FINITY LUTHERAN CHURC

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OFFICE TRINITY CHURCHVIRGINIA. ORG

MARCH 19, 2023 LENT 4

810 Fairfax Street Stephens City, VA

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PRELUDE Dearest Jesus, at Your Word Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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. Amen.

GATHERING SONG Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843



- Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's burn-ing sand; joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done. us sing for



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

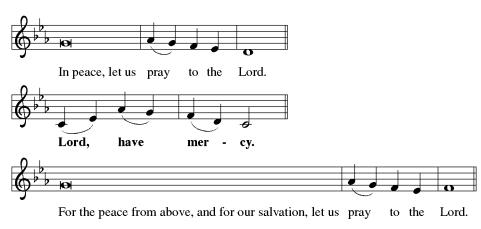
Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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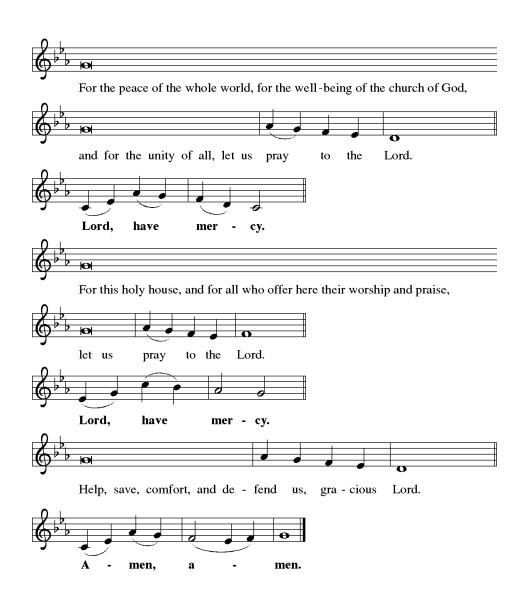
GREETING

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

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Marcie Stern

A reading from 1 Samuel.

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 read responsively

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

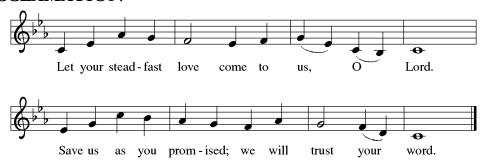
A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already,

and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

CHILDREN'S CHAT

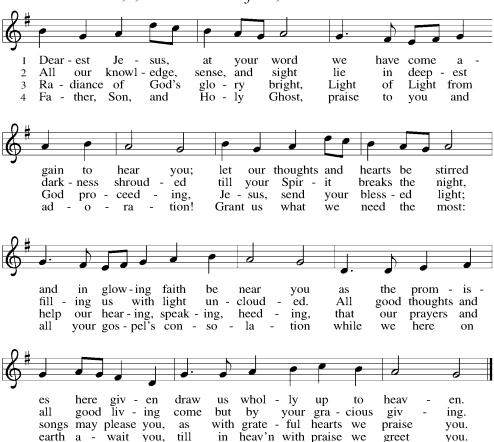
Pastor JMe Lowden

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden

HYMN OF THE DAY vs. 1,3,4 Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520



Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; Gesangbuch, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt. Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially Pauline, Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Nikki, Alice, Barbara, Pat, Earl and others we name now *(worshippers may add names silently or aloud)*. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Other prayers may be offered now.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

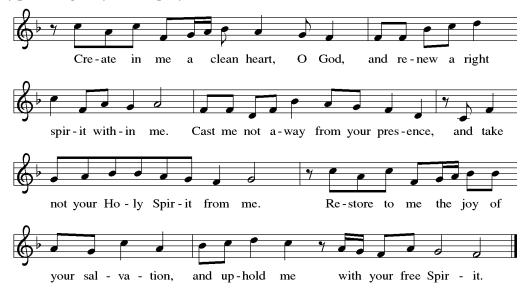
PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

OFFERING When I Survey The Wondrous Cross Lloyd Larson Trinity Chimes Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

NOISY OFFERING benefits Blue Ridge Area Food Pantry

OFFERING PRESENTATION



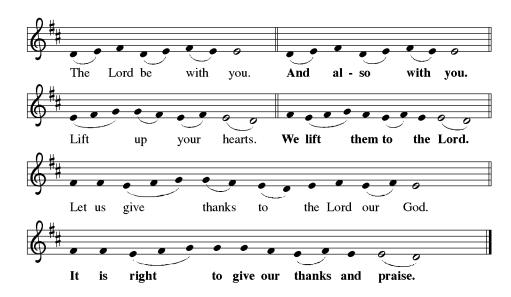
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

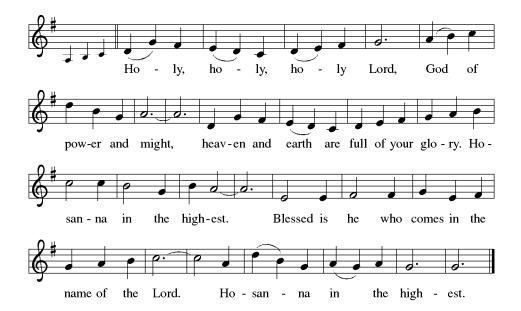
God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

It is indeed right.... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

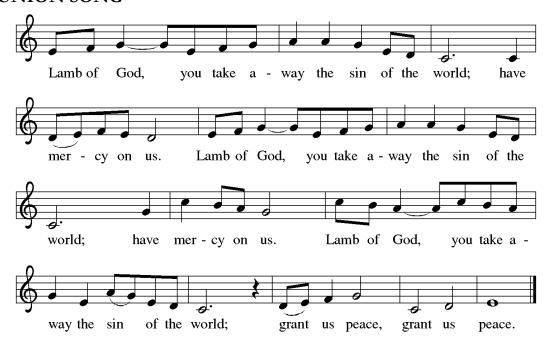
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges those at home and says: "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Then you may partake.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

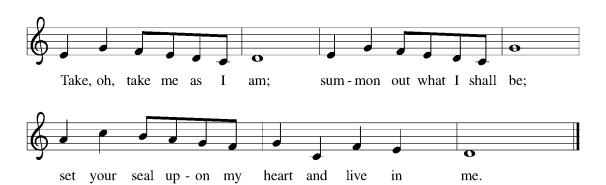
COMMUNION SONG



HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW 814



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
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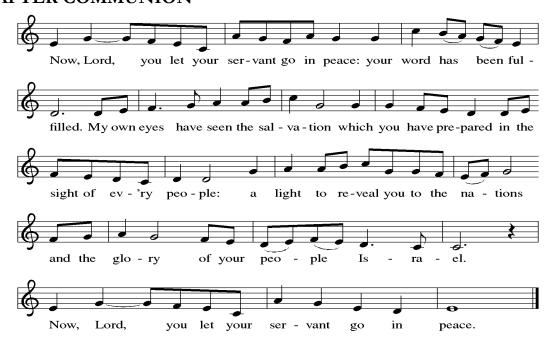


Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



SENDING OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

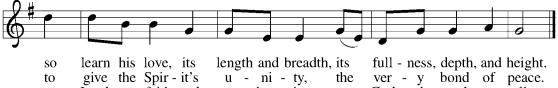
SENDING SONG

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

ELW 452



- 1 A wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re lease,
- There is one bod y and one hope, one Spir it and one call,
 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con-quered in the strife.



to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace. one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all. with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave. A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829 Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

At Length There Dawns the Glorious Day

arr. James Mansfield

TRENDING @ TRINITY

This morning's Noisy Offering will be sent to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The BRAFB serves 25 counties and 8 cities on either side of the Blue Ridge through distribution centers in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Winchester and Verona. They provide nutritious food to 109,500 people on average each month through a far-reaching network of more than 400 community partners—food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and program sites like schools, community centers, and health care clinics.

This coming Saturday, March 25 will be a clean-up day here at the church--inside and out. We will be washing windows and pulling weeds, among other things. Please bring your cleaning supplies, buckets, rags, gardening tools and gloves, etc. (If anyone has Mr. Clean-type erasers to get scuffs and marks off the walls, that would be appreciated.) For more details speak to Jerry Rogers or Roger Wickboldt.



Saturday April 1, (no foolin') there will be a craft sale here at Trinity. Additionally, the Sewing for the Savior group will have lap quilts for sale, the Lutheran Church Women will have a bake sale and the council will be selling country ham sandwiches to-go.

On Wednesdays in Lent Trinity will have a soup supper at 5:30 followed by a service of compline, or night prayers. **Note: March 29** will be the **community meal**. The sign-up list to provide portions of the meal is in the Parish Hall. Menu is chili, cornbread, salad, and dessert. Please mark your calendar and plan to journey through Lent here at Trinity. The service will be on Facebook and available through Zoom using ID: 835 4600 6243 Passcode 402877

On Sundays in Lent:

Following worship Pastor will lead a special study of the Psalms look at how God calls us to respond to hunger in the world.

From 1-2:30PM Pastor will lead a discussion on Lutheranism 101. A 3-session study covering the basics of the Lutheran faith and church. For those who want to know more about what being a "Lutheran Christian" means as well as life-long Lutherans who want a quick review.

Trinity will be doing Easter meal baskets for those in need in our community. Several area churches are participating by donating food items. Trinity members are asked to make donations of soup and/or boxed desserts. You may also make a financial donation toward the purchase of hams. These boxes will be assembled the week of April 3-7, with pick up on Saturday the 8th.

Palm Sunday Trinity will be starting up another new/old tradition. Anyone interested in helping to pass out palms to passing motorists (stopped at the light at Main and Fairfax), please email Brenda in the church office (office@trinitychurchvirginia.org).

Easter Breakfast You are invited to share breakfast on Easter morning (April 9) from 8:00 - 9:00 am with the Trinity family. We plan to serve homemade egg casseroles, bagels, coffee cake, juice and coffee. The breakfast will be open to the community as well as Trinity members and guests. If you can make and bake a 9x13 egg casserole (your favorite recipe) or a coffee cake (or other sweet), please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your item(s) baked and ready to serve to the kitchen Easter morning by 8:00 am.

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US (Washington D.C)

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/

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