

# Worship Sunday April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

**Welcome, Guests!** Connection Cards are located in the chair racks. Guests are invited to fill these out and place them in the offering plate if they would like more information about the ministry at Trinity or would like the pastor to contact them.

PRELUDE *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise* Worship Team

## Gathering

Gathering  
Gathering Hymn *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen* ELW #377—vs. 1, 2  
Greeting  
Prayer of the Day

## Word

Psalm Psalms 42 and 43  
Children’s Message  
Sermon “Listening and the Role of Lament” Pastor Julie Brenden  
Hymn of the Day *O God, Why Are You Silent* ELW # 703– vs. 1, 2, 4  
Nicene Creed  
Peace  
Offering & Song *Let Us Talents* ELW #674  
Offering Prayer

## Meal

Words of Institution  
Lord’s Prayer  
Distribution of Holy Communion  
Blessing After Communion  
Benediction  
Hymn *All The Earth Will Sing Your Praises*

Congregational Conversation “Listening to Longings and Losses”

Thank you for joining us for worship today!  
Don’t forget you can always watch our worship services online at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurch3566>

## Listening to Longings and Losses

Congregations today are encouraged to be intentional about cultivating Christian identity. The life of the follower of Jesus is an invitation to embody a particular identity and way of being. The characteristics of a follower or disciple are sevenfold. The follower is to **worship** corporately, **study** scripture and theology in groups within the faith community, **pray** for the needs of the community as well as the needs of the whole creation, **serve** both near and far, **give** generously of time, talent, and money for the mission of the church, **invite** others into the life of faith, and **encourage** one another to love and good deeds.

Trinity is going through a time of transition from one regularly called pastor to the next. The Church is experiencing great change and every denomination and congregation knows this. The spiritual practice of listening is a way to be thoughtful about the overall mission of the congregation. In times of change and transition, fear and uncertainty can bind people from pursuing faithful actions together. Listening to fears and creating space to lament losses can help. Talking together as a congregation can build trust. I invite you to welcome the process which may be something new to you. We will use a psalm of lament, a prayer for help, as the underlying structure of this spiritual practice.

The structure of psalms of lament is:

**Address God** – *think of how you would tell God about your longings and losses, in prayer form*

**Complaint** – *name what you long for and wish was true about Trinity. Name your fears about what has been or could be lost as you move into the future*

**Confession** – *confess your need for God’s grace, God’s wisdom, God’s forgiveness in your life*

**Ask God for Help** – *name what you want God to do for you. Express your longings and losses as a request*

**Affirm trust in God** – *state your belief and trust in God and God’s leadership over the future*

**Promise to Praise God** – *praise God for who God is, what God has done, and what God will do*

Questions for Reflection

1. What’s one wish you have for Trinity?
2. What’s something that used to happen (or used to be true) in the congregation that you wish would return?
3. What’s one thing you fear might be lost as your congregation moves into the future?
4. What’s something that has changed that you feel is a loss in the life of the congregation?