

**WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1505 College Avenue, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310-4861

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025**  
**4:00 PM**

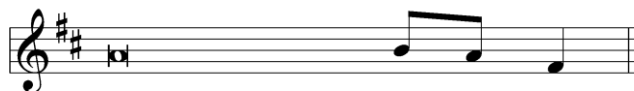
**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**PASTOR DONAVON (BILL) HEITHOLD'S RETIREMENT WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**VESPERS**

**Trinity Ringers** “Glory of the Cross”, based on traditional Easter hymns

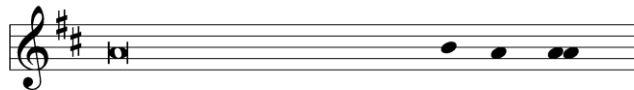
*Stand*



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 148*

- P <sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
C **praise Him in the heights!**  
P <sup>2</sup>Praise Him, all His angels;  
C **praise Him, all His hosts!**  
P <sup>3</sup>Praise Him, sun and moon,  
C **praise Him, all you shining stars!**  
P <sup>4</sup>Praise Him, you highest heavens,  
C **and you waters above the heavens!**

P <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD!  
 C **For He commanded and they were created.**  
 P <sup>6</sup>And He established them forever and ever;  
 C **He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**  
 P <sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
 C **you great sea creatures and all deeps,**  
 P <sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and mist,  
 C **stormy wind fulfilling His word!**  
 P <sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
 C **fruit trees and all cedars!**  
 P <sup>10</sup>Beasts and all livestock,  
 C **creeping things and flying birds!**  
 P <sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
 C **princes and all rulers of the earth!**  
 P <sup>12</sup>Young men and maidens together,  
 C **old men and children!**  
 P <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 C **for His name alone is exalted;**  
**His majesty is above earth and heaven.**  
 P <sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for His people,  
 C **praise for all His saints,**  
**for the people of Israel who are near to Him. Praise the LORD!**  
 A **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.**

*Sit*

**HYMN** ..... *PAGE 467*

### **"AWAKE, MY HEART, WITH GLADNESS"**

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. John Kelly, 1833–90, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## **Readings**

### **First Reading**

*Acts 5:12–32*

L A reading from Acts, chapter 5.

<sup>12</sup>Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. <sup>13</sup>None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. <sup>14</sup>And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, <sup>15</sup>so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. <sup>16</sup>The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

<sup>17</sup>But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy <sup>18</sup>they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. <sup>19</sup>But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup>"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." <sup>21</sup>And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.

Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council and all the senate of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought. <sup>22</sup>But when the officers came, they did not find

them in the prison, so they returned and reported, <sup>23</sup>“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” <sup>24</sup>Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. <sup>25</sup>And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” <sup>26</sup>Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

<sup>27</sup>And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this Man’s blood upon us.” <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup>The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Revelation 1:4–18*

L A reading from Revelation, chapter 1.

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him Who is and Who was and Who is to come, and from the seven spirits Who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.”

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.”

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands One like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. <sup>14</sup>The hairs of His head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the First and the Last, <sup>18</sup>and the living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel**

L A reading from John, chapter 20.

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld.”

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

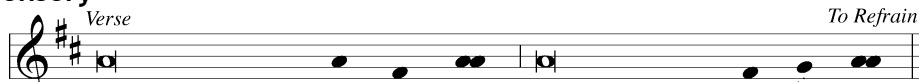
<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsory**

LSB 230



**L** 1 Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth.  
 2 Unite my heart to fear Your name that I may walk in Your truth.  
 3 Glory be to the  
 Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



**C** Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Sit

**HYMN** ..... **PAGE 645**

**“BUILT ON THE ROCK”**

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.  
 Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

## Canticle

## LSB 933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the  
great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004008

Tune: Public domain

## Prayer

## Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## Lord's Prayer

## Collects



**P** The Lord be with you.

LSB 233



**C** And with your spir - it.

### Collect of the Day

**A** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Collect for Peace

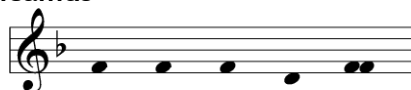
**L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

### Benedicamus

LSB 234



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

*Sit*

# Farewell and Godspeed to a Pastor Entering Retirement

*The retiring pastor is presented before the altar. The minister or lay officer, standing before the altar, says:*

L Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Pastor Bill Heithold is retiring from his pastorate at this congregation. At this time of farewell and Godspeed, let us hear the Word of the Lord.

A <sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

A <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**From where does my help come?**

My help comes from the LORD,

**who made heav'n and earth.**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place

**in all generations.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

**from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

The years of our life are seventy,

or even by reason of strength eighty;

**yet their span is but toil and trouble;**

**they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

**that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

Let your work be shown to your servants,

**and your glorious power to their children.**

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

and establish the work of our hands upon us;

**yes, establish the work of our hands!**

**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.**

*Stand*

*The retiring pastor may kneel.*

L Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we give thanks for all the blessings You have bestowed on this congregation through the ministry of Your servant Pastor Heithold. By Your Holy Spirit grant him grace that, by his example of faithful devotion to Your Word, he may continue to be a blessing to many. In Your mercy support and strengthen him, and grant him a cheerful spirit, peace, and blessedness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace and joy. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and bless and strengthen you for faithful service in His name.  
C **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

*LSB 234*

P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C **Amen.**

**HYMN** ..... *PAGE 922*

### **“GO, MY CHILDREN, WITH MY BLESSING” STANZAS 1-4**

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008  
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.  
Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004008  
Tune: Public domain

### **Acknowledgments**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.