

April 13, 2025

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 13, 2025

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: Jesus rides into Jerusalem and into our hearts with the peace of salvation. Our worship follows *Service of Word and Sacrament*, and includes the Rite of Confirmation for Carice Hendricks and Mary McKnight at the 11:00 service.

WE COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD

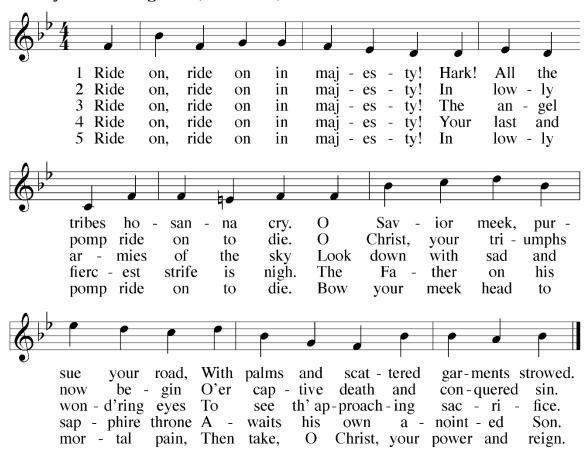
MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

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

OPENING HYMN:

8:30: 133, Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

11:00: Sunday School sings 130, Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

Stand

INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship

of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him 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.

LORD OF MERCY

KYRIE

- M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C: Christ, have mercy.
- M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.
- C: Amen.
- M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

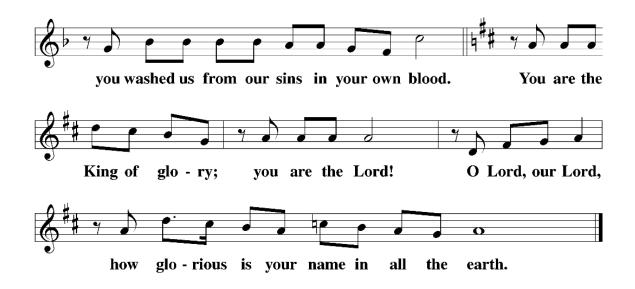
O LORD, OUR LORD O Lord, our Lord, glo-rious is your name in how Al-might - y God, mer-ci-ful Fa - ther, all the earth. you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin; you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure You did not spare your ho - ly in your sight. on - ly him up Lord, our Lord, but gave for us all. 0 glo-rious is your name in all the earth. how



(Continued on Next Page)

you made your Fa - ther known;

you came to live with us;



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for the great acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ. As he was acclaimed by those who scattered their garments and branches of palm in his path, so may we always hail him as our King and follow him in perfect confidence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-4

This is the first "Servant Song" of Isaiah. He sees the Messiah coming gently with divine justice.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. I am placing my Spirit on him. He will announce a just verdict for the nations.

² He will not cry out.

He will not raise his voice.

He will not make his voice heard in the street.

³A bent reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out. He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict.

⁴ He will not burn out, and he will not be broken until he establishes justice on the earth.

The coastlands will wait for his law.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 24

READ RESPONSIVELY

M: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,

C: the world, and all who live in it;

M: for he founded it upon the seas

C: and established it upon the waters.

M: Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

C: Who may stand in his holy place?

M: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

C: he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

M: Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,

C: that the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is this King of glory?

C: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

M: Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,

C: that the King of glory may come in.

M: Who is he, this King of glory?

C: The LORD Almighty - he is the King of glory.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

Because Jesus humbled himself to die for all sin, the praise he received on Palm Sunday will be repeated on the Last Day, when all will confess that he is the Lord of glory.

Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶ Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷ but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." Alleluia! (John 12:23)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

Luke 19:28-40

M: The Gospel of St. Luke, chapter 19.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

After Jesus had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ahead, ³⁰ saying, "Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you will say this: 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found things just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They said, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵Then they brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their robes on the colt and set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their robes on the road. ³⁷As he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God joyfully, with a loud voice, for all the miracles they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

 40 He replied, "I tell you, if these people would be silent, the stones would cry out."

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord

HYMN OF THE DAY: 131, All Glory, Laud, and Honor



Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 762–821; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (76 76 D) Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

SERMON

Text: Luke 19:28-40

Theme: Jesus is the One to Stay With

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

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

(8:30)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, you are the King of heaven and earth. We join the first Palm Sunday worshipers in praising and glorifying you for coming to this earth to be our Savior. Though you are one with God the Father and Lord of all, you humbled yourself and became one with us. Thanks be to you for living a life of perfect conformity to God's holy law in our place. Praise be to you for being obedient to death, even death on a cross, to redeem us from sin.

Cause our voices to blend with those who sang your praises as you rode in Jerusalem. Move us to confess you before others as our Lord. Help us proclaim the message of peace and forgiveness to people of all nations. Use us to assure all people that your blood cleansed them from sin and set them free from slavery to sin, death, and the devil. Move us to dedicate all that we are and have to your glory.

Special prayers

M: Dear Savior, as we walk with you this week toward Calvary, keep us focused on your purpose for coming into this world, and our calling to spread this wonderful message of salvation. Hear us for your mercy's sake. Amen.

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.

(Continues below with Sacrament)

(11:00)

Those being confirmed stand before the altar. The congregation remains seated.

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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In obedience to the Lord's command, you have been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You have been taught the precious truths of the Christian faith as confessed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. You know what God has given you by his grace and what he expects of you as his dear child. You now have the privilege of receiving the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

You are here to make a public profession of your Christian faith. The apostle Paul, writing to the Romans, said: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Therefore, lift up your hearts to the God of all grace and joyfully answer these questions.

M: Do you this day, in the presence of God and of this congregation, acknowledge that in baptism, God gave you forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation?

Confirmands: I do.

M: Do you reject the Devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

C: I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

M: Do you believe all the books of the Bible to be the inspired Word of God?

C: I do.

M: Do you believe that the teaching of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know it from Luther's Small Catechism, is faithful and true to the Word of God?

C: I do.

(Continued on Next Page)

M: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this teaching and to endure things, even death, rather than fall away from it?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the teachings of God's Word, to be faithful in use of the Word and Sacrament, and in faith and action remain true to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – as long as you live?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

- M: Since it is God alone who enables us both to will and to do his good pleasure, it is right for us, dear friends in Christ, to call on him for these confirmands, that he would graciously complete the good work which he has begun in them. Let us, therefore, pray:
- M: Gracious Father, you have adopted these sisters in baptism and anointed them with your Holy Spirit. Renew and strengthen them by that same Spirit so that they may continue to grow in faith and boldly confess you before others. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

M: Move them faithfully to hear your Holy Word and joyfully receive your Sacrament that they may again and again be assured of your gracious love and forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Give them the sincere desire to die each day to sin and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Clothe them with the kindness, humility, and patience of Christ so that they may live at peace with all the members of Christ's body. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Keep them faithful and holy so that they may inherit eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

- M: Sisters in Christ, what we as a congregation have asked our heavenly Father to confer on both of you, we now ask him to give you individually.
- M: Carice Marie Hendricks, may God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.

Confirmation passage: Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's elect, holy and loved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against anyone else. Forgive, just as Christ forgave you. And, in addition to all these things, put on love, which ties things together in perfect unity.

M: Mary Eleanor McKnight, may the Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, renew and increase in you the gift of the Holy Spirit, to the strengthening of your faith, to your growth in grace, to your patience in suffering, and to the blessed hope of eternal life.

Confirmation passage: Ephesians 2:4-5 But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!

M: Your church now invites you to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's body and blood. Accept this invitation with deep reverence and holy joy. Regard your communing at the Lord's Table as a precious privilege given you by God through his Church; receive the Sacrament faithfully and often. The almighty and most merciful God – Father, (+) Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you.

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.
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

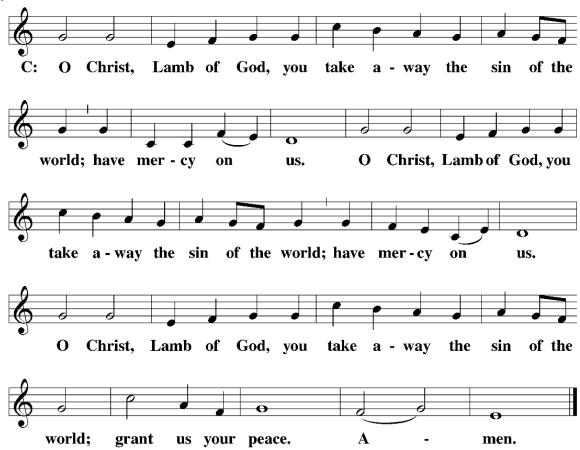
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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



Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

Hymn: 4, Lift Up Your Heads, You Might Gates



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: MILWAUKEE (88 88 86 66) August Lemke, 1820–1913.

17

THANK THE LORD





Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

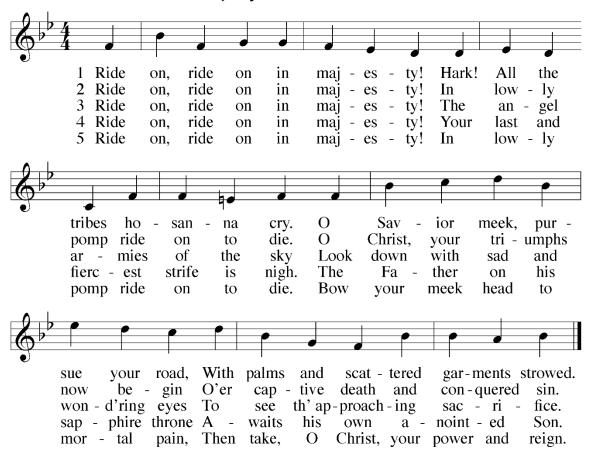
C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn:

8:30: Sunday School sings 130, Hosanna, Loud Hosana;

11:00: 133, Ride On, Ride On in Majesty



Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791-1868, alt.

Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at www.trinityofWoodbridge.org Facebook: www.trinityofwoodbridge.

Wine and Word Bible Study - May 1st

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 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. 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 to RSVP.

April Communion Dates

Please note that the remaining dates for Holy Communion this month will be today and 27th. This is so that there will be Communion on Confirmation Sunday, but not on Easter Sunday when many guests from outside our fellowship often worship with us.

Get ready for our church-wide yard sale! Ready to make some space in your home? Start gathering up things you no longer want or need! After Sunday school (11am) on Sunday, April 27, drop off your donations in the big classroom beside Pastor's office. You can bring us all of your unwanted clothing, shoes, toys, small housewares, books, games, etc. (Please, NO large items such as furniture or appliances.) If you have questions, contact Rachel Kovaciny or Erika Ohlendorf. All proceeds from this yard sale will go straight into the Sunday School's mission offering!

Join our Trinity Book Club on Saturday, April 26 at 9:30am at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries! We will discuss *Before the King* by Heather Kaufman and decide what to read next.

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt

There will be no Bible class or Sunday School between services on Easter Sunday (April 20th). Instead, there will be an egg hunt for kids and a potluck breakfast for everyone. Beverages and tableware will be provided; please bring a dish to share if you're able.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do 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 Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's 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 once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Andy Lutz. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



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 with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



Staying On Track with Jesus!

https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250402/

Read: Romans 8:1-10

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, . . . in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. . . . You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.

Romans 8:1,4,9

Have you ever played in an arcade before? If so, you've probably tried a race car game. Depending on how much control you have, these games can be really tricky! Unless you have complete control, the steering wheel can be hard to handle. Just one little move, and your car can fly off the course!

Getting off course is something we can all understand. Giving in to sin can easily knock us off the right path, and sometimes it's hard to get back on track. While it's good to stay on the right course, we are tempted all the time to follow our own wants and desires. When we give in to temptation, we get knocked off course, and the devil is happy about it.

In our reading today, we're reminded that the law of sin and death does not control us. Is it powerful? Yes, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us, being the driving force of our lives. On this side of heaven, we'll mess up sometimes, and we don't deserve anything good, but that's not the end of the story. God sent his son, Jesus, to wash away our sins. When we feel like we're about to go off track, we can ask Jesus for help to say "no" to our sinful desires. We can ask him to help us fight against sin.

God is so good because he gives us ways to stay on the right path. We can go to him for help, but he gives us other lifelines to help us in the fight against sin. We can go to church and Sunday school to hear his Word and be encouraged by other believers. We can do family devotions that help us grow in our faith. We can sing praise songs that help us keep our eyes on him.

When the devil seems to overpower us, remember our reading from Romans. The Spirit is in us. We don't have the strength or power to resist the devil by ourselves, but we're not alone. The One who lives in us has already defeated the enemy. What a victory lap heaven will be!

Questions to Consider

Have you ever played a game where you had to stay on a path or track? How did you stay on it? Why do you think it's important to stay on the right path, like when we follow God's ways? When you feel tempted to do something wrong, what can you ask God to help you with? How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us when we try to make good choices? How do you remember to talk to God and pray each day? Can you think of some ways to spend time with him more?

What is one thing you can do to stay close to Jesus and follow his way this week?

It is the mission of



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.