

Len & Mary Baldwin

In Memory of parents and relatives.
In Honor of Alice's 25th Birthday .

Margot Birkholz

In Memory of Paul W. Birkholz & Dan T. Birkholz.

Debbe, Lindsay, J. T. and Heather Conyers

In Memory of Jim Conyers, Don Olsen, Phyllis Angle, Frank & Marie Conyers, Ken Conyers, Joan Wilhelm, Wilma Danson, Tim Flynn, and other loved ones.

In Honor of Lily Conyers and Mason Conyers.

Pete & Joan Dana

In Memory of Brothers and Sisters.

Dan & Raenne Groathouse

In Memory of Irene Flohr Benskin (Beloved Mother).

Klaus & Jan Hanson

In Memory of Werner & Herta Hanson, Jack & Alice Barnes, Harold Neeman, Pat Hamel, and Marquerute Van Doorslaer.

In Honor of our children and grandchildren: Micha, Carrie, Steffi, Jared, Sonja, Luke, Livvie & Jon..

Jerry & Tammy Heggie

In Memory of Tammy's mom-Wilma Wessles Jerry's dad-Butch Heggie and our grandparents.

In Honor of our girls Hanna & Rylie, Jerry's mom-ShirleyHeggie, Tammy's day-Jerry Wessels & his wife Debbie.

Shirley Heggie & Family

In Memory of Butch Heggie.

Edward & Lois Hiller

In memory of Jocelyn Shaw.

Carlos & Marion Klinger

In Honor of our loved ones.

Pam Kruse

My son – Edward Kruse IV.

Mark Rehwaldt & Jennie Lawrence.

In Memory of Brian Axe (nephew) and mark Widegren (nephew's friend).

The Lyford family

In Memory of Gladys Jansen and Nina Lyford.

Eric Nye, Carol Frost, Charles & Ellen

In memory of Mary L. Nye, mother and grandmother.

Les & Karen Ommen

In Honor of our family.

Warren, Phyllis & Laura Ricklefs

In Memory of Norman & Mary Frances Ricklefs -parents. Raymond & Betty Eason-parents. Charles Ricklefs-brother.

Terri Rittenburg

In memory of James Smithson

Ralph & Judy Rohr

In Memory of our son Colin Timothy Rohr; Ralph's parents: Catherine & Elmer Rohr; and Judy's father: Paul G. Schuenemann, Jr.

Al & Bobbie Schimek

In Memory of Ann & Vincent Sachse, Lavern Schimek.

In Honor of our children: Troy, Jenna, Gavin, Tanya & Eric.

Nancy Shaw, Pastor Don & Dottie Dexheimer and Debbie & Frank Sanchez.

In Memory of Jocelyn F. B. Shaw.

The family of Jim Talbott.

In Memory of Jim Talbott

Laura, Tom, Amy, Jane & Maria Thurow

In Memory of George Thurow (Husband, father and grandfather).

Cheryl & Kent Wilson

In Memory of Paul Carstens; Jim Carstens; Carolyn Holmes and Bonnie Wilson.

George & Jennifer Zenor:

In Memory of George Watrin –Jennifer's Dad, George Zenor-Georges' Dad and Karen Zenor-Georges' Step-Mom.



OUR EASTER MEMORY GARDEN

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
107 s. 7th St.
Laramie, Wyoming
745-4222

APRIL 8, 2012

Sunday, April 8 Easter Day

6:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship

9:15 a.m. Sunday School / Fellowship

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK: Sara Steiner, (April 9); Janet Boss, (April 10); Lynn Pendleton, (April 11) and Mark Lyford, (April 13). Happy Birthday!

THE FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by the Anderson family in honor of Dustin's birthday.

F³ Faith, Friendship, Fellowship . . . for 3rd—6th graders will be held *this* Thursday, April 12th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Games, quizzes, singing, food, etc. will be happening. Bring a friend and plan on coming down.

LILIES: If you provided a lily for our service today you are welcome to take yours home after the 10:30 a.m. service.

NEW MEMBERS will be received into our church on Sunday, April 15th at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. If you would like more information, or to join with us, or know of someone who is interested, please get in touch with Pastor Rohr.

THE "HEART-TO-HEART" Baby Bottle campaign has ended. Please bring your bottle in as soon as possible.

QUARTERLY REPORTS for the 1st quarter of 2012 are now available on the table in the north lobby area. Please pick yours up as you leave today. Thank you.

DONATIONS for a pipe organ are being solicited. If you wish to make a donation please mark it clearly "Organ Fund" and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or bring it into the church office.

BUCK-A-CHICK SALE: This Easter, join congregations from across the country by supporting the "Buck-A-Chick" sale. TELC members can purchase and decorate a paper chick (copies of the "chick" page are available in the Gruver Room) for themselves or in honor of a loved one for one dollar. This is the cost of providing a chick to a family experiencing hunger. Funds raised with the "Buck-A-Chick" campaign will help TELC and ELCA World Hunger provide families living in poverty with chicks for a source of eggs, food and income. The "Buck-A-Chick" project starts this weekend through May 24th, the 50 days of Easter. Donation jars will be placed in the Gruver Room so that page purchases can be made on the honor system.

A LUTHERAN WOMEN'S RETREAT sponsored by Ascension Lutheran Church in Cheyenne will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 4-5. The theme is "*Christ the True Vine*" and focuses on hospitality, rejuvenation, and healing. It will be held in Cheyenne. Brochures and registration forms are on the table next to the restrooms in the Gruver Room. Registration deadline is April 9, 2012. Full registration is limited to 30 people. This will be a great couple of days of renewal. \$50 scholarships are available from Trinity.

THRIVENT NEWS: The Spring Luncheon for the Albany County chapter of Thrivent is next Sunday, April 15th at noon. The location is The Alice Hardie Stevens Center (6th & Ivinson). The chapter will provide lasagna, salad, bread and ice cream. Projects for 2012 and changes will be discussed. Bring your post card for the Door-Prize drawing. Please come join in this festive occasion. Thriven members and their personal guests are welcome. Questions, contact Connie Kercher at 742-6467 or Kercher@uwyo.edu.

PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK: Second Sunday of Easter: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1—2:2; John 20:19-13.

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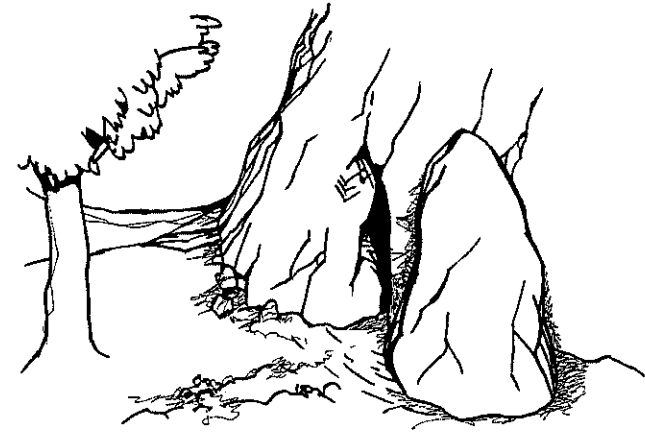
Serving the Church

	<u>TODAY (4/8)</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY (4/8)</u>
<i>Lector:</i>	8:00 a.m. Maia Anderson 10:30 a.m. Teresa Sherwood	8:00 a.m. Steve Boss 10:30 a.m. Andrea Toven
<i>Acolyte:</i>	8:00 a.m. Hailey Anderson 10:30 a.m. Owen Cossairt	8:00 a.m. Maria Thurow 10:30 a.m. Tavia Zenor
<i>Ushers:</i>	8:00 a.m. Jason & Jolene Roesler 10:30 a.m. Roland Kidwell Mike Smith	8:00 a.m. Keith & Martha Ensley 10:30 a.m. Klaus & Jan Hanson
<i>Greeters:</i>	8:00 a.m. Dustin Anderson Kelcey Anderson 10:30 a.m. Carlos & Marion Klinger	8:00 a.m. Ed & Laureda Dolan 10:30 a.m. Pete & Joan Dana
<i>Nursery:</i>	8:00 a.m. Lexi Dockter 10:30 a.m. Roz Kidwell	8:00 a.m. Kelly Kidwell 10:30 a.m. Tracy Kidwell

Stewards: Judi Weatherwax / C. Wilson *Altar Guild:* Judy Moline

Coffee Fellowship: The Andersons

	<u>This Week at Trinity</u>	
Sunday, April 8	6:00 a.m.	Worship (HC)
	7:00 a.m.	Easter Breakfast
	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	9:15 a.m.	SS / Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Tuesday, April 10	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
Wednesday, April 11	10:00 a.m.	Women's Study
	6-8 p.m.	Weds. Get-Away
Thursday, April 12	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir
	7:30 p.m.	Confirmation
	6:00 p.m.	F ³
	7:00 p.m.	Seekers



This man God raised on the third day...
ACTS 10:40

WE ARE HAPPY to have you with us today. We hope that our worship service has meaning for you and that you will come back and worship with us again soon. For those who wish, a nursery is provided during the worship service, just off the south lobby, for children ages five and younger. Please join us for coffee in the south lobby area after the service today.

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS are found in the back of the pew in front of you. If you wish, please fill them out and hand them to the usher during the hymn after the sermon. PEW PADS are found at the inside end of each pew. Please fill them out, pass them down to the end, and then return them to the center.

PLEASE RECYCLE THE BULLETINS: You are encouraged to take home any part of the bulletin that you would like. **Please** recycle the pieces that you do not choose to keep by putting them at either end of the pews at the back of the church. Help us save some trees! Thanks.

Announcements continue on the inside

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you — unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them — though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1–8**

Glory to you, O Lord.

The resurrection of Jesus is announced, and the response is one of terror and amazement.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He

has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN: "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

#366

SERMON: "For Terror and Amazement Had Seized Them"

**Mark 16:1-8
Intern Andrew Dietzel**

HYMN: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives!" (vss. 1-4, 8)

#619

***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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

With a new heart and new life, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

**A brief silence.*

In abundant joy, we pray for all Christian assemblies united this morning at the empty tomb. Help us see you in those we do not expect, and remove all fear from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In humility, we pray for this planet, our earthly home. Heal what we have scarred and broken; renew the face of the earth, from north to south, from east to west, to reflect Christ's glory. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In hope and love, we pray for the nations of the world. By the light of the resurrection, destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples. Bring peace to every country, city, village, and household. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In hope, we pray you will wipe away the tears from all who weep. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and send your angels to watch over the vulnerable and sick. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In grace, we pray for those joyfully gathered here by your Spirit. Give us words to boldly proclaim Christ crucified and risen. Feed all visitors here today with your Word. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

**Here other intercessions may be offered.*

by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

PSALM: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (Read responsively)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD is exalted!
The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"

¹⁷I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.

¹⁸The LORD indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰"This is the gate of the LORD;
here the righteous may enter."

²¹I give thanks to you, for you have answered me
and you have become my salvation.

²²The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³By the LORD has this been done;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The core of the Christian faith and Paul's preaching is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the crucified and risen Christ appeared to the earliest of his followers, so we experience the presence of the risen Lord in the preaching of this faith.



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** (In unison)

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to the Gentiles just as it had to Jews.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained

In thanksgiving, we remember those who saw the Lord in life, and now see him face to face. May their faithful witness inspire us to sing our "Alleluia!" again and again. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Passing from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life, we commend to you, gracious and ever-living God, all for whom we pray.
Amen.

***PEACE:**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING:

***OFFERTORY:** "He is Exalted"

Parks, arr: Bock

***CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY:** "Let the Vineyards..."



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER:**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***HYMN OF PRAISE:**

Refrain
Assisting minister

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

All

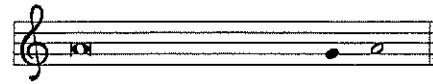
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

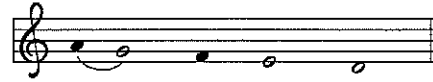
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

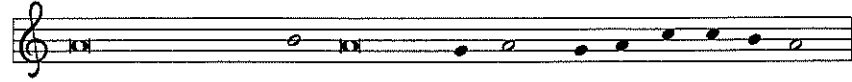
***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



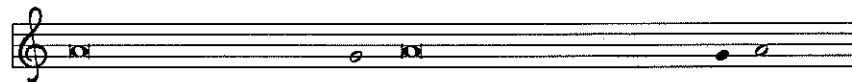
Lord, have mer - cy.



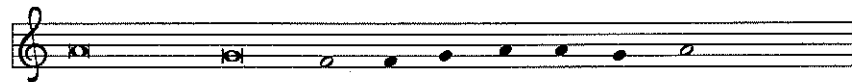
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



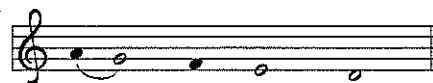
Lord, have mer - cy.



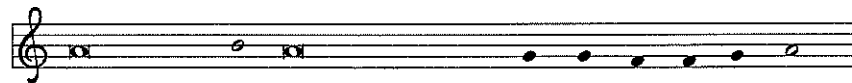
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



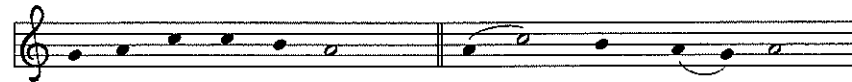
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



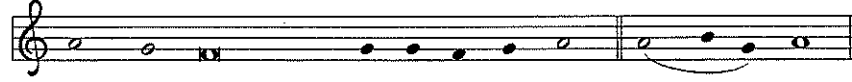
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

LAMB OF GOD:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION:

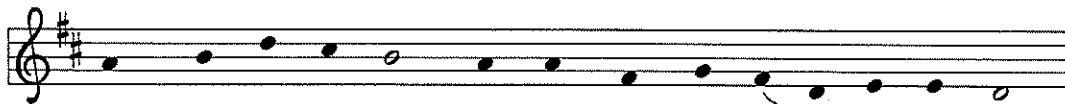
***POST COMMUNION HYMN:**



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has



been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion



which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:



a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection)

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**
We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
**In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things we have done
and things we have failed to do.**
**Turn us again to you,
and uphold us by your Spirit,**
**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.
By grace we have been saved.
In the name of + Jesus Christ,
our sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.
Amen.

***GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 South 7th Street — Laramie, Wyoming 82070
(307) 745-4222 e-mail: telc@qwestoffice.net
website: telclaramie.org



God's Work . . .
. . . Our Hands

Pastor..... **Ralph Rohr**
Congregation President..... **Roland Kidwell**
Intern..... **Andrew Dietzel**
Office Secretary..... **Colleen Miner**
Organist..... **Dan Groathouse**
Judy Rohr
Choir Director..... **Larry Hazlett**

Sunday, April 8, 2018—Easter Sunrise—6:00 a.m.
Holy Communion

*Standing

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

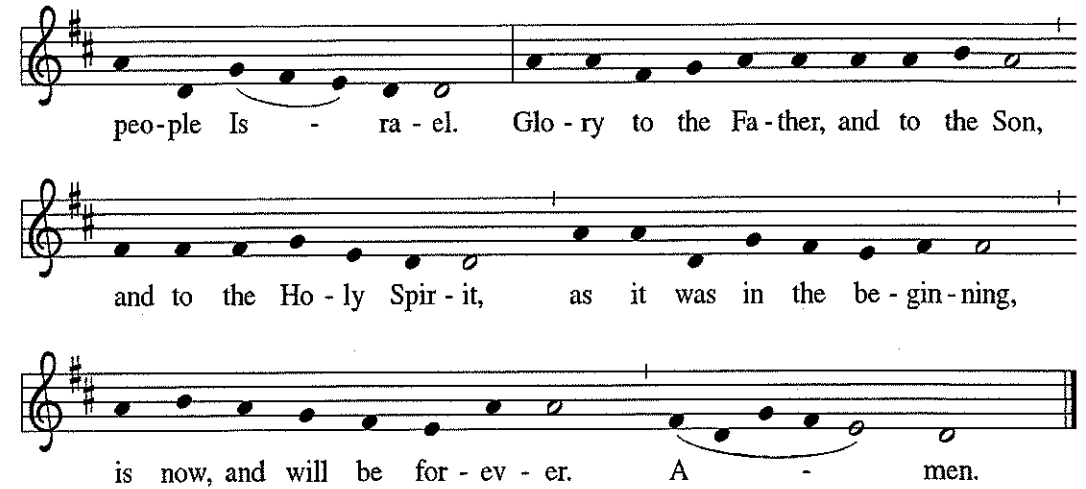
This year may be the one in which John's resurrection account is likely to be chosen over Mark's, perhaps because Mark's gospel ends so abruptly, with astonishment and fear rather than joyful proclamation. Yet Mark may speak to our experience more directly than the other gospels. Corinthians and Acts fill out the story by telling of appearances of the risen Christ. Peter says we "ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." And so do we, in a foretaste of the mountaintop feast where death will be no more.

THE UNVEILING OF THE CROSS:

*HYMN: "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!" #382

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



*POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

*BLESSING:

PARISH SHARING TIME:

*HYMN: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" #385

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES . . . HYMN CHIME:

*SENDING:

*POSTLUDE: "Lift High the Cross" Nicholson setting: Paul Manz

Amazed Anew

As the Marys and Salome approach Jesus' tomb to perform the sad duty of anointing his body, the last thing they expect is to find it empty. They don't know how they will get inside: "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" They are startled to find that barrier gone and a young stranger telling them from within: "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Their first reaction is not joy but terror and confusion. In fact, they flee, so horrified and puzzled that "they said nothing to anyone."

On this day, we also approach the empty tomb. Our sanctuaries are bedecked with flowers. Joyful brass will punctuate rousing melodies, and the pews will echo with uncountable alleluias. We will also be told that Jesus has risen. What will we make of it? Can we find within ourselves the same fresh amazement of those women from two millennia ago?

It is easy to forget the shock and the improbability of the resurrection. It is easy to accept it blandly, like a clichéd greeting-card message. Instead, we must allow ourselves to be amazed anew. On Friday, we counted ourselves among the losers of history. We saw our beloved teacher humiliated and crucified. We watched his lifeless body lowered and put away. We mourned. But today we are told he lives again, eternal and invincible. The power of God defies our expectations.

Resurrection must always shock us. In our faith, the dead rise! And we, who were dead in our estrangement from God, are reborn and lifted up into new life. Every year, we ought to wonder at it: how we always get another chance, according to God's promise.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 9, 2012 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Tuesday, April 10 - Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.

He isn't here, but has been raised.

Luke 24:6 CEB

Raised!

