

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 2024 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Bill and Sarah Weeks.

SERVING TODAY

| Presiding Minister and Preaching | Susan Crowell |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Assisting Minister | Patrick Preacher |
| Pianist and Choir Director | Jim Parham |
| | |
| Lector | Elijah Colburn |
| Prayers | Chris Barsody |
| Communion Assistant | Jaimee Chapman |
| Cantor | Donna Potts |
| Acolytes | Jenna Mast Cesa Thomas-Harewood |
| Children's Worship Activity Leaders | Debbie Farstad Zerle Hubbard Terry Morgan |
| Praying for Possibilities | Sally Boliek |
| Greeters | Mark Allen Ann Berlam Frank Hawkins Harry Hawkins Lindsay Hawkins Nell Orscheln Lisa Rehm Suzanne Rudisill |
| New Member Greeters | Tara Miller Vicki Rubenstein |
| Ushers | Calvin Harmon Jay Hilbourn Lani Ludian David Potts |
| Fellowship Hosts | Parish Life |
| Video Audio | Henry Wilcox Gregg Alley |

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

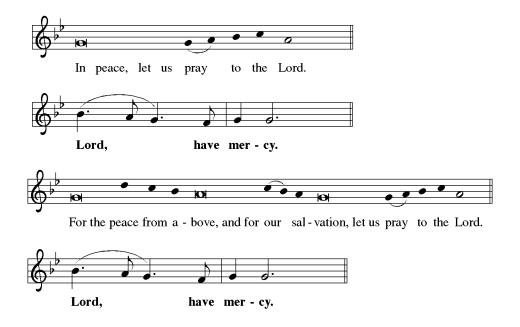
Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, brings us healing and wholeness, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ. **Amen.** Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way, from the earth to the cross my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

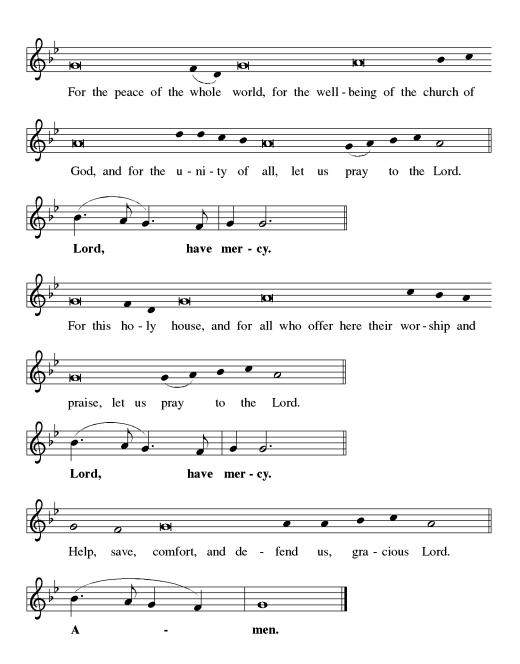
Sing twice

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie





PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of mercy and compassion, you open your arms in love and welcome to enfold the whole world in your care, your keeping, and your grace. Remind us that your love revealed on the cross through Christ's suffering is a call to us to extend outstretched, open arms of love and welcome to all people, without exception. Use us to diminish the reign of the Empire and to build up the reign of God's kin-dom for the good of all, through Jesus Christ, who suffered death on the cross to offer the gift of universal salvation to the world. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then GOD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against GOD and against you; pray to GOD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And GOD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

The refrain is introduced by the cantor Ps. Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.



¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good, for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
²Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
³gathering them in | from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.
¹⁷Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths; through their sins they | were afflicted.
¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food

and drew near I to death's door.

- ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD and you delivered them from | their distress. R
- ²⁰You sent forth your I word and healed them and rescued them I from the grave.
- ²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love and your wonderful works | for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy. **R**

A reading from Ephesians.

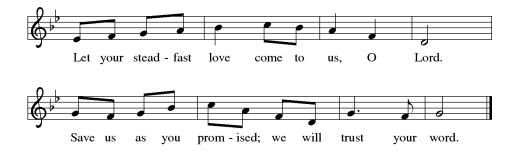
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love God held for us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come we might be shown the immeasurable riches of God's grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Chosen!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever trusts in Jesus may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who trusts in God may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁶"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁶Those who trust in Christ are not condemned; but those who do not trust are condemned already, because they have not trusted in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand as able

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

#531

The Outstretched, Open Arms of Welcome

The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin. The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight. Come and revel in heaven's love and light. Take your place at the table of the King. The feast is ready to begin; the feast is ready to begin.

Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine. *Refrain*

The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise. Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. *Refrain*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialogue. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We pray especially for the ministry of Lutheran Services of the Carolinas and all who devote their time and efforts to the mission they share with us. Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us, **according to your steadfast love.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. As lawns begin greening and growing again, grant an extra measure of love to the crabgrass, dandelions, and clover we name as weeds but that you make to grow abundantly nonetheless. Make us good stewards of the land you have gifted us. Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us,

according to your steadfast love.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love, especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today. Continue raising up strong female leaders to guide communities in truth-telling and justice work. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, queerphobia, and hatred. Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us, **according to your steadfast love.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones have perished from disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers and care partners who work tirelessly to serve and care for aging and ill bodies. Encourage adult children who now care for parents who once cared for them. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, that they might know comfort and rest. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us, **according to your steadfast love.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another with your cross as center. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us, **according to your steadfast love.**

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Faithful God, your love welcomes. By the love of Jesus Christ you draw people to yourself and welcome them into this household of faith. May we show your joy by embracing new siblings in Christ to join us in bearing your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Bless the lives and journeys of Valerie, Duke, Chris, Jaimee, Elijah, Rachel, Ken, Vicki, Brandy, Ed, Chris, Leah, Addy, Billy, McKinsey, Joseph, and Sadie, as they join this family of faith as the newest members of this century old congregation. Continue the radically amazing work of your Spirit in this place. Open these doors wider than we can ever imagine. Knit us close together in faith through the breaking of bread, prayer, and in service to others, following the example of Jesus Christ, our servant and Lord. Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us,

according to your steadfast love.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear our prayers, O God, and have mercy on us,

according to your steadfast love.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Please be seated

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Reception into Membership

I invite those who are being received today as members of Trinity Lutheran Church by baptism, affirmation of baptism, from other denominations, and by transfer from other Lutheran congregations to come forward at this time and stand facing the Congregation.

Valerie Ashburn Duke and Chris Barsody Jaimee Chapman Elijah and Rachel Colburn Ken and Vicki Lanier Brandy Merritt Ed Ninestein Chris and Leah Somerville Addy Billy and McKinsey Threlkeld Joseph Sadie Zhou

Siblings in Christ: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of the Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from the Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at God's holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

Please stand as able

Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation is addressed.

You have heard these believers declare their intention to participate in the life and mission of this congregation as we strive to extend grace, mercy, hospitality, and radical welcome to all. Welcome them now as members of this family of faith.

We welcome you as members of Trinity Lutheran Church. We rejoice to receive you into this community of faith as we embrace and share the good news of God's love in Christ for all people.

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always. And also with you.

Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love Is This arr. James Mansfield (Sadie Zhou, violin) Adult Choir

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life
To lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
To lay aside his crown for my soul.
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

Please stand as able.

OFFERING HYMN

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

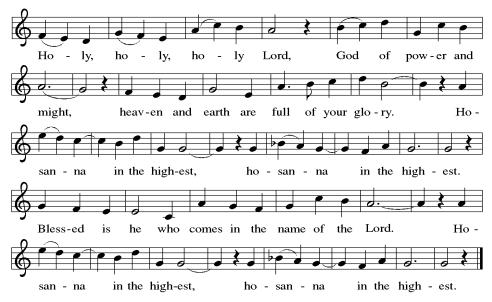
The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

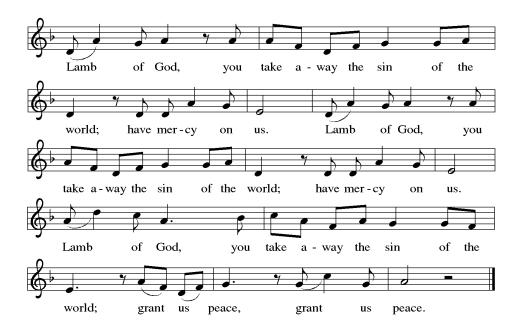
The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Please be seated

COMMUNION

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine. Gluten free wafers are available.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.



MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Repeat

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) ev'ry where! *Refrain*

| There in God's Garden | #342 |
|-----------------------|------|
| inere in dou's duruen | #342 |

There in God's garden stands the Tree of Wisdom, whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations: Tree of all knowledge, Tree of all compassion, Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, "Our Savior!" There on its branches see the scars of suff'ring; see there the tendrils of our human selfhood feed on its life blood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage; our greed has starved it, our despite has choked it. Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not destroyed it nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome; hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye weary! Give me your sickness, give me all your sorrow, I will give blessing."

This is my ending, this my resurrection, into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. This have I searched for; now I can possess it. This ground is holy.

All heav'n is singing, "Thanks to Christ whose passion offers in mercy healing, strength, and pardon. Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!" Amen! My Master! This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; ev'ry where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

God Loved the World

You loved us, O God, so that you gave your very heart the lost to save, that all who would in Jesus believe should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.

If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.

Be of good cheer, God's love has come in Jesus Christ, to everyone, whose cross draws us to know and see that love holds us eternally.

Refrain

Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me: Refrain

Please stand as able

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Trust in Jesus. Reach out to the world in love. Extend outstretched arms of welcome to all. Give thanks for the cross and for God's gift of salvation for all.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us for fellowship and special refreshments in honor of Trinity's new members following worship in the back corner of the Gym.

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CHURCH STAFF

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James C. Parham, III Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

> Amy R. Brown, Deacon Director of Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator Pastoral Intern

Angie H. McCormack Youth and Children's Ministry Coordinator

> Kay M. Cook Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox Accountant and Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig Administrative Assistant

> Roy L. Cook Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald Nursery Attendant

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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Mike Boliek Treasurer

Danny Fagala

Greg Hamluk

Calvin Harmon

Lindsay Hawkins

Deirdre Hixson

Dean Hybl

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Donna Potts Secretary

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