



Liturgy of the Word

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

10:30 a.m.



TRINITY
Episcopal Church

Welcome!

Whoever you are and wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, we are so glad you have joined us for worship today. May you know the presence of the living God who welcomes you here. Almost everything you need to participate in today's service is included in this worship bulletin. The only additional item you will need is a hymnal for the hymns that are listed. The main hymnal we use is located in the back of the pew ahead of you (blue book). We typically only use one other hymnal (LEVAS—Lift Every Voice and Sing) and this hymnal is located in the corner of your pew seat. The greeters are available to answer any questions or direct you as needed. Restrooms are located on the lower level. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete and return a welcome card so that we can be in touch. May God bless you now and always.

About today's Service

On this day in the church year traditionally called Good Shepherd Sunday. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd of his people was connected very early in the church's life with Holy Baptism. The Good Shepherd is the most common decoration in baptisteries in church buildings from the second and third centuries. This image was reinforced in the church's art, liturgy, and music by the Old Testament's use of the shepherd image to express the care God has for all people.

In the Book of Revelation, a portion of which is read this year on every Sunday of Easter, we hear today the description of the gathering of all the redeemed. Their white robes are the sign that they have been baptized, for in earlier times the newly baptized were clothed in white. This custom is preserved in many places with christening gowns. The redeemed rejoice, for Christ is in their midst as the Good Shepherd.

Our reading from Acts today describes the ongoing work of the risen Christ through the church. Peter raises Tabitha from death. The great excitement which the early Christians felt was their discovery that Jesus continues to live in his faithful people.

As in John's vision of the heavenly worship so in our Eucharistic gathering Christ the Good Shepherd stands in our midst leading us to the springs of the water of life.

Liturgy of the Word

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayers,
please observe silence upon entering the church.

"Be still and know that I am God." -Psalm 46:10

The Greeting

Opening Hymn: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Vs.1-4) Hymnal 366

Opening Acclamation

All standing as able,

Worship Leader Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

The Celebrant says

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

The following is sung, all standing as able

Gloria in excelsis

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.***

***For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

Collect of the Day

Worship Leader The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Worship Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The First Lesson

Acts 5: 9:36-43

Please be seated for the readings

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 23

Dominus regit me

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

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

- 4 Though 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.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

The Second Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

A Reading from the Revelation to John.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever!
Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Third Lesson

John 10:22-30

Please remain seated

A reading from John.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Worship Leader The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Reflection

The Rev. Deacon Beckett LeClaire

Nicene Creed

Please stand as able and together say

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,***

*eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

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

Prayers of the People

All remain standing as able. The intercessor says

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers; and for the Standing Committee of The Diocese of The Great Lakes, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who live and work in this community we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially those on our prayer list; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from sickness and anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Silence

The Worship leader concludes

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Peace

All stand as able.

Worship Leader The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements/Sharing Time of God's Blessings

Birthday and Anniversary Blessings

The Worship Leader says

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Hymnal 691

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings/ gifts to the altar

Doxology

Singing together

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The General Thanksgiving

Worship leader and people

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.***

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Worship leader and people

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

*Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

Worship leader and people

*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,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Closing Hymn: Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken

Hymnal 522

Dismissal

Worship Leader

Allulua, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, LGBTQ+, confused, well-heeled or down-at-heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been to church since Christmas 10 or 20+ years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit moms, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers, latte sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like organized religion. We're not that keen on it either. We offer welcome to those who think the Earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because Granny is visiting and wanted to come to church. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throats as kids or got lost looking for the Historical Society museum and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters and you.

From a sign posted at Coventry Cathedral in England, context edited slightly for
Trinity Episcopal Church, West Branch, Michigan

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Presider/Preacher: The Rev. Deacon Beckett Leclair

Lector: Rebecca Schreffler

Intercessor: Leah Wolf

Organist: Carol Shaw

Altar Preparation: Martha Bamfield

Bulletin: Martha Bamfield

Greeter: Tom Olson

Live Stream: Tom Olson

Acolyte: x

Coffee Hour: The Stewarts

Altar flowers given by Tom Olson in memory of his wife and mother.

Our mission is to support all on their journey toward a deeper relationship with God, one another and all creation through worship, pastoral care, fellowship and outreach.

100 E. Houghton Ave., P.O. Box 83, West Branch, MI | 989.345.0493

www.trinityepiscopal-wb.com