



April 27, 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 27, 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' resurrection fills life with joy and peace. 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: 159, Morning Breaks upon the Tomb



1 Morn - ing breaks up - on the tomb; Je - sus
2 You who are of death a - fraid, Tri - umph
3 Chris - tian, dry your flow - ing tears; Chase your



scat - ters all its gloom. Day of tri - umph through
in the scat - tered shade. Drive your anx - ious cares
un - be - liev - ing fears. Look on his de - sert -



the skies, See the glo - rious Sav - ior rise.
a - way; See the place where Je - sus lay.
ed grave; Doubt no more his pow'r to save.

Text: William B. Collyer, 1782–1854, abr.
Tune: INNOCENTS (77 77) French melody, 13th century.

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 grant us forgiveness.

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.**

(Continued on Next Page)

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

(Continued on Next Page)



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 risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, as banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 9:1-22

Saul was not there to see the risen Lord on Easter night. His resurrection appearance happened at a different time and place, in a very different way. But ultimately, it had the same result: peace and joy from Jesus.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he might bring them to Jerusalem as prisoners.

³As he went on his way and was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

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⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

He replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you need to do."

⁷The men traveling with him stood there speechless. They heard the voice but did not see anyone.

⁸They raised Saul up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could not see anything. They took him by the hand and led him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he could not see, and he did not eat or drink.

¹⁰There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

¹¹The Lord told him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. In fact, at this very moment he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he can regain his sight."

¹³Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many people about this man and how much harm he did to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has authority here from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵The Lord said to him, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the people of Israel. ¹⁶Indeed, I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷Ananias left and entered the house. Laying his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, whom you saw on your way here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. ¹⁹And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days. ²⁰Immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, "Isn't this the one who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? Didn't he come here for this very purpose: to bring them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²²But Saul continued to get stronger and kept confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

PSALM OF THE DAY: 16

Read responsively

M: Keep me safe, O God,

C: for in you I take refuge.

M: I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord;

C: apart from you I have no good thing.”

M: I have set the LORD always before me.

C: Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

M: My heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

C: my body also will rest secure,

M: because you will not abandon me to the grave,

C: nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

M: You have made known to me the path of life;

C: you will fill me with joy in your presence.

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 1:4-8

The first sentence of Jesus’ Revelation (after the greeting) is pure peace. It is what the risen Lord is all about for his people.

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father—to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.

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⁷ Look, he is coming with clouds,
and every eye will see him,
including those who pierced him.
And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him.
Yes. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming,
the Almighty.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! “Blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have believed.” Alleluia! (*John 20:29b*)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

John 20:19-31

M: The Gospel of St. John, chapter 20.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because
of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After
he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending
you.” ²² After saying this, he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ Whenever you
forgive people’s sins, they are forgiven. Whenever you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the Twelve, the one called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So
the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, and put my finger into the mark of the
nails, and put my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

²⁶ After eight days, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were
locked, Jesus came and stood among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put
your finger here and look at my hands. Take your hand and put it into my side. Do not continue to doubt,
but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not
seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰ Jesus, in the presence of his disciples, did many other miraculous signs that are not written in this
book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by
believing you may have life in his name.

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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: What Was Thomas Thinking?

HYMN OF THE DAY: 165, O Sons and Daughters of the King



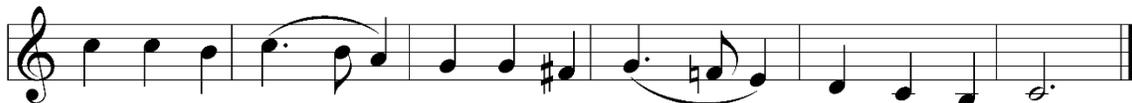
1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King,
 2 On that first morn - ing of the week,
 3 An an - gel bade their sor - row flee,
 4 That night th' a - pos - tles met in fear;
 5 When Thom - as af - ter - wards had heard



Whom heav'n - ly hosts in glo - ry sing,
 Be - fore the day be - gan to break,
 For thus he spoke un - to the three,
 A - mong them came their Lord most dear,
 That Je - sus had ful - filled his word,



To - day the grave has lost its sting!
 The Mar - ys went their Lord to seek.
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee."
 And said, "Peace be un - to you here."
 He doubt - ed that is was the Lord.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>6 "Thomas, behold my side," said he,
 "My hands, my feet, my body see;
 And doubt not, but believe in me."
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>8 Blessèd are they that have not seen
 And yet whose faith has constant been;
 In life eternal they shall reign.
 Alleluia!</p> |
| <p>7 No longer Thomas then denied;
 He saw the feet, the hands, the side;
 "You are my Lord and God," he cried.
 Alleluia!</p> | <p>9 On this most holy day of days
 To God your hearts and voices raise
 In laud and jubilee and praise.
 Alleluia!</p> |

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT (888 with Alleluias) Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615, alt.

SERMON

Text: John 20:19-31

Theme: The Risen Jesus is Here for You

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 musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bar lines.

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: God of all grace, we thank you for the gift of eternal life in your Son. By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and by the faithful testimony of the apostles, you have assured us that our faith stands on a sure and solid foundation.

Though we do not see Jesus with our physical eyes, help us see him with the eyes of faith. Through your Holy Spirit, breathe on your Church that it may faithfully proclaim the gospel of our risen Savior with courage and diligence in all lands and to all people. Grant that we also may be illumined by the heavenly light of your Word, and so keep us in the one true faith.

Preserve us from all assaults on our souls, deliver us from doubt and despair, and preserve us from empty wisdom and false teaching.

Forgive the sins of your people. Strengthen the doubting and the faithless. Bring back the forgetful and wayward, and comfort the anxious and the distressed.

Special prayers

M: As we go from this holy place today, grant peace and rest to all. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. 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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

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.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases ending in a quarter rest. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or bar lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 315, Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face



1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;
5 Too soon we rise; the ves - sels dis - ap - pear.



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
Here is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
An - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
Mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone.



Here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:
The bread and wine re - move, but you are here,



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
The brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
My strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
Your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.
Near - er than ev - er, still my shield and sun.

6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, abr., alt.
Tune: FARLEY CASTLE (10 10 10 10) Henry Lawes, 1595-1662.

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: 318, Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con -
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, To God ev - er -

fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take
 liv - ing, The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will

leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -
 face. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er

tend - ed The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be -
 car - ing, Em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and

lieve. The seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep -
 race. With your feast you feed us; With your

tive souls reach - ing, Shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 light now lead us; U - nite us as one in this

God and for all. His grace did in - vite us; His
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing With

love shall u - nite us To work for God's
 praise and thanks - giv - ing Give hon - or to

king - dom and his an - swer his call.
 Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt. © 1964 World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL, www.wlpmusic.com.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: THE ASH GROVE (66 11 66 11 D) Welsh folk tune.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Dawn Knox Administrative Assistant: Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org, (703) 615-9320

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

After Sunday school (11am) TODAY please drop off your donations in the big classroom beside Pastor's office. You can bring 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!

Vacation Bible School Registration OPEN. Volunteers Needed!

Registration is now open for this year's VBS, which will be held July 14-18 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for True North VBS where kids will be pointed to Jesus, our Savior and faithful Friend whom we can always trust. 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 4 to those entering 6th grade. Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers. Adult volunteers are needed as well! Please contact Erika Ohlendorf (erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com) with questions. Register your child here: <https://vbspro.events/p/trinity2025> (QR Code below)



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:



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.

Yard Sale Volunteers Needed! We need your help to make sure our church-wide yard sale runs smoothly!

On Friday, May 2, from 9:30-11:30 am, we need people to help sort donated items

On Saturday, May 3, we need:

6-8 am -- people to help set up the yard sale

8-11 am -- people to help run the yard sale

11am -- people with vehicles to help take all leftover items to area thrift stores

If it looks like it will rain on May 3, we will shift the sorting to Friday, May 9 and the yard sale to Saturday, May 10.

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.

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.



We Remember

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20250416/>

Read: Luke 22:7-20

“... Do this in remembrance of me.”

Luke 22:19

The Civil War was the deadliest war in American history. Over 600,000 American soldiers died. After the war, families and friends who were sad and missed their loved ones would often decorate the graves of the fallen soldiers with flowers.

In 1868, a group of soldiers called the Grand Army of the Republic decided to make May 30th a special day called “Decoration Day,” where they decorated the graves of soldiers with beautiful spring flowers.

In 1882, this day was renamed “Memorial Day.” In 1967, it became an official holiday. Memorial Day is a day to remember—a day to honor those who died to give us freedom.

We honor their memory by decorating their graves. We honor their memory by being thankful for the freedom they fought for. We honor their memory by remembering what they did for us.

This week, we remember another sacrifice. Just like Memorial Day, Holy Week is a time to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. Holy Week is a time to remember how Jesus died to set us free from our sins.

On the night before Jesus died, he shared one last meal with his disciples. He gave them bread and said, “This is my body.” Then he gave them wine and said, “This is my blood.”

We call that Holy Communion. In Holy Communion, Jesus gives us his body and blood with the bread and wine in a special way to help us remember what he did for us.

Jesus died so that we could live forever with him in heaven. He died because death was the punishment we deserved for all the bad things we do. He died because he loves us so much.

Just like Memorial Day, Holy Communion is a Memorial Meal. When you see your parents and other adults receive Holy Communion at church—and when you receive it one day—take the time to remember.

(Continued on Next Page)

Remember what Jesus did for you on the cross. Remember his sacrifice. Remember everything he gave up for you.

Remember how he died so that you could live.

Questions to Consider

We have many symbols and pictures in church to help us remember. What should you remember every time you see a cross?

Many Christians memorize verses from the Bible (like John 3:16). Why would it be good for you to memorize Bible verses like that?

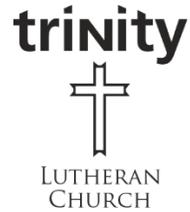
What other things can you do to help you remember what Jesus did for you?

Just like the soldiers who died fighting for our freedoms, Jesus died to set us free. From what did Jesus set us free?

A traditional name for Holy Communion is “Eucharist,” which literally means “thanksgiving.” What does that name remind us to do as we remember what Jesus did for us this week?

When Americans today celebrate Memorial Day, they often get distracted by picnics, hot dogs, and family get-togethers, to the point that they don’t remember what the day is all about. When we take Holy Communion at church, what similar temptation is there for us?

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.