

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Service of Holy Communion
May 24, 2026

(Note: All wording for the liturgy and hymns will appear on our large monitor screens just above the altar area.)

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRELUDE "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us (*local waters may be named*).
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.

C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

+HYMN “God Is Here!”

- 1 God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

- 2 Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

- 4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost was a Jewish harvest festival that marked the fiftieth day after Passover. Luke portrays the Holy Spirit being poured out upon the disciples before the gathered and astonished people assembled in Jerusalem for the festival. Filled with the Spirit, the disciples were able to witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Gospel: John 20:19-23

The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

SERMON "Time For The Harvest"

Weekly Topic "Talking to Others About Christ"

- 1 Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart,
and make me love you as I ought to love.

- 4 Teach me to love you as your angels love,
one holy passion filling all my frame:
the baptism of the heav'n-descended dove,
my heart an altar, and your love the flame.

+THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "Come, Holy Spirit"

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *“In the night in which he was betrayed...”*

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION “Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling” #523

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+ SENDING HYMN “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.
- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.

3 O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+THE DISMISSAL

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
"Making a Difference"
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Staff

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Jack DiMatteo
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Melissa Sturtevant
Director of Music	Mrs. Kathy Sacchiero
Assistant Director of Music	Ms. Jennifer Jessen

Serving Today (5/24)

Lector: Joyce Maul **Video:** Don Gulliksen, Artie Crane
Communion Assistant: Elida O'Hara
Offering/Usher: Judy & Eugene Randazzo
Counters: Joanie O'Connor & Carol Schutz
Altar Guild: Lisa Bischer

Serving Next Week (5/31)

Lector: Cindy Alverado **Video:** Don Gulliksen, Artie Crane
Communion Assistant: Paula Zeliff-Murphy
Offering/Usher: Matt & Elin Maitilaso
Counters: Raena Scherwa & Carol Schutz
Altar Guild: Lisa Bischer

Weekly Announcements (5/24)

Flowers are given in remembrance of our military men and women.

There will be a Memorial Gathering to Celebrate the life of Roy Selland, Saturday, June 6 at 11:00am at Norbu Lodge. Join with Barbara, family and friends to thank God for a life well lived and for the gift of eternal life.

RISE UP Rockaway Community Breakfast will be served this Saturday, May 30, 8-11am, at the First Presbyterian Church 35 Church St. Rockaway. All welcome!

Save the Date. There will be a potluck dinner for all congregations in the NJ Synod Western District. The event will be on Sunday, June 14, 3-7 pm at Crossroads Camp and Retreat Center, 29 Pleasant Grove Road, Port Murray. Sign-up sheets to be sent electronically soon. Donation: \$15 per person over age 13; \$7.50 per person ages 6-12; Maximum family cost = \$30. Watch future bulletins and emails for details.

Vacation Bible School is Coming! Our sister congregation, Shepherd of the Hills, Sparta is offering VBS the week of July 20-24. Each session lasts from 9:00am to noon. For information and registration materials, please go to <https://www.sothnj.org/vbs> or call Nancy at 973-729-7010.

Sign-ups now available for Sunday Worship volunteers for July, August, and September. If you would like to help with any of the following: Lector, Communion Assistant, Usher/Offering, Counter, or Altar Guild, and are not currently on our list of volunteers, this is your chance to sign up! Please reach out to Melissa in the church office, htl.church@gmail.com, or Joyce Maul to sign up. Training is available.

Lunch and Learn Adult Bible study topic. Classes are offered on the first and third Wednesdays at noon in the choir room. See Pastor for details.

Did you know? Each week, Pastor's weekly days off are Fridays and Saturdays. Of course, exceptions are made for urgent matters, emergencies, weddings, and funerals

Ever wonder where we obtain the "wording" for our worship liturgies? For several years, we have had a subscription to receive materials from "Sundays and Seasons", an organization fully endorsed by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This group provides our varying confession litanies, prayers, responsive readings, texts, hymn suggestions, and more.

Did you know that RISE UP is a not-for-profit interfaith corporation to serve the needs of the local impoverished? "RISE UP" is an acronym: Rockaway Interfaith Services to Empower the Unemployed and Powerless. To find out how you can support RISE UP, simply go to www.riseupnj.org or grab a flyer from the table in our glass-enclosed vestibule. Thank you for your support.

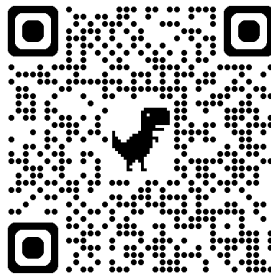
Choir Rehearsal every Sunday 10am. New voices always welcome!

Want More insight on today's topic? Check out past sermons on this topic on our YouTube channel under the playlist titled "Talking to Others About Christ"

Open your phone's camera app

Point it at the QR code below

Then click on the pop-up banner that appears on your screen



Voting Members of Council
2026 COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Joyce Maul, 516-967-4282 Joycemaul1705@gmail.com
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Gerry Lauro, 201-803-2501, Gerry.Lauro@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Vacant
Recording Secretary	Erin Osterhout, 973-615-1026 eosterhout@optonline.net

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Youth Representative	Kacey Osterhout

Non-Voting Team Representatives

RISE UP Liaison	Ellen Crane, 973-461-3002
WELCA (Women's Group President)	Ruth Ann Greiner, 973-366-3922 ragreiner@verizon.net