

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday



trinityreformedct.org

"When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.' – Revelation 1:17-18

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Mark 12:26-27a

Leader: *But regarding the fact that the dead rise again,*

People: **Have you not read in the book of Moses,**

Leader: *In the passage about the burning bush,*

People: **How God spoke to him,**

Leader: *Saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac,*

People: **And the God of Jacob?**

Leader: *He is not the God of the dead,*

People: **But of the living**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – 1Peter 1:3-5

***Hymn #277** – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Scripture Reading – Luke 23:44-24:3

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Apostles Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn #276** – “Up From the Grave He Arose”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism, Q#45.

Leader:	<i>What does the “resurrection” of Christ profit us?</i>	
People:	First, by His resurrection He has overcome death,	1Cor 15:16
Leader:	<i>That He might make us partakers of that righteousness</i>	Rom 4:25
People:	Which He had purchased for us by His death;	1Pet 1:3
Leader:	<i>Secondly, we are also by His power</i>	Rom 6:4; Col 3:1,3
People:	Raised up to a new life;	Eph 2:5-6
Leader:	<i>And lastly, the resurrection of Christ is a sure pledge</i>	1Cor 15:12,20-21
People:	Of our blessed resurrection.	Rom 8:11

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Luke 24:4-8

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

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. Amen.

Sermon – “They Remembered His Words”
(An Easter Sermon)

Ministry of the Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction, Prayer & Scripture – Matthew 19:13-15

Confession of Faith Baptizand

Pastor: *Do you, Sophia Marie Komons confess the Triune God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, as the only one true God? That Jesus Christ is fully God, fully man and without sin, and that He alone, by His work on the cross, can save you from God’s righteous wrath?*

Baptizand: **I do.**

Pastor: *Do you confess your sins unto Almighty God, and trust in the good news of the crucified Christ as your only hope and salvation? And proclaim Jesus Christ as your Savior and desire to follow Him as your Lord?*

Baptizand: **I do.**

Affirmation of Sponsor – Cindy Rines

Pastor: *Do you the sponsor of this child promise to aid and support in the raising of Sophia Komons in the ways of Christ?*

Sponsor: **I do.**

Address to the Congregation & Covenant Promise

Pastor: *The Christian nurture of this child cannot be assumed by the sponsor alone. Since we are members of Christ’s Church, the responsibility of caring for this child must be shared by all. Do you the members of the Trinity Reformed Church promise to do your part in receiving and caring for this child as Christ’s own?*

Congregation: **We do.**

Baptism – Sophia Marie Komons

Charge, Prayer, Presentation & Benediction

***Hymn** (see insert) – “Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

***Benediction**

There is no Coffee Hour Fellowship after church today

Announcements

- **Wednesday Night Study** will begin a new book, the Ultimate Bible Atlas. It will be a 7 week study (April 23-June 4) that will give an overview of the geography and history of biblical times. We meet at Pastor Doug's house from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. The book is \$8.00.
- TRC is **organizing visitation/meal ministry** that will provide friendly visits, especially to shut-ins, either in-person or by phone. Also, this group will provide temporary meals to those in need or special occasions. If you are interested in either volunteering to help, or know someone who would like a visit, please contact Leona [bllejeune@gmail.com - (860) 480-0370].
- TRC is putting together a simple **Photo-Directory** for members and friends of the church.
 - It will include the following information: First & Last Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address. (Children will be listed individually next to parents.)
 - If you don't want to be in the book, or to have some of your information not listed, then please email: trc.photobook@gmail.com by **4/27/2025**. Otherwise, we will assume that you are approving of all of the information above being included in the Directory.
 - We would like to include pictures. You can email in a picture you like or you can have your picture taken on a Sunday by Bryan & Kim Simmons. To email in a picture, please send it to Sheryl Gabelmann directly at: sgabelmann058@gmail.com as she will have to upload the photos individually into the software. If you opt to have a photo taken by Bryan & Kim Simmons, they will email your photo to Sheryl after you have approved of the final version of it. To schedule a Sunday to have a picture taken, email: kimsimmons7@optonline.net
 - We hope to have all the information in by April 27th).
 - There will be a review copy to check before we publish the Directory.

Upcoming Events

- **New Members** will be joining on **Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th**. (Zoom classes will be starting soon.)

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	Sunday School Children's curriculum: KVB Publications Women's Study: Baucham's <u>Expository Apologetics</u> Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	<u>Worship</u> (Lord's Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Study (Evangelism in Acts) at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:30 – 8:00 PM 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Study (biblical geography) at Pastor Doug's house Gen Alpha Club (Tiny Theologians) - 2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Friday</i>	6:30 - ??? PM	Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug's house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays)
<i>Saturday</i>	morning	Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

TRC's Webpage: TrinityReformedCT.org
TRC's Facebook Page: facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
TRC's Youtube Channel: youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
Pastor Doug's youtube.com/simplyreformed
Youtube Channels: youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: **trcnwprayer@gmail.com**. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgRussell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 – Phone: (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – Email: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

Luke 24:4-8

“They Remembered His Words”

An Easter Sermon

April 20, 2025

Introduction

- 1) Do you remember these words of the Lord Jesus: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”* – John 5:24-27
- 2) Do you believe this?
 - a) That you have new life now and eternal life?
 - b) That you are not under judgment?
 - c) That you have passed out of death into life?
 - d) And this new life that conquers all death is now and only through Christ?
- 3) Or, does the grave seem more real to you?
- 4) Let’s ponder this on this Easter morning, and let us start our story in the place of the dead: A tomb.

Background to Luke 24

- 1) The Lord Jesus has been killed by crucifixion on Friday. Matt 27:32-50; Mark 15:21-37
Luke 23:26-44,46; John 19:17-30
 - a) Crucifixion was the most painful and shameful form of capital punishment used by the Roman Empire. It was reserved only for slaves and criminals. No Roman citizen could be crucified.
 - b) For the Jews it was a most offensive form of death. Deut 21:23
 - c) Normally, those killed in such a degrading way would be simply buried with others who were rejected and shamed by the law.
- 2) The good and righteous Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling council of the Jews, who was at first a secret follower of Jesus, boldly asked Pilate, the Roman prefect (governor) of Judea, for Christ's body to be buried according to Jewish custom. Mark 15:43
Luke 23:50-51
John 19:38
 - a) This was a very courageous act.
 - i) First, to even ask Pilate to go against Roman custom, but then also to publicly come out as a Christian.
 - ii) Pilate agreed and Christ's body was placed in Joseph's tomb. John 19:38
 - b) The tomb was originally meant for Joseph and was only recently cut out of a side of a rock wall in a garden and sealed by a large stone over the entrance. This was the common way to bury the wealthy. Matt 27:60
Mark 15:46
Luke 23:53
John 19:41
 - c) Joseph and Nicodemus (another member of the Sanhedrin and a prominent Pharisee, whom we guess came to faith in Christ) prepare Jesus' body for burial. John 3:1,4,9
John 7:50
John 19:38-42
 - i) They bind His body with linen wrappings with about a 65 pound (by modern standards) mixture of spices of myrrh and aloe, as was "*the burial custom of the Jews.*" - John 19:39
 - ii) This is a huge, and very expensive amount, of spice.
 - iii) This is what would be used on a king, which is the point. John 18:37; 19:19-20
 - iv) Myrrh and aloe were used in embalming (in Egypt) and also in cosmetics. Ps 45:8; Prov 7:17
SoS 4:14
 - v) Myrrh was one of the gifts by the Magi at Christ's birth, showing that His purpose was the cross. Matt 2:11
Matt 16:21
- 3) Female followers of Christ watch this burial, including Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less, and Salome. Matt 27:55,61; Mark 15:40,47
Mark 16:1; Luke 23:49,55
 - a) Mary Magdalene was a woman from Galilee who was "a sinner" whom Jesus cast out seven demons from her, and she later became a follower of Christ. Luke 8:1-3
 - b) There are a lot of unbiblical rumors about Mary Magdalene.
 - i) The Bible doesn't say she had red hair, was a prostitute, the woman who washed Jesus' feet in Luke 7:37ff, the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11.
 - ii) She certainly wasn't married to Jesus.
 - c) She was a simple follower of the Lord.

- 4) On “the first day of the week”, Sunday, the day after the Sabbath, “the women” return with spices and find the stone rolled away and the body of Jesus is gone. Luke 24:1-3
- a) We read in Matthew the stone is rolled away by “an angel of the Lord” by an earthquake. Matt 28:2
- b) We read in the Gospel of John that Mary Magdalene goes and tells Peter and probably John, who then go and investigate the tomb.
- i) Mary returns and the women remain. John 20:1-10
- ii) Mary Magdalene stays there and weeps. John 20:11

Luke 24:4-8

Matt 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-2,11-18

- 1) The women are perplexed (at a loss, puzzled) by this. Luke 24:4
- 2) Suddenly two angels in dazzling white clothes appear. Luke 24:4; Matt 28:3; John 20:12ff
- a) The women are terrified, a common reaction to angels.¹
- b) They bow their faces to the ground.
- 3) The angels ask a profound and glorious question: “*Why do you seek the living among the dead?*”
- a) Like many times in the Bible this is a rhetorical question, no answer is expected.²
- b) The angels continue, “*He is not here, but He has risen.*” – Luke 24:6a
- i) Jesus is not in the tomb, He is alive!
- ii) He was dead but now has returned to life.
- 4) The angels concluded with “*Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.*” – Luke 24:6b-7
- a) The Lord Jesus, about half way through His earthly preaching ministry, clearly told His disciples that the plan was to go to Jerusalem to die.
- b) The pivotal change in the “Synoptic” Gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke) is when the disciples, in particular Peter, figure out who Jesus is. Matt 16:13-21
Mark 8:27-31
Luke 9:18-22
- i) Jesus is from Nazareth, in Galilee, up north from Jerusalem, where He grew up and started His earthly ministry. Matt 2:23
Matt 4:13,15,18,23
- ii) While in Caesarea Philippi, which is way up north, Jesus asked His disciples who they think He is.
- Up until this point, they are not sure.
 - Though an interesting group did understand early on, including a Roman centurion (Matt 8:8-10), demons (Mark 3:11), the devil (Matt 4:3), angels (Matt 1:20-23) and, of course, God the Father Himself (Matt 3:17), letting the reader of the Gospels know from the beginning who Jesus is.
- iii) The first disciple to get this is Peter who, by the grace of God, proclaims, according to Matthew’s long version³: “*You are the Christ* (the Messiah, the Anointed One), *the Son of the living God.*” – Luke 9:20b

¹ Judg 6:22; 13:20,22; Ezek 1:28; Dan 8:17; 10:7; 10:12; Matt 1:20; 28:2-5; Luke 1:12-13, 29-30; 2:9-10; 24:4-5; Acts 10:4

² A rhetorical question is “a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer.”

³ Matt 16:16b – “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*”
Mark 8:29b – “*You are the Christ.*” Luke 9:20b – “*The Christ of God.*”

iv) With this declaration the Lord Jesus then clearly tells His disciples His mission.

As Matthew records: *"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day."* – Matthew 16:21

v) Yet as we read in the Gospels, they seem to have forgotten.

5) I have talked with many Christians who don't understand how the saints in the Bible could so easily forget.

a) "If I saw a miracle I wouldn't forget!"

b) Yet isn't forgetting the norm for us? Have you not experienced this your own life?
How often have we received some great blessing and soon forget?

c) It is the clear teaching of Scripture throughout the Old & New Testaments that men forget.

i) In OT, from the miracle of the Red Sea parting to golden calf. Ex 12; 32

ii) As we will soon see in the NT, the disciples of Christ will forget.

iii) Hosea 13:6 – *"As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, and being satisfied, their heart became proud; Therefore they forgot Me."*

d) It is so easy for us who live in this fallen world, trapped in these bodies of death, to forget.
Ps 106:21; Is 17:10; Jer 2:32
Jer 3:21; 13:25; Hos 8:14; 13:6
Rom 7:24; Gal 1:4

6) Especially before the first Easter and Pentecost there is doubt and confusion about Christ.

a) John the Baptist acknowledged that Jesus is greater than he, yet later the Baptist had questions about Christ.
Matt 3:14
Matt 11:2-3

b) That is why the angels had to remind the women at the tomb.

i) After the angels speak the women *"remembered His words."* - Luke 24:8

ii) It required heavenly gracious instruction for them to remember.

c) Remember in the Gospel of John we are told the women go and immediately tell Peter and probably John. John 20:1-10

i) The apostles go and investigate the empty tomb and believe. John 20:8; Luke 24:12

ii) What would you do after seeing the empty tomb?

iii) What Peter and John do next is very interesting: They go home!

• John 20:9-10 – *"For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. So the disciples went away again to their own homes."*

• John believes and Peter does marvel at what has happened. John 20:8
Luke 24:12

• Though they believe in Jesus they did not understand that the Scriptures teach there is a resurrection, especially beginning with the Son of God.

7) Life after death seems abstract to our fallen minds and many don't believe. Matt 22:23; Acts 23:8

a) The idea of resurrection, getting a new body, is even more difficult. 1Cor 1:22-24

b) That a Jewish carpenter could be God's Son, literally God, is even harder to believe. John 10:33

8) Why is it so hard to know these things?

- a) Sin, that deadly cancer on the inside, which affects not only our bodies but our soul, mind and will. Rom 1:18-3:23
Eph 2:1-3
- b) External death, the tomb, seems so real. Death seems to our fallen mind the most real thing. Job 17:13-16; Ps 55:15; 89:48
Hos 13:14; 1Cor 15:56
2Cor 4:18; Heb 2:15
- i) What is the old joke? There are only two sure things: Death & Taxes.
- ii) How often do people see violence and death and say “this is life as it really is.”
- iii) While seeing the joy of a mother holding her newborn child for first time as mere emotions.
- iv) That is a very foolish person who thinks such things – It’s quite the opposite.

9) It requires God’s grace, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to understand, remember and believe these things.

- a) That is why there are other holidays after Easter.
- b) Ascension Sunday and Pentecost. However, those are for another sermon.

He is Risen!

1) It is by God’s mercy and grace we believe and remember.

- a) Mary Magdalene, and the other women, remember, and through angels no less!
- b) What a blessing is that simple verse 8, “*And they remembered His words.*” – Luke 24:8

2) We know Christ’s words are true because He has risen!

- a) “*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen!*” – Luke 24:5-6
- b) Because He has risen from the dead, we have new life.
 - i) New life now, in the Holy Spirit, to live according to Christ.
 - ii) And perfect new life now in the new heaven and new earth.
- c) As Paul teaches, if there is no resurrection then our preaching and our faith is in vain and worthless, and that we are false witnesses against God. We are still in our sins, all those who have died have perished because “*If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.*” – 1Corinthians 15:19 1Cor 15:13-19
- d) “*But now Christ has been raised from the dead*” – 1Corinthians 15:20a
- e) “*Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” – 1Corinthians 15:54b-57

3) Remember how He has spoken to you.

- a) If you have any faith, that is His Spirit working in you. John 14:26; Rom 8:16
John 14:26 – “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*”

b) What a blessed place to be on the other side of the cross! To know Easter.

i) John 2:21-22 – *“But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So, when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”*

ii) John 16:7 – *“But 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.”*

c) The church has the ministry of the word where you hear and taste His word and receive grace.

Matt 26:28; John 6:35ff; Acts 6:4
Eph 5:26,29; Heb 6:5; 1Pet 2:3

i) By the way, do you know why the early church moved the Sabbath to Sunday?

ii) Because of Easter, the Lord's Day, the day Jesus returned from the dead.

Matt 28:1; John 20:1; Acts 20:7
1Cor 16:2; Heb 4:9; Rev 1:10

4) Because the Lord is gracious.

a) Question: Who did the resurrected Lord first appear to?

i) From worldly marketing or atheistic approach, you think it would have been Herod, or Pilate, or Caesar, or the Sanhedrin.

ii) It is not even to the inner circle of Apostles (Peter, James & John), though that would soon come about.

iii) Mark 16:9 – *“Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.”*

b) As we read in the Gospel of John right after the angels speak to her *“she turned around and saw Jesus standing there”*. – John 20:14

i) At first, she did not recognize Him, thinking Him a gardener, but when our Lord simply says “Mary!” she recognizes Him.

John 20:15-16

ii) Why? Because God is gracious to the simple and lowly. He is not concerned with the ways of this world but instead loves His people.

Prov 3:34; Is 55:8; Matt 20:25-28
John 17:23; 18:36; Rom 8:29-30
2Cor 10:4; Eph 1:4-5; 2Thes 2:13
James 4:6; 1Pet 4:7-11; 5:5

5) We do not serve a god of the dead but the “living God.”⁴

Matt 22:32

a) Remember Peter's great confession: *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*
– Matthew 16:16

b) Remember the Apostles words, *“Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel,”* - 2Timothy 2:7-8

c) Remember these things, believe and live.

6) Happy Easter.

⁴ God, throughout the Bible, is called “the living God.”

Deut 5:26; Josh 3:10; 1Sam 17:26,36; 2Kgs 19:4,16; Ps 42:2; 84:2; Is 37:4,17; Jer 10:10; 23:36; Dan 6:20,26; Hos 1:10; Matt 16:16; 26:63; Acts 14:15; Rom 9:26; 2Cor 3:3; 6:16; 1Tim 3:15; 4:10; Heb 3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22; Rev 7:2