4th Sunday after Easter Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973 Our website – <u>www.trinity-stjames.org</u>

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler

The Organist – Kevin Patschke

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Mary Ann Blair, Joyce Iselt

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – David Clifford

The Organist – Dorothy Wachsmann

The Acolyte – Korban Brown

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay

The Altar Guild - Connie Boriack, Sandra Cass

<u>TO OUR VISITORS</u> - 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 <u>GUEST REGISTER</u> [please also include your address] in the <u>NARTHEX</u> 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 SCRIPTURE READINGS – THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Jesus Promises to Send His Holy Spirit, the Helper Though Jesus has departed from us visibly to the right hand of the Father Who sent Him, this is to our advantage. For Jesus – Who is Lord over all creation, Who intercedes for us before the Father, Who is preparing a place for us in heaven – has sent the Helper, the Spirit of Truth. (John 16:5-15) "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights" through Jesus Christ. (James 1:17) The Holy Spirit helps us by taking what is Christ's and declaring it to us. In the Word of Truth, the Spirit works repentance and delivers to us the forgiveness of sins, the righteousness of Christ, and victory over the devil. For the ruler of this world is judged and defeated by the cross. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we have been brought forth to new life in Him Who is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. Confident of our resurrection with Christ we confess, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid." (Isaiah 12:2) (Icms.org/lectionary-summaries)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to declare – to and through His disciples and servants of the Word – all truth. This includes and even begins with the truth of our sin, of which we are unaware apart from His rebuke by the Law, and from which we are saved from by His Gospel proclamation, and motivated toward good works.

We must also explain the Law's office regarding believers' good works. The Law indeed says it is God's will and command that we should walk in a new life. But it does not give the power and ability to do this. The Holy Spirit renews the heart. He is given and received, not through the Law, but through the preaching of the Gospel. Thereafter the Holy Spirit uses the Law in order to teach the regenerate from it and to point out and show them in the Ten Commandments what is the "will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) He encourages them to this. When they are idle, negligent, and rebellious in this matter because of the flesh, He rebukes them through the Law. So the Spirit carries on both offices together: He slays and makes alive. For His office is not only to comfort, but also to rebuke. For it is written, "When the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." (John 16:8) Therefore, as often as believers stumble, they are rebuked by the Holy Spirit from the Law. By the same Spirit they are raised up and comforted again with the preaching of the Holy Gospel. (FC SD, Article 6: The Third Use of God's Law)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: Sing to the Lord a new song, Alleluia! For He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations, Alleluia! His right hand and holy arm have worked salvation for Him. He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, break forth in joyous song and sing praises! (Psalm 98:1-4, with alleluia)

CONGREGATION:

☐ Glory be to the Father....

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: O God, King of glory, You have exalted Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, with great triumph by raising Him from the dead. Do not leave us comfortless, but send us Your Holy Spirit, that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error and lead us into all truth, so that we, being steadfast in the faith, may increase in love and in all good works, and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – ISAIAH 12:1-6

P: ^{12:1} You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to You, O Lord, for though You were angry with me, Your anger turned away, that You might comfort me. ² "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my Strength and my Song, and He has become my Salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His Name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His Name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:1-8

P: Shout for joy to God, all the earth.

C: Sing the glory of His Name; give to Him glorious praise!

P: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! So great is Your power that Your enemies come cringing to You.

C: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your Name.

- **P:** Come and see what God has done: He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.
- C: He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.
- **P:** We rejoiced in Him there, He Who rules by His might forever, Whose eyes keep watch on the nations do not let the rebellious exalt themselves.
- C: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY: □ 206:1-5

EPISTLE LESSON – JAMES 1:16-21

- **P:** ^{1:16} Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
- ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- **P:** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON - JOHN 16:5-15

C: A Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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

C: ■ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] ^{16:5} But now I am going to Him Who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see Me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: I Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLE'S CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY (CONTINUED):

■ 206:6-10

SERMON: HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH - IN. 16:5-15

"When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the Truth." (In. 16:13) Amen.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. In our Gospel text for today, the Lord Jesus prepares His disciples for His ascension into heaven and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of God. This is very fitting since the next festival on the Church calendar is the Ascension of our Lord, which we'll celebrate two Sundays from now. And then Pentecost Sunday, which we'll celebrate three Sundays from today.

In John 15:26-27, Jesus has spoken of the Holy Spirit Who's to come and bear witness about Him. Then in John 16:1-4, Jesus tells the disciples why He's spoken of the Spirit – to prepare them for their coming trials and tribulations.

Our text for today speaks of the Holy Spirit as a person of the Holy Trinity and His threefold work that continues to this day. In verses 5-7, Jesus emphasizes that He must go to the Father Who sent Him to suffer, die, rise again and ascend back to heaven. This news understandably saddens the disciples. But He goes on to say that, unless He goes away, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, won't come. The Spirit can't bear witness to Jesus' great redemption until He has completed it. Pentecost must be preceded by the cross of Calvary, the empty tomb and the ascension sky.

The phrase, "going to the Father" is a summary of all the saving work of our Lord Jesus because He goes to the Father through his suffering and death, resurrection and ascension. The raising of Jesus on the cross was proof, in the world's eyes, that He was a guilty criminal Who needed to be gotten rid of forever. But whereas the world lifted God the Son up on the cross to do away with Him, God the Father lifted Him up to heaven as the demonstration of Jesus' innocence and the world's guilt.

Jesus' resurrection and ascension prove not only that He's the Son of God, but also that the Father has put His stamp of approval on the teaching and work of Jesus. Christ's doctrine is the Truth! Furthermore, the resurrection of our Lord is proof-positive that God the Father has accepted the sacrifice of His Son for the reconciliation of the world, so that we're now reconciled to the Father forever. As such, all believers in Christ shall arise to eternal life just as He first did.

In John 16:15, Jesus says "All that belongs to the Father is Mine." He says this because He's equal to the Father in all aspects. So He attributes to Himself the majesty, power and glory that can't be given to any creature, neither to a person nor to an angel. In speaking about how God the Holy Spirit will "take what is Mine and give it to you," (In. 16:14) Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit is also true God together with the Father and the Son from eternity.

The first part of the Holy Spirit's work is to reveal the sin of every person alive and to call us all to repentance. "All have sinned." (Rom. 3:23) The greatest sin is refusing to believe in Jesus – rejecting what He did to save fallen humanity forever. Where the sin of unbelief prevails there's no hope. Where there's repentance over sin and faith in Christ there's nothing but hope all around!

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin by the preaching of the Church of God. The preaching of God's Word isn't only the proclamation of the Good News of salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ, but also the moral Law of God. It's proclaimed in such a way that we and all people are urgently called to repentance – to a right knowledge of our sins, that we must hate them and turn from them in haste! And that we must be forgiven them, saved from them by God.

The second part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to call all people to realize that any righteousness of ours is insufficient to achieve our salvation before God since our so-called "personal holiness" is worthless, even contemptible in God's eyes. Many believe that through their own goodness, piety, works and zeal they can earn the necessary merit to be accepted by God into His everlasting Kingdom. However, the Spirit teaches us in His Word that we're justified, declared righteous by God not by our own works, but by faith alone in the sacrifice of Christ in our place for our sins.

Our Lutheran Confessions teach from Holy Scripture that the Holy Spirit convicts both believers and unbelievers of sin. (See FC:SD, Article 5) We too always need to know just how fallen and sinful we are so that we daily repent and turn to our Lord Jesus. Which is why the Holy Spirit rebukes us also as long as we're alive here on earth. (See FC:SD, Article 6) Truth-be-told, our sinful nature leads us to distrust our Savior more than we'd like to admit. Even so, the Holy Spirit, through the Gospel of Christ, comforts us with the righteousness of Christ. "In Adam all die...; in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22) If original sin is universally infecting and killing us all, how much more so is the universal righteousness of God in Christ meant for all, given to everyone to make us alive in Him!

For this reason, we speak of this work of the Holy Spirit as sanctification, which is Him instantly sanctifying, making the sinner holy and righteous unto God through faith in Jesus. This He does through His Gospel Word and Holy Baptism.

The third part of the Holy Spirit's work is His giving us the understanding that the ruler of this world has been judged, defeated and conquered. The greatest judgment of all is the defeat of Satan. Genesis 3:15 – the promise of Christ' crushing the devil's head forever for us, at the cost of His own life – is truly fulfilled in His self-sacrifice for us on the cross. In Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension, the prince of this world lost his power as our accuser. Furthermore, as the Spirit carries out His work of convicting the world of sin and proclaiming the righteousness of

Christ through the Church, so does He uphold the judgment of the devil and all those who refuse to repent; who don't believe in Jesus.

Therefore, in verses 12-15, Jesus promises that the Spirit will guide the Church into all truth. Jesus says three times that the Holy Spirit will give us the Word, the Truth of Christ. The Spirit of holiness doesn't speak for Himself, apart from what Jesus tells Him. And so the Holy Spirit never works apart from the Truth that Jesus gives Him to bestow on us. He always and only ever operates through the written Word of God and His Sacraments. Apart from these, the Spirit doesn't speak and doesn't work.

We glean from this that God the Holy Spirit won't reveal new teachings to us. He'll never have anything to say to us beyond the written Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, such as new revelations, predictions of future events or whatnot. The Spirit of God says quite enough about the fierce struggle between the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God in the New Testament for us as believers to be warned and comforted in the midst of our trials and sorrows.

Jesus' cardinal promise that the Holy Spirit will always guide you, His Church, into all Divine Truth is fulfilled in the preaching of the Apostles and the writings of the New Testament. Also, the three great ecumenical Creeds of the Church – the Apostles', the Nicene and the Athanasian Creeds – are products of the Holy Spirit by which we profess the one true Christian faith in our Holy Triune God, by which we're eternally saved.

Praise God the Holy Spirit for cleansing the Church of false teachings and keeping it "as the Church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth!" (1 Tim. 3:15)

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) Amen.

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23]

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God our Father, You have provided a well of salvation, springing up from the empty tomb of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lead us to drink deeply from His Word of life and never neglect His gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, You are our Strength and Song, and Your dear Son has become our salvation. Create and sustain true faith in us, that we may trust in You and Your Son and not be afraid of anything in heaven and on earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift is from above, from You. Though we are not worthy of them, You have graciously rained down on us both spiritual and physical gifts. Enlighten our minds, that we would not be deceived by the lies of the world and boast of our self-sufficiency, but recognize these good gifts and receive them from You with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.

Gracious God, You raised Jesus from the dead and You bestow His perfect righteousness on Your Church. You have called us to be slow to anger, for the fury of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Put away all filthiness, wickedness and wrath from our midst, that receiving Your Holy Word, we may grow together unto salvation. Create in us kind and loving hearts, that we may love our neighbors and help and support them in every need. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Faithful Father, You have promised the gift of Your Spirit to make known to us all truth and to keep us in Your Word. Grant to us Your Church faithful pastors who will teach Your Word and devoted Church workers who will serve Your people in Your Name. Bless those preparing for Church work vocations, and inspire many to follow Your call. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.

Father of the risen Christ, St. Paul commanded the Church to teach and exhort with Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Strengthen the songs of Your Church today to glorify the Gospel of Your living Son, Who is enthroned upon the praises of His people. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Your Son acknowledged Satan as ruler of this world and its ways, yet one whose reign is judged and whose time is short. Beat back his lies and deadly work, that the order of Your creation may be seen. Give us good

government and leaders who are both honest and faithful. Even so, let us look eagerly for Your Son's return, and let His coming be soon. Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

Hear the prayers of intercession we offer in the unity of Your Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Comforter, especially for _____. Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

Dear Father, sorrow filled the hearts of the disciples at the thought of Christ's ascension. Help us, rather, to rejoice that He sits on heaven's throne and reigns among saints and angels. Comfort us in this communion of saints, until at last we join with them in Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him Who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: J 201

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful people to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured us the forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily, and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Last Week

CLOSING HYMN: 4 196

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

	OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY			
	Worship	Comm.	S.S. & B.C.	Offerings
Trinity	37	30	12	\$1,390.00
St. James	41	31	4 12	\$2,101.00

Sunday Offerings-Trinity, Fedor Building Operating Missions Cemetery Week Goal 23,824.00 Actual 27,522.87 2,370.00 16 Last Week 1,390.00

Sunday Offerings-St. James, Lexington **Operating** Mission Future Development Total Week 42,160.00 Goal 42,160.00 Actual 35,124.25 20.00 50.00 35,194.25 16

2,101.00 2,101.00

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY +Pastor's Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- +++We remember in our prayers:...at <u>Holy Trinity</u>...Eldor Brade, Dorothy Schimank, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;...at <u>St. James</u>...Dolores Sullivan, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Lois Turner, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Ruth Siegmund [friend of St. James members], JoAnne Meyer [mother of Pastor Meyer], Carole Heller [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], Amber Brockenbush [friend and relative of St. James members], and all of our sick and shut-ins.
- ***Ingathering Collection: As part of the Ingathering for the TX District LWML Convention in Corpus Christi this summer, St. James LWML will be collecting toiletries for Rainbow Rooms, an emergency resource center that helps CPS case workers meet the critical needs of abused and neglected children. We are collecting full-size body wash, shampoo, and toothpaste for this purpose. Please place your items in the box in the narthex beginning in May. Thank you for helping these children!
- +++The Fedor Ladies Aid wishes to express their sincere appreciation to all those who helped in any way with our annual Turkey Dinner. We truly appreciate and are thankful for your assistance in making our dinner a **HUGE** success. God bless all!
- ***Blessing of New Hymnals...at St. James...new, blue Lutheran Hymnals have been very generously donated to the Church to match our new, blue carpet, we will be blessing those hymnals **TODAY**, the 28th, during the service following the offering. Each hymnal will be blessed to the glory of God and for holy and faithful use in Divine Worship.
- +++Rummage sale...a Youth Group/Week Day School rummage sale was held yesterday!!! We express our **THANKS** to all you donated and helped up with a successful fundraiser!!!
- ***St. James Noodle Making: St. James LWML will be making noodles on Tuesday, May 7, beginning at 8:30am. All volunteers are welcome to help! We are also in need of Gold Medal flour donations. Please drop them off at the church or parish hall before May 7. If anyone would like to pre-order noodles, we are selling them for \$10 a pound. Please place your order(s) with either Lynetta Latimer or Sandra Lay. Thank you for your support!
- +++Former Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home Assistant to Prepare For the Pastoral Ministry ...Kurtis Hankemeier, who has served many in our community in his time at Phillip & Luckey, has received God's call to enter Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and to begin his studies toward becoming an ordained pastor in the LCMS. We wish Kurtis and his wife, Amanda, well as he begins his time at Concordia this summer, and we keep them both in our prayers.
- ***St. James...we have a variety of cards...check out our display of Confirmation, Graduation and Mother's Day cards on the table in the hallway by the offices...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!
- +++**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**...St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the subject of our Sunday morning Bible Class (Holy Trinity: 8-8:24AM; St. James:10-10:24AM). All are welcome to attend.
- ***Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's book, "**Truth Notes**", as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone*(\$12.00)]. This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!
- +++**ST. JAMES**...how about **YOU**! We are looking for **Sunday School teachers** to teach either every other Sunday or just once a month. **YOU** can do it, just contact the church office!!!

- ***Knitting & Crocheting Group...a group of ladies from Immanuel, Giddings, have been making warm hats and scarves for the needy. They're all created from donated yarn, however, now they are very low on yarn skeins and colors. <u>If anyone would have left over yarn</u> that they may put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office.
- +++**QUILTING UPDATE**...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".
- +++BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK...Holy Trinity-Michelle Holmes, 1; Colton Faske, 4;...St. James-Braden Exner, today; Jamie Jatzlau, 29; Sandra Woelfel, 29; Kayla Boettcher, 1; Della Biehle, 2; Heidi Hobbs, 3; Rachael Beard, 4.
- ***ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...St. James-Wesley & Connie Boriack, 29; George & Amber Dockery, 30.