



*Ah, holy Jesus, how has though offended
that we to judge the have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted. ELW #349*

April 6, 2020

Greetings in Christ's name!

It is a different kind of Holy Week that we enter into this year. We did not get to gather in the sanctuary to wave palm branches while joyfully singing "All Glory Laud and Honor." We will not gather in the sanctuary on Maundy Thursday to hear the story of Jesus washing disciple's feet, an act of servanthood by the savior. We will not have the opportunity to gather together in the sanctuary to hear the passion story of Jesus arrest, trial and death. We will not gather face-to-face on Easter Sunday for the traditional triumphal services. It is a different kind of Holy Week.

Yet, it is still Holy Week. Easter is coming. We will still worship. Thanks be to God for Trinity's decades long radio ministry – which means we can still worship, even if it is not face-to-face. Thanks be to God for the gift of new technology which is allowing us to "Live Stream" our worship services now thanks to the estate of Alice Marks. Worship will be different but we will still worship the One who overcame sin, death and darkness when he arose Easter morning.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I pray that during this very unusual Holy Week you will find new ways that the passion story connects to your everyday life. I pray that this story would take root in your very being, helping you to see that the resurrection gift is a gift for the whole world, which includes you. You are a beloved one of the Savior.

Here are some Family Faith Questions to engage with others during this Holy Week. If you are home alone consider calling one of your church family members to ponder these questions together.

- What has been the most difficult aspect of "social distancing" and the associated disruptions to daily life?
- Can you recall a time when new life came from what felt like an experience of death?
(for example, the loss of a job that lead to a better opportunity)
- Who or what is often on your mind?
- What are you praying for these days?
- When life "returns to normal" what is something you will do?

One day we will be able to worship together again, face-to-face. I look forward to that day. Until then we remember that Christ is our Hope. Together we will come through this and we will give thanks to God!

In the meantime, I give thanks to God for your faithfulness. Members of this congregation continue to financially support the ministry. That means people are being fed. (Did you see Jan and the Trinity Food Pantry on the news?) Your faithful support means staff are available to lead worship services. It means we have been able to partner with congregations who don't have the technology Trinity does. It means we have been able to talk and pray with members in need, and provide resources for faith building in the home. Trinity has a strong ministry and it will continue because of you.

Included in this mailing are several peel-off stickers for those who mail in their offerings. It is our attempt to make giving as easy as possible. It is also possible to give electronically through our website trinitybismarck.com. Click on the word “Donte” which is on the top banner. Another “Donate” button will appear, click on it and you can give either through Paypal or with a credit card. Also included in this mailing is a document to become an electronic giver through “Simply Giving”.

At the same time, we want to offer all of our members an opportunity to continue a Trinity Lutheran tradition. Each Easter there is a special offering to support a local ministry. This Easter is no exception. The special offering is for Heart River Bridges of Hope – a ministry of Heart River Lutheran Church, Mandan. Bridges of Hope works with young people incarcerated at the Youth Correctional Center. You can mail your special offering to Trinity, in the memo line please write “Bridges of Hope Offering”.

I am so thankful for your faithful generosity. How ever you give, thank-you! Your offering is having an impact, ministry is happening. What ever you give, whether it is \$25, \$50, \$100 or more a month, thank-you! All of these gifts gathered together will keep Trinity’s ministry in Christ’s name strong. All gifts joyfully given are graciously received. Through these gifts we are offering hope in Christ’s name.

I also want to acknowledge that there are members who have been financially impacted by this virus. For some it has been a blow to your business, to others it has meant a lay-off or cut in hours. If your financial condition has been impacted, please know we understand that your ability to give is affected as well. Please know that I am here to give a listening ear, a word of support or time for prayer. Please call me, we will walk through this together.

I also want you to know that we have taken steps to curb expenses. No purchases are being made without serious consideration. The technology upgrades we have made were possible because of memorial funds or specially designated gifts like the Alice Marks estate. We will continue to be wise stewards of the resources shared with Trinity.

Know that you continue to be in my prayers. Do not be afraid to call if you need someone to talk to or pray with, we are not too busy for you. I dream of the day when the doors of the church will swing wide again, when we can worship together face-to-face, where we can lift our voices high in praise of God. That day will come. God is faithful. Christ is our hope!

Blessings,
Pastor Mark Narum

News from Trinity:

-Council has voted Trinity will not hold face-to-face worship through April 30th in keeping with the President’s extension of social distance guidelines calling for gatherings of no more than 10 people. Trinity will continue to provide worship services through 1270AM and Live Streaming through Facebook.

-Bulletins for worship services are available on the Trinity website at www.trinitybismarck.com, look to the lower right corner and you will see a tab which says “Bulletin.”

-Remember: ***Maundy Thursday*** and ***Good Friday*** worship will air at **6:30p.m.** on **1270 AM** as well as being Live Streamed on our Facebook page.