



# spirit

## NEWSLETTER

### *The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church*

### *“Set Free to Serve One Another”*

### *April 2025*

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**Worship Schedule:**

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor..... Kathryn Rackley

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Tim Mize

Council Vice-President...Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Tina Schwab

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

**The Paschal Mystery\* — An Invitation to Transformation**

Most of us who have been raised in the church are familiar with the term "Paschal Mystery" and associate it within the context of Holy Week and the Triduum (from the Latin meaning "three days" which refer to the great ceremonies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter). Unfortunately, our understanding tends to remain objective — viewing this great mystery of the church as being solely a remembrance of the historical events pertaining to the passion and death of Jesus of Nazareth. By consigning this mystery to a memorial commemoration of past events, we end up stripping it of any relevance within our present context or of any power within our lives. Thus, it becomes imperative that we recognize that the liturgies of Holy Week are not merely ceremonies commemorating an event long past but rather a ritual means that invites us to become active participants within the mystery itself.

So, what is this Mystery into which we are being invited? The essence of the Paschal Mystery is best revealed in a parable offered by Jesus in response to the request from Greeks who were seeking to engage Jesus during the run up to the Passover Feast. Jesus' response to their request was quite simple, "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). Because of our "post-Easter" perspective and historical conditioning, we hear this parable only as an allusion to Jesus' being betrayed, crucified, and raised from the dead on the third day. And although there is truth in that understanding, it falls well short of the fullness of Jesus' teaching and the reality of the Resurrection. Here Jesus is not simply referring to physical death — neither his nor ours — but to fullness of life — the God life — that is ours when we are willing to let go (die) of our false-selves (our ego-self or personality) and open ourselves to the life of the Spirit (our true-self or God self). In this simple teaching, Jesus is reminding us that there are in fact two kinds of death: physical death and paschal death. And both are real. Physical death is the demise of our physical bodies — the phase of the life process in which all of creation participates. Paschal death is an eradication of all that impedes our relationship with God. Thus, the image of the grain falling to the ground and dying in order to produce a new kind of life is an apt image of paschal death.



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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Like physical death, paschal death is about letting go. Our true Self, or God Self, can only be restored as we are willing to let go of the ego-self (personality) we have spent a lifetime creating. And because this is the only self most of us know, the fear of annihilation is real. This is why Jesus taught that unless you are willing to lose your life, you will never find it. The new life found in Christ is not simply the resuscitation of our old life but the imparting of a radical new life. Resurrected life is a richer life because it is lived from our true Self or God Self. It is ultimately the experience of Divine Union — knowing that "God and our true Self are not separate. Though we are not God, God and our true Self are the same thing."<sup>1</sup>

The paschal mystery, then, is about paschal death and resurrected life. The teaching and example of Jesus of Nazareth is that as we journey the path of human life — which includes suffering and loss, surrender and letting go — we become capable of living into the fullness of Life Itself. The human journey takes us from the limiting and small self of the ego into the fullness of the human *being* we are created to be. The paschal mystery reminds us of the paradoxical nature of spirituality — that it is only as we become empty, receptive, insignificant and weak that we become most open and are capable of experiencing God's grace in our lives.

In the paschal mystery we are invited to begin the process of letting go of our false-self or personality in order that we may embrace the God Self that lives within. The paschal mystery is the invitation to enter into the cosmic Christ — into the Divine Itself, the Word of God, in whom we live and move and have our being. This is the place of uninhibited faith that *knows* that God's will is being done *no matter what our circumstances may be*.

\* Paschal is from the Aramaic "pasha" which means passover. And mystery denotes a truth not yet understood and that is still unfolding.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Keating, *Open Mind, Open Heart* (New York: Continuum, 2007), 158.

We ask you to keep the following siblings in Christ in your prayers:

**Niki Grigsby**  
**Patty Gurka**  
**John Kurtz**  
**Phil Pesko**

**Jack Schwab**  
**Annie Slaughter**  
**Mardell Weiss**  
**Clara Wilcox**



If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.



2<sup>nd</sup> Dave Schatt  
8<sup>th</sup> Tina Schwab  
10<sup>th</sup> Bonnie Piskac  
15<sup>th</sup> Kyle Schwab

## *The Monday Discussion Group*

We continue discussing  
TRUSTING GOD IN TROUBLED TIMES,  
the book of Isaiah.

Coming up in April:  
Here Is My Servant  
You Are Precious  
Turning to God  
Strong Foundations for Service

You're welcome to join us any Monday  
at 1PM in the fellowship room.



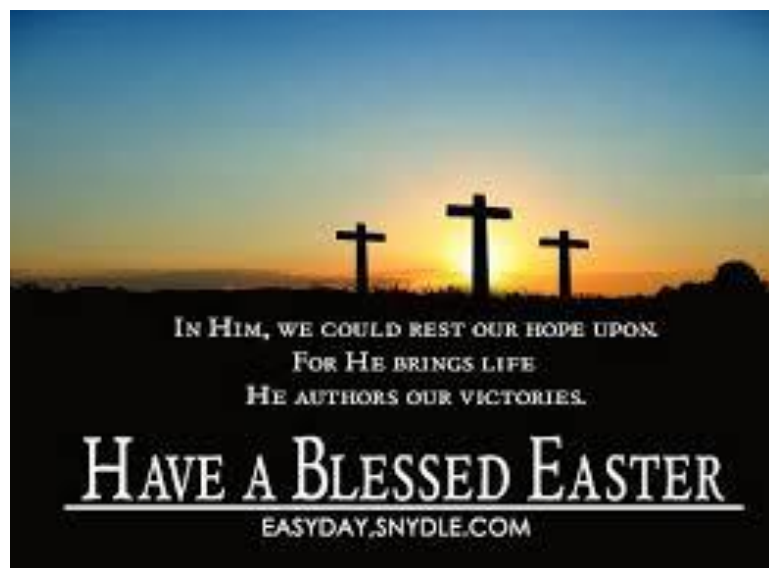
## **Important Dates coming up:**

Palm Sunday April 13, 2025

Maundy Thursday April 17, 2025

Good Friday April 18, 2025

Easter April 20, 2025



# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  AA @ 7pm	2	3  AA @ 8 pm	4	5
6 WORSHIP @11 AM	7 Bible Study @ 1pm	8  AA @ 7pm	9	10  AA @ 8 pm	11	12
13 WORSHIP @11 AM  PALM SUNDAY	14 Bible Study @ 1pm	15  AA @ 7pm	16	17 Maundy Thursday  AA @ 8 pm	18 Good Friday Service @ 4:00PM	19
20 WORSHIP @11 AM  EASTER	21 Bible Study @ 1pm	22 Earth Day  AA @ 7pm	23	24  AA @ 8 pm	25	26
27 WORSHIP @11 AM	28 Bible Study @ 1pm	29  AA @ 7pm	30			