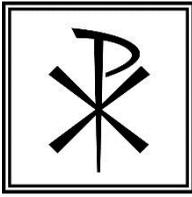




**Trinity Evangelical
Lutheran Church
of Abita Springs, Louisiana**

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 14, 2017 — Who is Jesus?



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Abita Springs, Louisiana

The mission of Trinity Lutheran Church is to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and to go and share the good news of Jesus Christ until he returns to take us home.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! We consider it a privilege to worship the Lord with you this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful word. If you are looking for a church home, we are happy to share ours with you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

- ❖ **Bring the kids.** Children are always welcome at our worship services. If your child is having a difficult morning, there is a speaker in the Fellowship Hall that will allow you to hear the service.
- ❖ **Restrooms** are located in the Fellowship Hall next door.
- ❖ **Don't feel obligated.** Our members give offerings to the Lord as an expression of thanks for his love. When the offering plate is passed, you're not expected to give an offering; it's your choice. While the offering is gathered, we'll ask you to sign our Friendship Register. Leave any information you're comfortable giving us—we use it simply to thank you for coming and to invite you back.
- ❖ **Make yourself at home.** After our services, we normally join together in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, snacks, and conversation. We'd be honored if you could join us!

BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Helpful prayers, including the one below, may be found in the front section of the hymnal, pages 10-11 and 134-139.

O Lord—our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter—we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray that you open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

TODAY'S WORSHIP THEME

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the life boat who saves you from sinking. He and he alone is able to rescue you. For many people, the exclusivity of Jesus' words is a stumbling block. Yet for you, Jesus is your foundation.

SERVING OUR LORD TODAY

Service Leader: Pastor Patrick Freese

Ushers: Bill Blake and Lester Palliser

Greeter: John Filipowicz

Music: Jan Blake

Fellowship Refreshments: Libby Breazeale

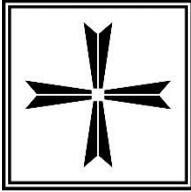
Church Cleaning: Regina Benton

Church Office: (985) 892-4880

Pastor's Cell: (985) 502-4021

Pastor's Email: freesepts@gmail.com

Trinity's Website: www.trinityabita.org



SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

248

When in Our Music God is Glorified

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me, according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

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

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, And
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -

Refrain

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Acts 17:1-12

¹When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. ²As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. ⁴Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

⁵But the Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other brothers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, ⁷and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." ⁸When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. ⁹Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

¹⁰As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. ¹¹Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. ¹²Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

M: This is the Word of our Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 33

Refrain

The earth is full of the good-ness of
God, the good-ness of our God.

Psalm tone

*

Refrain

Sing joyfully to the LORD, you **righteous**;
it is fitting for the upright to **praise** him.

For the Word of the LORD is **right** and true;
he is faithful in **all** he does.

By the word of the LORD were the **heavens** made,
their starry host by the breath **of** his mouth.

For he spoke, and it **came** to be;
he commanded, and **it** stood firm.

Refrain

The LORD foils the plans of the **nations**;
he thwarts the purposes of the **peoples**.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm **forever**,
the purposes of his heart through all **generations**.

The LORD loves righteousness and **justice**;
the earth is full of his **unfailing** love.

Glory be to the Father and **to** the Son
and to the Holy **Spirit**,
as it was in the **beginning**,*
is now, and will be forever. **Amen**.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 2:4-10

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- ⁵you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame."

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,"

⁸and,

"A stone that causes men to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

M: This is the Word of our Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

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



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

STAND

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-12

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

⁸Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

⁹Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹²I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

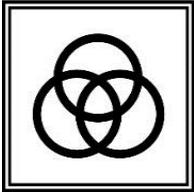
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SERMON

Who is Jesus?

John 14:1-12

STAND



THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

BE SEATED

THANKSGIVING

THE OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BE SEATED

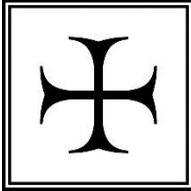
PRAYER HYMN

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spoke

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STAND

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



WE DEPART WITH THE LORD'S 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.



BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN
I Love to Tell the Story

562

SERVING OUR LORD NEXT WEEK (May 21, 2017)

Service Leader: Les Palliser

Sermon Reader: Bill Blake

Ushers: Bill Blake and Chip Rusich

Greeter: John Filipowicz

Music: Jan Blake

Fellowship Refreshments: Anya Nebeker

Church Cleaning: Regina Benton

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Welcome to guests and visitors!** We are glad that you are here and hope that you will join us again soon. If you have any questions about anything Trinity related, feel free to contact Pastor Freese at freesepts@gmail.com or (985) 502-4021.
- ❖ **2017 at Trinity:** As we look forward to this new year, we also take a look back at our roots. This year marks the 500th anniversary of the nailing of the 95 Theses by Martin Luther. This year we will explore our Lutheran identity while we also look forward to the future.
- ❖ **Hope² Life Coaching at Trinity:** Trinity is hosting Hope² Life Coaching every Thursday evening from May 4 through June 1. Ages 20 and up meets from 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm. If you're looking to improve communication skills, positive decision making, overcome obstacles in life, improve self-esteem, or improve your planning, this is the course for you. For more information, contact Indelethio Nebeker at 985-630-4102 or indy.nebeker@gmail.com
- ❖ **Pastor Freese on Vacation:** Pastor Freese will be on vacation from May 15-21. If you have an emergency that requires pastoral assistance, Pastor David Sternhagen has made himself available. You can reach him at (504) 259-9862.
- ❖ **Save the Date:** Our **Vacation Bible School** will be held on July 17-21 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Children ages 3-11 are welcome to join us as we marvel at how our God is a Mighty Fortress.
- ❖ **Midweek Bible Class:** You know 10 Commandments are important, but do you *know* the 10 Commandments? If you don't, this class will be a great opportunity to study the 10 Commandments and how they apply to your life. If you do know the 10 Commandments, this will still be a great opportunity to review these important truths. This study meets on Wednesday nights.