**Morning Devotion for Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

**Welcome to Morning Devotion at Trinity Lutheran Church.**

[Having just completed a thirteen day series of Morning Devotions for our celebration of Holy Week, I want to announce this morning that we will continue to offer a morning devotion for the Trinity family and all our visitors and guests until the time of our quarantine for the Coronavirus is suspended. The devotion will be offered on Trinity’s Facebook page, and a written version posted on our home page, Mondays through Fridays. May God bless us with a short duration, but not our will and timing, but His perfect one be done]

**The season of Easter continues for seven weeks on the annual Church calendar, and so we continue to celebrate the Good News of the resurrection. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, first mentions the significance of Jesus’ resurrection, at the beginning of chapters 5 and 6:**

***Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. . . Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.***

**Luigi Tarisio** was of humble parents and trained as a carpenter, but as a hobby learned to play the violin. While his musical abilities remained at best average, he developed an interest in violins themselves, and as a connoisseur with a natural talent for business, began to acquire and resell some of the many fine instruments that were lying unused in the towns and villages of northern Italy. He bought wisely and sold to the wealthy for whom the prestige of owning a genuine brand was more important than the price. From 1827 to 1846, he brought a large number of genuine [Amati](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amati) violins from Italy to [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) and [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris). His first journey to [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris), in 1827, was evidently so profitable for him and for the dealers there, he devoted all his resources, time, and energy to violins.

 As his own profits grew into wealth, it became obvious money meant little to him; he was indeed a man obsessed with the search and acquisition. The novelist Charles Reade, who became Luigi’s friend, wrote about him: “He was a great dealer, yes, but Luigi’s entire soul was in violins. His later finds and purchases were of those gems that no amount of money could buy from him.”

In 1828 he made his greatest buy, a 1716 [Stradivari](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stradivari) that had never been played. This violin was Tarisio's treasure, and as he spoke of it on every visit to Paris but never actually brought it with him; it came to be known as the '[Messiah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Messiah_Stradivarius)'.

Tarisio’s legacy was that he rescued many of the world’s finest violins for posterity. In fact, in 1999, an auction house was founded with locations in London and New York, to preserve and distribute valuable musical instruments—it is called the Tarisio.

Luigi Tarisio, however, leaves another legacy to be considered. When Tarisio died alone at his home in Milan, his body was found in a dingy attic. There was also found scarce a comfort throughout the house, but 144 violins. He also kept a building on a small farm where relatives lived, where another 102 masterpieces were found, including what were rated as the six most valuable in the world, one of them being the celebrated “Messiah,” still never played, wrapped and laid in the bottom drawer of a rickety old bureau. In his very devotion to the instrument, he had robbed the world of all that beautiful music. When the Messiah was first played, it had existed for 147 speechless years!

**Now that we have again rehearsed the entire drama of divine salvation in our Holy Week worship services, Bible readings, and teaching, let us Christians not be like old Tarisio. Let not our love of the Church and our zeal for the truth be so absorbed in self-obsession and benefit only for ourselves and our own family that we forget its “music” is intended to be shared with the whole world. Let us not forget the Easter message we have just heard again, and the Easter faith needs not just be cherished, but needs to be told to everyone, for, like us, all people need to hear the beauty and grace of the Good News! Amen.**

[May God the bless the day for you and your household]