

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2024

Leading in Worship Today

Welcome and Announcements
 Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey

Pastor: *John D. Jordan* AV Director: *Marie Stiles*
 Music Director: *Christopher A. McCroskey* AV Assistant: *Chris Derrick*
 Time Together: *Mary Sue Lewis; Fran Laska*

Call To Worship "God Is So Good" Choir
 Centering Words

*Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" 327

Opening Prayer
 The Lord's Prayer 895

Proclamation of the Word
 Prayer of Illumination

"Let the Children Come!"
(Those 3 years of age through 8 years of age may go to Children's Church.)

New Testament Reading Acts 1:1-11 Page 113 (N.T.)
 Psalter Psalm 47 781

*Hymn "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" 175

Gospel Reading Luke 24:44-53 Page 88
 (N.T.)

Anthem "More Precious than Silver" Choir
In Memory of Jackie McNeill

Epistle Reading Ephesians 1:15-23 Page 182 (N.T.)
 Sermon "Christ the Head" Rev. John Jordan

*Affirmation of Faith "The Apostles' Creed" 881

*Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" 70

Pastoral Prayer
 Presentation of Tithes & Offerings
 Offertory "We Shall Behold Him" Christopher A. McCroskey
In Memory of His Mother, Nancy Hargett

*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

*Hymn "My Hope Is Built" 368

*Dismissal With Benediction
 *Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" Choir

*The Congregation May Stand

VISITORS ARE WELCOME in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

TODAY'S LOVELY FLOWERS are given to the ***Glory of God.***

“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS...

English Pearcy Patsy Zeigler Charlie Hooker Kaye Floyd Patsy Shuler Becky Derrick
Erin Derrick John Ballentine Jimmy Grahl Latson Lewis

Shut-Ins: Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; Jan Weaver

Family and Friends: Chantel Griffin (sister of Erin Derrick); Russell Eubanks (son-in-law of Jo Ann Heiting); Malcolm Skipper (grandfather of Matthew Skipper); Bryan Collard (brother-in-law of Mary Sue Lewis); Charlyn McNeill (sister of Mary Sue Lewis); Elizabeth Kelsey & Jamie Barnett (friends of John & Kay Jordan); Alex Courtney (friend of great nephew of Joyce Robinson); Lawrence Gilbert (friend of Becky Derrick); Bob Bohnstengel (spouse of Jo Ann Heiting's cousin); Missy Abrams (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); Mary Davis (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); Gloria Erd (friend of Lynn Martin); Pearl Geddens (mother of Tom Geddens); Ross Deal (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); Nancy Wilson (friend of Jeanette Hornsby); David Turner (brother of Pam Turner); Ernie & Betsey Hendrix, Chip Mixon (friends of Tommy Gleaton); Ron & Janet Walker (friends of Tommy & Chris Gleaton); Merit Takach (friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson); James Boggs (father of Claire Boggs); Stacy Coggins (daughter of Steve Aiello); Bill Areheart (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); David Grandshaw (brother-in-law of Edwa Meek); Robert Bradley (Business Associate of Simon Ross); Gary Becton (friend of Mark Branham); Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller (friends of Chris Derrick); Adrin & Linda Hargett (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); Haidee Baehr (friends of Ruth Frady); Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson (cousins of Gale Frady); Dan Conner, Max Johnson (friends of Gale Frady); Bernardo Velasquez, Walt & Janet Beck (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); Adam Lavender (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com.

OUR PRESENCE ...

In-Person Attendance 05/05 SS: 10 Worship: 33

OUR GIFTS ...

General Fund 05/05 \$ 6,089.54

OUR SERVICE ...

OUR WITNESS.”

Upcoming Events

- 05/13 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
- 05/14 Grieving With God, 11 a.m.
- 05/15 Wednesday's Words, 11: 30 a.m.
Choir, 6 p.m.
T.a.G., 7 p.m.
- 05/16 Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.
- 05/17 Office Closed

Readings for May 19

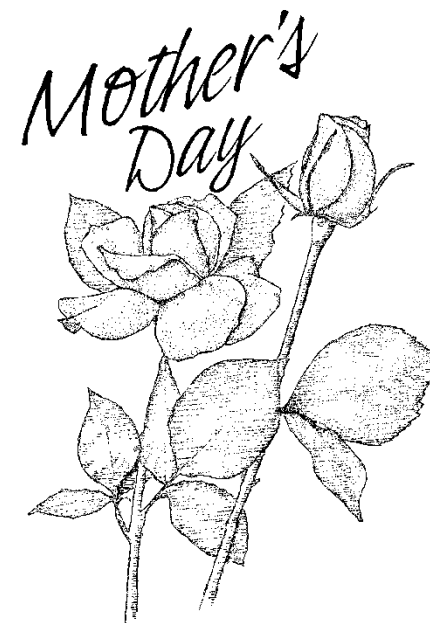
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



Ministers	The Congregation
Pastor	John D. Jordan
Resident Bishop	Jonathan Holston
District Superintendent	Rev. Fran M. Elrod

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform



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A date and time will be announced soon for the Trinity Ladies Group. Contact Marie Stiles at (803) 463-9706 if you are interested in being added to the group email and text for notification.



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Grieving with God
Tuesday, May 14

All who are on the journey of grief are invited to join us each second Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room of the church. We are using the book "Good Grief" by Granger E. Westberg. Copies are available each session and in the church office. Retired Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplain from Richland Hospital, Jerry Fonte, facilitates discussion,



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Ephesians 1: 15-23

I grew up on a farm in South Georgia. Whenever we wanted chicken for supper, Granddaddy would get his hatchet, go into the chicken yard, grab a hen, hold it down on a log, and chop the head off. Because the nerves are still active after decapitation, the headless chicken would run around the yard for a minute or two. I always thought this was the most hilarious thing ever. You see where the phrase “running around like a chicken with its head cut off” comes from.

The chicken must have a head to be complete. Individuals and organizations must have a head to be complete. Without a head, the part that guides and directs the body, an entity runs around aimlessly without purpose. Everything- animals, people, organizations, and institutions- must have a head to be complete. Without a head, it will die. Without a head, we will die. Without a head, the church will die. Without clear guidance and direction, any person or organization will die.

Of course, we say that our head is the part of the body from the neck up. The head, specifically the brain, tells the rest of the body what to do. But our head is not complete. Our heads may make mistakes and errors in judgment. Our heads may not always function at their optimal level. Even with our heads on we may run around like a chicken with our heads cut off. Our heads are not complete until they are filled, but with what?

Paul compares the Church to the body. Paul is not talking about the Church as an institution but as a community of believers coming together to worship, learn, and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since the Church is a body, it needs a head. It needs guidance and direction. The Church needs a head that will fill and complete it. The Church today needs a head.

So, who is the head of the Church? Is it the pope, the bishop, the pastor, the administrative and ministry teams? What will fill and complete the Church? What does it need to be filled with so it may be complete?

Was Paul the head of the Church in Ephesus? Paul adamantly said no! He was not the head of the Church in Ephesus or any Church. The one who was the head of the Church is the head over all things. The head of the Church in Ephesus was Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church today. Jesus Christ is the one filling the Church, making it complete. Jesus is the head of Trinity, not me. I can only fill it with words, but Jesus fills it with “the immeasurable greatness of his power.”

If Jesus fills it with “the immeasurable greatness of his power,” then Jesus must not have much power. Look at the decline of the Church and empty pews, not just here but in many Churches. If there was immeasurable greatness of power, this place and every Church would be packed.

Notice Paul says, “the immeasurable greatness of his power **for us who believe.**” Perhaps that is the rub. Paul is not talking about mere belief but trusting completely in Jesus. Paul is saying that the immeasurable greatness of his power will come for the Church as we completely trust Jesus as our head. We completely trust Jesus to guide and direct the Church.

Perhaps we have put our trust in the Church as an institution. Perhaps we have put more trust in the organization. Perhaps, we have put more trust in our dogmas. Perhaps we have put more trust in our puny human heads instead of the true head who gives us the immeasurable greatness of his power!

God did not raise Jesus from the dead to sit up on some cloud looking down on us. God did not raise Jesus from the dead to just sit up and judge us. God raised Jesus from the dead to put God's power to work so all may be filled with divine power. Jesus is the head of all things and by his guidance all will be restored into the image of God.

When we make Jesus the head of our Church, our families, and our lives, we will receive immeasurable power. When we let Jesus guide our ministry, what God has for us to do will be revealed and we will no longer run around like a chicken with our head cut off. We have Christ as our head.

Jesus will fill us with a spirit of wisdom. Wisdom is the knowledge of things human and divine. There is an interesting grammatical point in this phrase in Greek that makes a subtle difference in the meaning of the phrase. The literal translation is "a spirit of with wisdom." I know that makes very little sense in English, but it changes the meaning. Instead of a spirit that gives wisdom, Jesus gives a spirit that works with wisdom. With Jesus as our head, we are given a spirit that operates with divine wisdom.

With this spirit of wisdom, there is revelation. Revelation is the progressive and immediate unveiling of the otherwise unknown and unknowable God to the Church.¹ With Christ as the head, God is revealed to the church. God's will for the Church, for Trinity, is revealed. Without Christ as the head, we cannot know God's will for the Church or us.

With Christ as the head, we see the hope of the inheritance that God has for us. Hope is favorable and confident expectation. We perceive this expectation as we operate with a spirit that works with divine wisdom. God's will is progressively unveiled. We perceive God's will now and for the future. We can see the future God has for us and Trinity.

How do we make Christ the head of the Church and our lives? The reality is that Christ is already the head of the Church and our lives. God has made Christ head of all things, including the Church, our families, and our lives. Christ is the one appointed by God to guide and direct everything.

We accept Christ as the head of all things through faith. We completely entrust our lives, families, Church, and all things to the guidance and direction of Christ. We follow the example of Christ outlined in the Gospels. We put aside our thoughts and desires. We empty ourselves to be filled with the Spirit of wisdom. We receive the revelation of God. We perceive with favorable and confident expectations the calling of God for our lives individually and communally.

Without Christ as the head, we are like the chicken with its head cut off. We run around aimlessly until we die. With Christ as our head, we receive divine direction and purpose. We receive God's wisdom and power to transform the world. We expect the inheritance God has for us, eternal life. With Christ as our head, we and the Church live.

¹ James Strong, *The New Strong's Expanded Dictionary of the Words of the Greek New Testament*. In *The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001) 62.