



**April 28, 2024**

## **An Explanation of Our Communion Practice**

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





**April 28, 2024**

**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service, we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

**Serving the Lord and Serving Us:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Jenkins

**Today's Focus:** Christians are the branches connected to the Living Vine, Jesus Christ. We bear the fruit of love for each other. Our worship follows *The Common Service*.

# We Come into the Presence of God

## MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

*This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.*

## OPENING HYMN: 283 Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening



1 Speak, O Sav - ior; I am lis - t'ning, As a ser - vant  
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you And to lis - ten  
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing Where I quench my  
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let your words in



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or  
to your voice! Let me ev - er love and fear you;  
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;  
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me



To your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, That each day, my  
Let your Word still be my choice. Man - y hard - ened  
On your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will  
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly



whole life through, I may serve and fol - low  
sin - ners, Lord, Flee in ter - ror at your  
be my light Through death's cold and drear - y  
sing your praise, From my heart glad an - thems

*(Continued on Next Page)*



you. Let your Word e'er be my plea - sure  
Word, But to all who feel sin's bur - den  
night; Yes, they are my sword pre - vail - ing  
raise, Till my high - est praise is giv - en



And my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.  
You give peace and words of par - don.  
And my cup of joy un - fail - ing.  
In the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia of Hesse-Darmstadt, 1638–83, abr.; tr. composite.  
Tune: WERDE MÜNTER (87 87 77 88) Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667.

*STAND*

## INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,**

**we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,**

**God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the**

**sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the**

**sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of**

**God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;**

**you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,**

**are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray. O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEXT**

#### **Acts 4:32-37**

The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common.<sup>33</sup> The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them.<sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold,<sup>35</sup> and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

<sup>36</sup> Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated "son of encouragement"), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, <sup>37</sup> sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

## PSALM OF THE DAY: 67

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us

**C: and make his face shine on us;**

M: may your ways be known on earth

**C: your salvation among all nations.**

M: May the nations be glad and sing for joy,

**C: for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.**

M: Then the land will yield its harvest,

**C: and God, our God, will bless us.**

M: God will bless us,

**C: and all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

## SECOND LESSON

### **1 John 3:18-24**

*God wants us to believe in Jesus and to love one another. The Spirit, as he gives us power to do both, assures us of our standing with God.*

Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

<sup>19</sup>This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup>If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. <sup>22</sup>We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight. <sup>23</sup>This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.



## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Alleluia! (*John 14:6*)

*STAND*

## GOSPEL

### John 15:1-8

M: The Gospel of St. John, chapter 15.

#### **C: Glory be to you, O Lord!**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

#### **C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **NICENE CREED**

**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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*BE SEATED*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON: "Just Like a Living Branch"**

## HYMN OF THE DAY: 168 With High Delight Let Us Unite



1 With high de - light Let us u - nite In songs of sweet  
2 True God, he first From death has burst Forth in - to life,  
3 Let prais - es ring; Give thanks and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, Each take your part,  
all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my Shall van - quished lie;  
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us free  
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall be  
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall his love



For - ev - er, he Is ris'n and sends To all earth's  
Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Said he, who  
Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.  
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76, alt. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: MIT FREUDEN ZART (448 448 44 44 8) *Cinquante Pseaumes*, Geneva, 1543, alt.

## SERMON

**TEXT:** Acts 4:32-37

**THEME:** "Jesus is Life for Lives of Love"

STAND

## CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'CREATE IN ME'. It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*BE SEATED*

## OFFERING

*Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.*

*The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.*

*STAND*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son. Through him we have confidence to enter your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions.

Out of the infinite bounty of your goodness, grant us a rich measure of your Spirit. Let the love of Christ fill your Church, so that it may flourish in all good works. Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need. Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you.

Strengthen our faith so that we unflinchingly come to you in prayer for all our bodily needs. Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who are in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid. And help us patiently endure chastening and affliction that you permit to come into our lives, knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.

Accept our prayers and provide for our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*Special prayers*

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

*(Continued on Next Page)*

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - men.

*BE SEATED*

## DISTRIBUTION

### HYMN: 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me. All my wants to him are known;  
and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!  
won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–c. 1870, alt.  
Tune: GETHSEMANE (77 77 77) Richard Redhead, 1820–1901.

STAND



## SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## CLOSING HYMN: 79 How Lovely Shines the Morning Star, verse 2

2 O high - est joy by mor - tal's won, True Son of God and  
Mar - y's Son, The high - born King of a - ges!  
In your blest bod - y let me be, E'en as the  
branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup - ply - ing.  
Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor  
Rest - ing nev - er Till I rest in you for - ev - er.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.  
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](https://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

### Trinity's Little Free Library – Food Donations Needed

Donations of shelf-stable foods are particularly needed currently for Trinity's Little Free Library. As food prices climb, many families in the surrounding neighborhoods are experiencing food scarcity. For the past few months, the food shelf of our Little Free Library has been emptying out every single week. Items that are especially needed include canned or boxed food that does not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

### Vacation Bible School Registration OPEN!

Registration is now open for this year's VBS, which will be held July 15-19 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for Scuba VBS where we will dive into an amazing undersea adventure and experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. We look forward to sharing God's Word, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and of course, having some awesome snacks together! VBS is for kids ages 3 (and potty trained) to those entering 6th grade in the fall. Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers. Please register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/trinity24> or scan this QR Code!



### Wine and Word Bible Study – May 16

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or [dawn.f.knox@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### Voters' Meeting May 19

Trinity's next voters' meeting will be Sunday, May 19 at 1:30pm on Zoom. A link and agenda will be coming soon from our President Steve Proksch.

## **Women's Bible Study on Esther**

The remaining dates for the Women's Bible Study on Esther are:

May 11 at 9:00 am (Chapter 7)

The Women's Bible Study meets at Trinity. We are discussing the book "Esther: Providential Persian Queen" by Lou Ann Mokwa. Please join us anytime!

## **Save the date!**

Trinity's annual church-wide yard sale will be held Saturday, May 4. Start gathering up your clothing, shoes, housewares, books, and other items that you would like to donate! Watch for more details in April. All proceeds go to the Sunday School mission offering.

## **Small Choir**

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

## **Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed**

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email [admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org](mailto:admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org)

## **Lord's Supper Available to All Members**

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or [revpauljenkins@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



## **Kindness, Please!**

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20210820/>

“Kindness, please.” As a kindergarten teacher, Kayla felt like she said that phrase a hundred times a day at school. Kayla said it to her students when they wouldn’t share during play time. “Kindness, please.” Kayla said it when she saw first and second graders cutting in line in front of other people, “Kindness, please.” She said it over and over to the big kids at school too when they were mean in the hallways or yelled at each other during recess. “Kindness, please!”

Why is it so hard for us to be kind and loving to other people? There are probably many reasons, but maybe one reason is bigger than the rest. The devil wants you to love a certain someone more than you love other people. You know who that someone is? You! Satan wants you to love yourself more than other people.

So when children think of themselves first, they don’t want to share with friends at school. When children think of themselves first, they cut to the front of the line or say mean things to other students or cheat to win games at recess. Adults do similar things. When adults put themselves first, they aren’t so good at being nice to other people. We don’t realize it very often, but all of our anger or mean words and actions come from the fact that we are loving ourselves more than we are loving other people.

The apostle Paul helps us to rethink and repent. He wants us to turn away from that sin and to love God and other people before we love ourselves. That’s why Paul said, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other.”

But why would we do that? Why would we put others first? Paul tells us: “In Christ God forgave you.” God has shown us the ultimate kindness in his Son Jesus. Jesus came to this world and put us first. He lived for us. He died for us. He rose for us. All this he did so that we could be God’s children and live with him forever. And we hear this great encouragement today, “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Since we are God’s dearly loved children, we can live just like Jesus did, putting others first.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

Think about how you can show love to others first. Share with your friends. Let someone else go before you. Try complimenting and saying nice things about others. Listen to parents and teachers. God says in his Word, "Kindness, please," and what a joy it is for us to show others the love and kindness that God has shown to us.

### **Questions for Younger Children**

How has Jesus shown kindness to us?

How can you show kindness and love to someone at school?

Explain why being mean to other people comes from loving yourself more than other people.

Why does Jesus' love for us help us to be more loving to other people?

Explain why loving yourself more than other people also breaks the First Commandment.

Discuss with your family two ways that each of you can show more kindness and love to others this week.



**It is the mission of**

**trinity**



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**to glorify God**

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.