of Rudy Coffee, requested by Carter Recupero; Virginia Hamby, requested by Pastor Tina and Katherine Harry; Mary Best, a friend of Connie Hoover, requested by Connie Hoover; Sherry Johnston, former member and sister of Donna Owens, requested by Judy Hunt; The family of Carole Knopp, by Wendy Mynoymany; Scully, Pastor Tina's dog, requested by Tricia Wessler; Amanda Griegos and her family, requested by Diane and Dave Roselius; Karen Admano and her husband Matt requested by Patricia Fielding; the Ahlen family, requested by Kathy Stevens; Beth Eisdorfer, daughter of Terri Hoffeditz.

THOSE WHO SERVE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN DUTY: James Fielding, in Tokyo, Japan, Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Sierra Leone; Tyler Obara, Virginia Air National guard, LAFB.

2025 EASTER LILY ORDERS

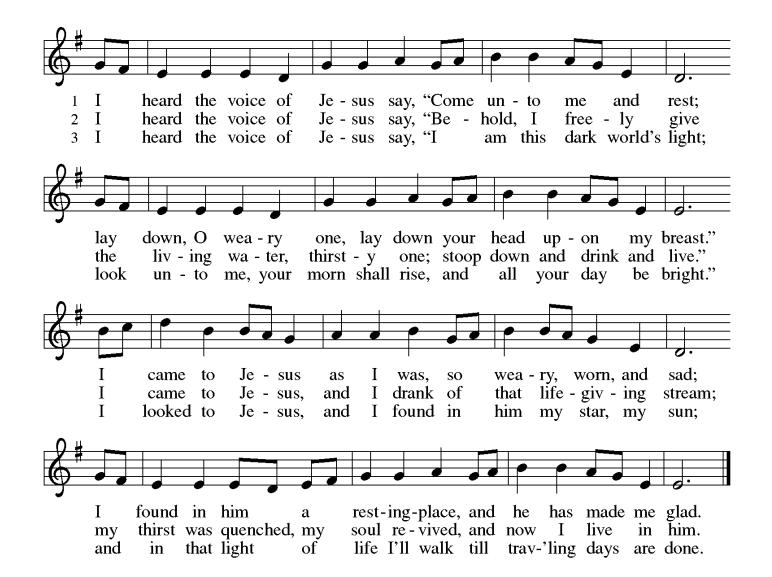


The cost is \$15.00 per lily.

Please fill out this form <u>completely</u> (with your check/cash). This form may be placed in the offering plate or email to: Sharon Mathison, <u>admin@trinitynn.org.</u>
All email will receive an email confirmation.

Orders will be taken until Sunday April 6, 2025.

Name (s):
(As you would like it printed in the bulletin.)
To the glory of God and in <u>MEMORY</u> of:
1)
2)
To the glory of God and in <u>HONOR</u> of:
1)
2)
Total number of lilies ordered.
Method of payment:
\$ Total amount due (@ \$15.00 each) Cash Check #
My envelope number is:
(Please put your envelope number even if you are paying in cash.)
I am taking home my lily or giving it to Simple Sunflower.
Thank you for your order!



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

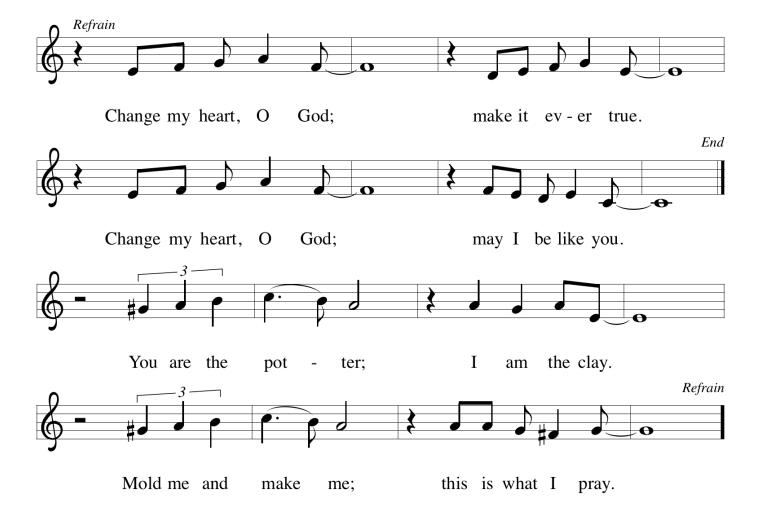


Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953 Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyeard Publishing, admin. Music Services

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Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813