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# COVENANT RENEWAL WORSHIP

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## The Morning Service

The Lord's Day — May 2, 2004

*Third Sunday After Easter*

**Preparation For Worship: Isaiah 44:6-28**

Organ - Mr. Bill Hoover

Welcome & Announcements - Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

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### The Entrance

Call to Worship *Isaiah 44:6-8*

Pastor Jeffrey J. Meyers

†Hymn #204 "Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav'n"

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Salutation & Responsive Scripture

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

Congregation: **Amen!**

The Lord be with you!

*Ruth 2:4*

**And also with you!**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Thanks be to God!

*1 Corinthians 15:57*

**Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

†Pastor: Let us pray:

**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your glorious Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

### The Purification

†Call to Confession

God is light

*I John 1:5-7*

**And in him is no darkness at all.**

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness,

**We lie and do not practice the truth.**

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,

**We have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.**

**O Almighty God, heavenly Father, I have sinned against you and against my neighbor, in thought word and deed, in the evil I have done**

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† Congregation Stands

**and in the good I have not done, through ignorance, through weakness, and through my own deliberate fault. I am truly sorry and repent of all my sins. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for me, forgive me all that is past; and grant that I may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your Name. *Silent Prayer. Amen!***

†Pastor: Now lift up your heads and hear the good news . . . !

### The Ascension

†Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

†Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**It is proper and right to do so.**

†Truly it is proper, right, and our bounden duty to give thanks to you at all times and in every place, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the church on earth, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising you and singing . . .

†Hymn of Praise: #89 "Come, thou Almighty King"

*Trinity Hymnal*

The Old Testament Reading: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

The Epistle Reading: *Colossians 1:9-20*

†The Gospel Reading: *Matthew 13:31-35*

†We Confess Our Faith: *The Nicene Creed*

(see insert)

Sermon: **KINGDOM OR CULT, COMEDY OR TRAGEDY?**

Jeffrey J. Meyers

**XLI. EXPOSITION OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

†Hymn #70 "Praise, my soul, the King of heaven"

*Trinity Hymnal*

### The Tribute Offering

We Offer Ourselves Through Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

†Prayer of Dedication & Gloria Patri

### The Sacrifice of Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Memorial, & The Words of Institution

Communion Hymn: "Jesus Christ, my sure Defense"

(see insert)

Pastoral Benediction

The body and blood of our Lord strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Congregation: **Amen!**

†The Song of Simeon (*Nunc Dimittis*): *Luke 2:30-32*

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy**

**people Israel. 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.**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Congregation: **And his mercy endures forever!**

Pastoral Prayer: We give thanks to you, Almighty God, that you have here refreshed your people with such wonderful gifts; we ask now as we prepare to leave your house that you would graciously strengthen us in the use of these gifts, increasing our love for you and for one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: **Amen!**

### **The Benediction**

†Hymn #298 “Shout, for the blessed Jesus reigns”

*Trinity Hymnal*

†Benediction: *Numbers 6:24-26*

†Postlude

†Greet One Another!

For Easter Season we have **white** on our Table and Pulpit, which symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, and purity. The traditional monograms **IC** and **XC** are ancient Latin abbreviations for Jesus Christ (IHCOYC XRICTOC). **NIKA** means Victor. Jesus Christ was born to conquer sin, death, and the Devil. The cross in the center of the world reminds us that Jesus has conquered by means of his suffering, death, and resurrection.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

*Today — 11:00 AM*

This morning during the Sunday school hour the congregation will meet for its annual meeting. We will be voting on new officers and hearing short reports. All children's Sunday school classes, first grade through high school, are dismissed to attend the meeting.

### **No Evening Worship Service Tonight**

*Shepherding Groups Meet*

Shepherding groups will meet this afternoon and evening. Please check with your shepherding elder for the time and place of your fellowship.