

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

6:15 AM Worship Service • April 20, 2025

Trinity Columbarium • Service of the Word

## *Easter Sunrise*



*Christ is risen! We walk with the women to the tomb as the first witnesses of the resurrection. We come with awe, gratitude, and faith to rejoice in the promise of eternal life and God's endless love.*

**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.

**Enlarged print sermon copies** are available for the benefit of sight or hearing impaired worshippers. They can be found in the narthex on the table.

## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>

Church Office Hours: Mon. – Thur. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



**REV. TINA MELUSKY** – Pastor ([tina.melusky@gmail.com](mailto:tina.melusky@gmail.com))

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**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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*Our Sunrise service is held in the Columbarium..*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia.**

## **ROLL BACK THE STONE: EASTER LITANY**

When we are all despairing,  
when the world is full of grief,  
when we see no way ahead  
and hope has gone away:

**Roll back the stone.**

Although we fear change,  
although we are not ready,  
although we'd rather weep  
and run away:

**Roll back the stone.**

Because we're coming with the women,  
because we hope where hope is vain,  
because you call us from the grave  
and show the way:

**Roll back the stone.**

## **OPENING READINGS TO WELCOME THE DAWN WITH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**

Isaiah 9.2

John 1.3b-5

John 8.12

1 John 1.5

Matthew 5.14-16

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Christ, yesterday and today,  
**the beginning and the end.**

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;  
**to him be glory and power, through every age and forever. Amen.**

### *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**Christ is our light!**

The light of Christ shines out of the empty tomb, scattering our fears and our doubts.

**Christ is our light!**

The light of Christ breaks over the horizon, reminding us that the darkness is over,  
and only the light remains.

**Christ is our light!**

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be

the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## EASTER MORNING REFLECTION

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Siblings in Christ, since the earliest dawns of Christianity, Easter morning has been the time when those new to the faith have knelt, stood, sunk beneath, dipped their heads into the waters of baptism, to signify their new life with Christ, that just as he rose anew on Easter, so would they too rise anew, that very day and on the last day in the promises of resurrection.

This morning, we make public reaffirmation of *who we are*, our beloved baptismal identities that unite us with Christ Children of God, the forces of this world would call you by names known by evil, they would call you sinner, failure, worthless, screw up. In your baptism, what does God call you?

**In baptism, God calls me beloved.**

Children of God, the forces of this world would lure you away with intangible promises of wealth, power, beauty, importance, and esteem. In your baptism, what does God promise you?

**In baptism, God promises me love, hope, connection, and forgiveness.**

Children of God, the forces of this world would tell you that you are defined by your sins, your mistakes; that your identity is bound up in what the world tells you. In baptism, what identity does God give you?

**In baptism, God gives me the identity of adored child of God.**

Children of God, the forces of this world would have you renounce everything that God calls you to be, claims you as. In baptism, what does God have you claim and renounce?

**I am a beloved child of God and I renounce anything or anyone who says otherwise.**

Beloved children of God, come to the font and remember that while we die with Christ, we also rise with Him. Remember that God is in the business of bringing dead things back to life. Remember that God has claimed you as one of God's own.

*All are invited to come to the font for a remembrance of their baptism.*

This morning and every morning, the light breaks through the darkness and reminds us that our God has shattered the bonds of death, that our God has given us the strength to be people, claimed and called, who stand exposed and vulnerable before evil and death to declare loudly and defiantly that they are powerless against love, a love that comes through water, through the wood of a cross, though hands touched together in peace, through shouts of alleluia.

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **CLOSING BENEDICTION & LORD'S PRAYER**

In the dark of the early morning,  
It descended.  
The very breath of God.

Dawn approached.  
The Spirit filled the lungs of our fallen king,  
And his heart began to beat anew.

At the rising of the sun,  
He awoke. He opened his eyes.  
He smiled. He rose.

Victorious.

They say the tomb was empty,  
But we know otherwise.

Sorrow and mourning. Left behind.  
Fear and shame. Left behind.  
Sin and death. Left behind.  
Our old ways and our old selves. Left behind.

Forever entombed by Christ the Son.  
He who has conquered the grave.  
He who is risen.  
He who reigns and taught us to pray...

## SENDING

Go forth with renewed hope, trusting in the transforming love of God.  
**God does not leave things as they are; with God, all things are made new.**

All creation responds to God's presence; the world is alive with possibility.

**We open ourselves to this truth; with Christ, we trust our whole lives to this power.**

Nothing is beyond the reach of God; neither evil, nor hardship, nor death, for Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Let us go forth in peace, with the light of the resurrection in our hearts.

**Amen! Thanks be to God!**



Christ  
is  
Risen!