

April 26, 2026

4th Sunday after Easter
Rev. Jonathan Meyer, Pastor
Pastor's cell – (979) 540-7973

Color- WHITE [Holiness, innocence, and purity]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@ gmail.com
Church – (979) 773-2634
Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Martin Schubert
The Head Usher – Allan Urban
The Altar Guild – Linda Patschke, Julie Schubert
The Organist – Ruth Meyer
The Flowers – To the glory of God in honor of and welcoming our recent new members, Emery & Cason Iselt and Kristen Winkler and children Toby & Emma.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd
The Organist – Ruth Meyer
The Acolyte – Boone Brockenbush
The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack
The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay Curtis Yurk, Victor Yurk
The Altar Guild – Connie Boriack, Sandra Cass
The Flowers – To the glory of God by Wesley & Connie Boriack in honor of their 37th wedding anniversary this Wednesday (29) by their family.

TO OUR VISITORS - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless your, and our, hearing of the Word of God. *** Would you please sign the GUEST REGISTER [*please also include your address*] in the NARTHEX before leaving the church?

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE - PAGE 5 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

SILENT PRAYER upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear Your Holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S DIVINE SERVICE READINGS – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Those Who Wait on the Lord Shall Rejoice The people of God are pilgrims and sojourners in this world, looking ahead to a destination yet to come. Though we are now children of God, the fullness of what we shall be has not yet been revealed. (1 John 3:1-3) We are those who wait on the Lord. “*The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.*” (Lamentation 3:25) Jesus tells us that the wait is just a little while. “*A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.*” (John 16:16) Though you must experience

sorrow for a time, though you must live as strangers in a world that is at enmity with Christ, yet your sorrow will be turned to joy when He returns. The little while of weeping shall be replaced with an eternity of rejoicing in the presence of Christ the crucified and risen Savior. “*And no one will take your joy from you.*” (John 16:22) (*lcms.org/lectionary-summaries*)

A READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Just as our Lord's dear disciples had sorrow for a little while when He died and was buried for the sins of the world, so too do we – as our Lord's dear baptized believers – have sorrow for a little while over our own sins before the comfort and joy of the Gospel of forgiveness is revealed.

By His Law God strikes down both obvious sinners and false saints. He declares no one to be in the right, but drives them all together to terror and despair. As Jeremiah says, “*Is not My Word like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*” (23:29) This is true sorrow of heart, suffering, and the sensation of death. This is what true repentance means. Here a person needs to hear something like this, “You are all of no account, whether you are obvious sinners or saints in your own opinions. You have to become different from what you are now. You have to act differently than you are now acting.” But to this office of the Law, the New Testament immediately adds the consoling promise of grace through the Gospel. This must be believed. As Christ declares, “*Repent and believe in the Gospel.*” (Mark 1:15) That is, “become different, act differently, and believe My promise.” The Law accuses all and convicts them of being sinners. This is so they can acknowledge before God that they are lost and can be prepared to receive grace and to expect and accept from the Lord the forgiveness of sins. This is what Christ Himself says, “*Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in My Name to all nations.*” (Luke 24:47) Through sin the Law kills. On the other hand, the Gospel brings consolation and forgiveness. (*Smalcald Articles, Part 3, Repentance*)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: ♪ 207

SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGES 5 TO 14, FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT

PASTOR: Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Alleluia.

CONGREGATION: Sing the glory of His Name; give Him glorious praise! Alleluia.

P: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds!

C: So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.”

P: Come and see what God has done:

C: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.

P: Bless our God, O peoples;

C: let the sound of His praise be heard,

P: Who has kept our soul among the living

C: and has not let our feet slip.

♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Merciful God, faithful Father, Who disciplines all those whom You love so that we may not be condemned with the wicked world, we implore You to comfort us in all our afflictions with Your Word and Spirit, so that by patience and perseverance in the faith we may overcome the miseries of this present world, all the while abiding in

the firm and joyful hope that You will quickly turn our sorrow into joy and glory everlasting; for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 🎵 Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – LAMENTATIONS 3:22-33

P: ³²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; ²³they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in Him.” ²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. ²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. ²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. ²⁸Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him; ²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust – there may yet be hope; ³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults. ³¹For the Lord will not cast off forever, ³²but, though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love; ³³for He does not afflict from His heart or grieve the children of men.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11

P: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God.

C: It is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

P: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

C: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

P: He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.

C: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.

P: The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.

C: Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!

P: He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass grow on the hills.

C: He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

P: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor His pleasure in the legs of a man.

C: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His steadfast love.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON – 1 JOHN 3:1-3

P: ³¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON

C: 🎵 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 16th chapter.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

GOSPEL LESSON – JOHN 16:16-22

P: [Jesus said:] ^{16:16}“A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me, because I go to the Father.”

¹⁷Then some of His disciples said among themselves, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I go to the Father?’” ¹⁸They said therefore, “What is this that He says, ‘A little while?’ We do not know what He is saying.”

¹⁹ Now Jesus knew that they desired to ask Him, and He said to them, “Are you inquiring among yourselves about what I said, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me?’” ²⁰ Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. ²¹ A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²² Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: ♪ **Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

APOSTLE’S CREED [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: ♪ 192

SERMON: SORROW TURNED TO JOY IN JESUS – JOHN 16:16-22

Jesus said: “I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.” (Jn. 16:22) Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ our blessed Savior. Amen. What a loving Savior we have! He tells us the truth, because He is the Truth of God incarnate. Even when divine truth may not sit well with us at first.

Jesus certainly had the option of going to the cross for His disciples and for us without ever informing them and us of it beforehand. Yet in His infinite wisdom and goodness, our Lord made it very clear to them and to us that “*the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised to life.*” (Lk. 9:22) Three times in the Gospel accounts Jesus foretold or prophesied His death and resurrection. And if you count our Gospel reading today, He did so even more times than that.

His opening words to His disciples are unmistakable – at least to us. He tells them that in the not-too-distant future, they’ll no longer see Him or be with Him. How come? He’ll be dead and buried away from them. But soon after, they’ll see Him again. How come? Dear saints of God, you know how come! Only after His resurrection will He go to His heavenly Father and theirs in His ascension into heaven.

The disciples have no idea what He means by these words. What’s important for them is that God the Father will keep them in His good and gracious care, since Christ His Son will die and rise for them to save them in the one true Christian faith. Sadly, one of them – Judas Iscariot – will coldly reject all of this and be lost forever. But the other Eleven will be preserved “*pure and holy*” (Hymn: *Children of the Heavenly Father*) in Christ Jesus.

What’s also important is that, after all is said-and-done by their Savior, the disciples will be able to look back upon His deeds and words and remember them. They’ll know for sure that His Word is Truth, (see Jn. 17:17) that He accomplished everything He said He would – for them and for us all.

You can hear and read Jesus’ words to you in this Gospel in the same way – believing them with all your heart, because they’re true. Christ indeed accomplished all He said He would for the Eleven and for you too. All that the Old Testament Scriptures also foretold He’d do, He did do. Hasn’t your Father in heaven also kept you in His good and gracious care from your mother’s womb to the Baptismal font to now? Doesn’t the Holy Spirit preserve you pure and holy, and keep you in the one true Christian faith through the death and resurrection of Christ your Savior? You know He does!

There’s also the reality of the disciples’ sorrow, weeping and lament at the death of their Lord. Had they truly believed and understood Jesus at this point already, then they wouldn’t have needed to sorrow over His death for them and for us – since they’d also know that He’d rise again for them and for us. Yet they’re in the dark when it comes to understanding Jesus’ words prior to the cross and the empty tomb. So yes, they go on to grieve over their Lord and Master’s death and burial. He gets that right too because He’s God and knows all things.

But don’t think that Jesus tells them this just to inform them that they’ll be saddened and sorrowful at His decease. He foretells all this to comfort and console them before His betrayal and arrest, suffering and death, and during it. They’ll be deeply disconsolate as they see Him abused and nailed to a tree; as they watch Him suffer and die. But their anguish will not go on-and-on.

Their agony will be like that of a mother in labor. During the labor itself, the pain of it is so intense that that's all she can experience and think about. But after the delivery of her child, he or she will be all the mother can think about, and alongside her newborn child will come great joy! All the disciples will be able to think about during His Passion is their Lord Jesus being taken from them forever. And the agony of this will be overwhelming to them. Only at His resurrection will they learn to their surprise and joy that their agony is truly over for good, as was their Lord's agony upon His death.

What doesn't sit well with us is the reason for Jesus' suffering and death: our fallen nature and sinfulness. And the part that doesn't sit well with us is that God in His Word exposes our wretched nature and sin-guilt for what it is: our out-and-out rebellion against Him. We break His Holy Law since we want to do what we want to do, and not always what He commands us to do. To go in the way we want to go, and not always in the way of God. Honestly, it should be all over for us at this point. Jesus should say to us, as He should've also said to His disciples, that He's leaving us, and that we'll never see Him again. Jesus actually says this to the Pharisees and His other mortal foes: *"I am going away, and you will look for Me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come."* (Jn. 8:21)

But Jesus never says anything like this to us, or to His disciples, does He? Instead, He says to us: *"I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Mt. 28:20) And, *"in my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also."* (Jn. 14:2-3)

It's for us to repent of our many sins and turn hard to God in contrition, sorrowful over our condemning trespasses. To come before Him with penitent hearts, saying, *"God be merciful to me, a sinner!"* (Lk. 18:13) Trust; know for certain that He's merciful to you, always, since Christ died for your sins and is risen for your justification before the Father! (See Rom. 4:25) Believe in Jesus, since *"there is...now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the Law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the Law of sin and death."* (Rom. 8:1-2)

We needn't sorrow anymore over Jesus' death since it has occurred, it's done, and we know the result. He's risen indeed! While we should and must sorrow over our sin, when we look to Christ upon His cross, from there and from His empty tomb, we hear Him speak peace to us. It's then that our sorrow is turned to joy.

It has been an honor and joy to serve as your pastor these last eleven years and four months. I will miss all of you very much, for you've held me in Christian love just as I've held you in the same. You've supported my family and me as I've endeavored to support y'all. You've heard Jesus through these poor, sinful lips – to God alone be the glory for that!

So then, continue on, firm in the faith in this Church – Christ's Church and yours! On the Sundays that the Divine Service is at St. James/Holy Trinity, be present there every bit as eagerly and as much as you've been present here. Never stop hearing Jesus and eating of His body and blood! Support one another in love. Be faithful to your Lord Jesus Christ unto death, and He'll give you the crown of life! (See Rev. 2:10) Amen. *The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*

OFFERTORY [PAGES 12-13]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (BIDDING PRAYER)

P: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ:

Almighty and everlasting God, since You have revealed Your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ and in the Word of His truth, keep, we ask You, in safety the works of Your mercy so that Your Church, spread throughout all the nations, may be defended against the adversary and may serve You in true faith and persevere in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God:

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, receive the supplications and prayers which we offer before You for all Your servants in Your holy Church that every member of the same may truly serve You according to Your calling; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for our younger members, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord:

Almighty God and Father, because You graciously grant growth to Your Church, increase the faith and understanding of our young ones that, rejoicing in their new birth by the water and Your Word in Holy Baptism, they may forever continue in the family of those whom You adopt as Your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty:

O merciful Father in heaven, because You hold in Your hand all the might of man and because You have ordained, for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do well, all the powers that exist in all the nations of the world, we humbly pray You graciously to regard Your servants, especially our President; the Congress of the United States; our Governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws; that all who receive the sword as Your ministers may bear it according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray to our Lord God Almighty that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick, and a safe journey to all who travel:

Almighty and everlasting God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the strength of the weak, may the prayers of those who in any tribulation or distress cry to You graciously come before You. We pray especially for: _____. Have them, in all their necessities, to rejoice in Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church:

Almighty and everlasting God, because You seek not the death but the life of all, hear our prayers for all who have no right knowledge of You, free them from their error, and for the glory of Your Name bring them into the fellowship of Your holy Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's Holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians:

Almighty and everlasting God, King of Glory, and Lord of heaven and earth, by Whose Spirit all things are governed, by Whose providence all things are ordered, the God of peace and the author of all concord, grant us, we implore You, Your heavenly peace and concord in Your Church, that we may serve You in true fear, to the praise and glory of Your Name, and grant peace as well between warring countries, especially our country and Israel in their conflict with Iran, and Ukraine's conflict with Russia; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation:

O almighty, everlasting God, through Your only Son, our blessed Lord, You have commanded us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who persecute us. We therefore earnestly implore You that by Your gracious visitation all our enemies may be led to true repentance and may have the same love and be of one accord and one mind and heart with us and with Your whole Christian Church; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will:

O Lord, Father Almighty, by Your Word You created and You continue to bless and uphold all things. We pray You so to reveal to us Your Word, our Lord Jesus Christ that, through His dwelling in our hearts, we may by Your grace be made ready to receive Your blessing on all the fruits of the earth and whatsoever pertains to our bodily need; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: ♪ 187

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: Almighty God, You show those in error the light of Your truth so that they may return to the way of righteousness. Grant faithfulness to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Church that they may avoid

Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, R. D. Latimer [son of Margo Latimer and brother of Guy Latimer (St. James)], *Diane Sommers* [sister of Janet Frosch (St. James)], *Gloria Evans* [mother-in-law of Randall Sullivan (St. James)], *Zachary Hartfiel* [nephew of Charles Hartfiel], *JoAnne Meyer* [mother of Pastor Meyer], *Carole Heller* [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)] and *all of our sick and shut-ins*.

+++Holy Trinity...yesterday (4-25-26)...**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISMS** was held at Holy Trinity...**Toby Douglas Jambors**, son of Jeff and Kristen Winkler, born July 19, 2019. His sponsors are: Veronica Lindholm (witness), Chase Hibbeler, Ethan Wachsmann, Kelsey Wachsmann, and Michelle Winkler and **Emma Grace Lindholm**, daughter of Jeff and Kristen Winkler, born July 20, 2014. Her sponsors are: Veronica Lindholm (witness), Clark Strickland, Cortney Stickland, Carol Thiele, and Betty Wachsmann. God bless these children and keep them steadfast in the faith.

*****BIRTH**...on Monday (4.20.26), our Lord Jesus blessed **Carson** and **Jewell Overby** (St. James) with the gift of a healthy baby boy, **Shepherd Ryan**. We pray that our Lord Jesus would be with both mother and child and keep them in His continual care.

+++**HOLY TRINITY**...We are asking for men to volunteer to serve as ushers. If you are interested, please sign up on the usher sheet at the back of the church. If you have questions or want more information, please see either Jeff Winkler or Tim Falke. Thank you!

+++Our **Joint Vacation Bible School** is planned for June 29-July 3! This year's VBS theme will be "*Back to Jerusalem*"!!! It takes a lot of hands, so if you would be willing to help, please contact the church office.

*****ST. JAMES**...the LWML would like to **THANK** everyone who helped and donated flour for our recent noodle making fundraiser! We have a few extra bags of noodles, so if you would be interested in some, please see either Lynetta Latimer or Sandra Lay! Thank you for your support!

+++Pastor Meyer has accepted at call to Grace Lutheran in Midland. We prayer for him and his family, as well as our congregations, for God's continued love, help, guidance, and blessings! Today is his last service with us!

*****Holy Trinity Ladies Aid**...wishes to express their sincere **THANKS** to everyone who helped and participated in their **TURKEY DINNER** last Sunday. Once again, thank you for a successful fundraiser!!!

+++**TODAY**...Holy Trinity and St. James will be having a **farewell Potluck Dinner** honoring Pastor Meyer and his family following the service at St. James at the parish hall. Bring your favorite dish/dessert(s) to join in fellowship and good food as we wish them farewell!!!

*****St. James**...we have a variety of Confirmation cards available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!

+++**Around the Word Devotions**...Daily devotions are a great way to be in the Word of God, to pray to Him, to confess His Holy Name, etc.. It can also be found online on our Church website, trinity-stjames.org/devotions, or at whatdoesthismean.org/devotions.

*****QUILTING**...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9-12!!!

+++**THE FLOWER CHARTS**...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".

*****ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK**...St. James-Wesley & Connie Boriack, 29; George & Amber Dockery, 30.

+++**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**...Holy Trinity-Michelle Holmes, 1;...St. James-Racheal Glover, 27; Braden Exner, 28; Jamie Jatzlau, 29; Sandy Woelfel, 29; Kayla Perry, 1; Della Biehle, 2.