

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 12th, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent



In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

- PRELUDE
- WELCOME
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PRAYER REQUESTS

*For sections with an *, please stand as you are able*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

ALL: Amen.

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.
Holy God,

**ALL: we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.**

L: Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✝ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

ALL: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts
Blue Book: #356**

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

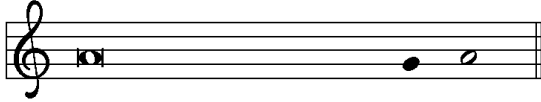
Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

*GREETING

L: The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

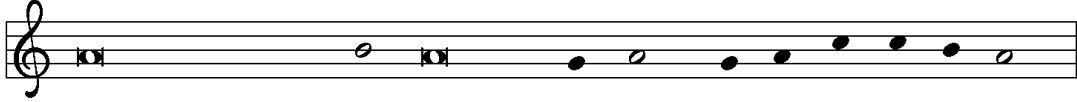
***KYRIE**



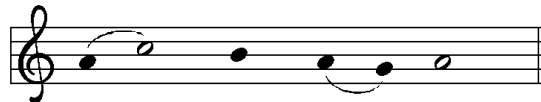
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



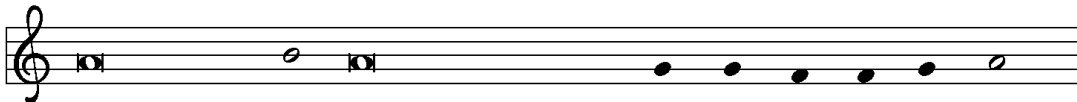
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



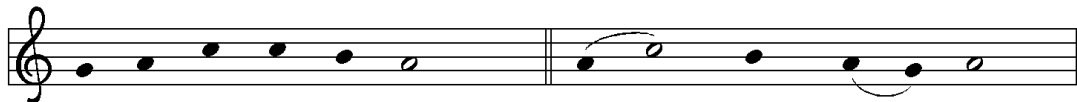
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

L: ¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 95

Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

L: ¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**ALL: ²Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

L: ³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

ALL: ⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth;

the heights of the hills are also yours.

L: ⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**ALL: ⁶Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

L: ⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**ALL: ⁸"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

L: ⁹There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**ALL: ¹⁰Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

L: ¹¹Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.'"

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

L: ¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: ⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true

worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

²⁵The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

SERMON: Pastor David Ellis

***HYMN OF THE DAY: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

*APOSTLES CREED

L: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

ALL:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Each prayer ends with these words:

L: Merciful God,

ALL: receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

ALL: And also with you.

**You are invited to greet your neighbors with a sign of Christ's peace. Please be sure to have your neighbor's consent before sharing greetings with a handshake or other physical touch. Otherwise, sharing a wave, peace sign or a high-five are great ways to share the peace from a distance.*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

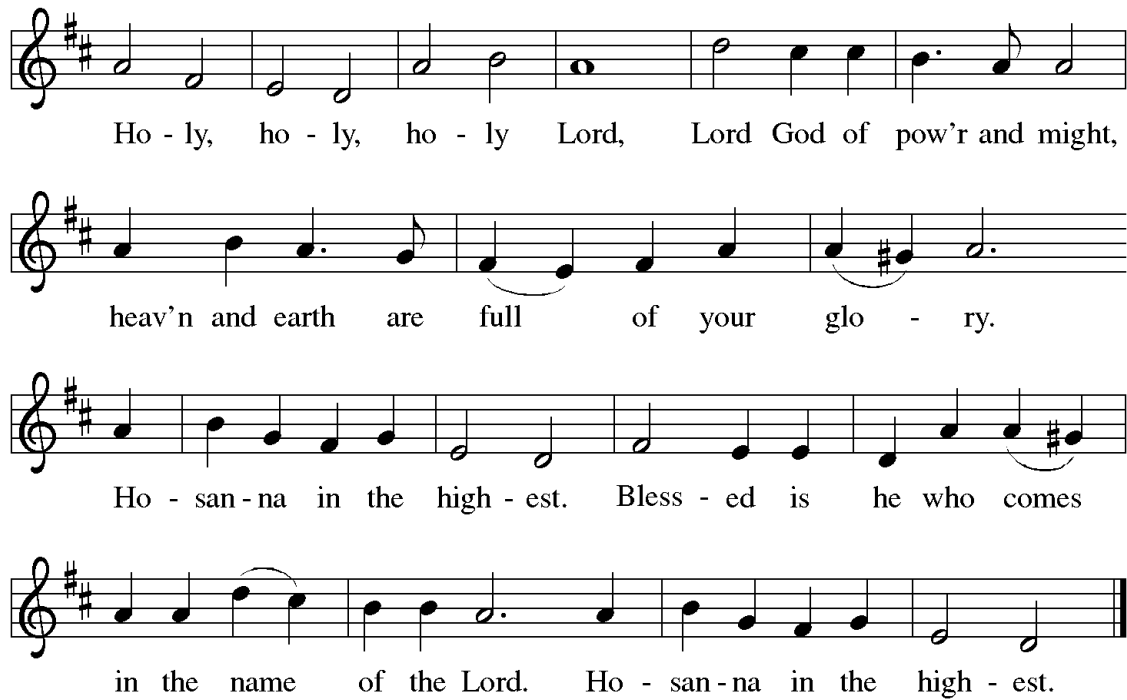
Any financial gifts you wish to give towards the ministry of Trinity may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the worship space. We give thanks for your sharing of your offerings this and every day.

L: God of good gifts,
ALL: receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

L: 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

L: 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

ALL: 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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

L: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The minister will give instruction on the distribution of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN: Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: Eat this Bread, Drink This Cup

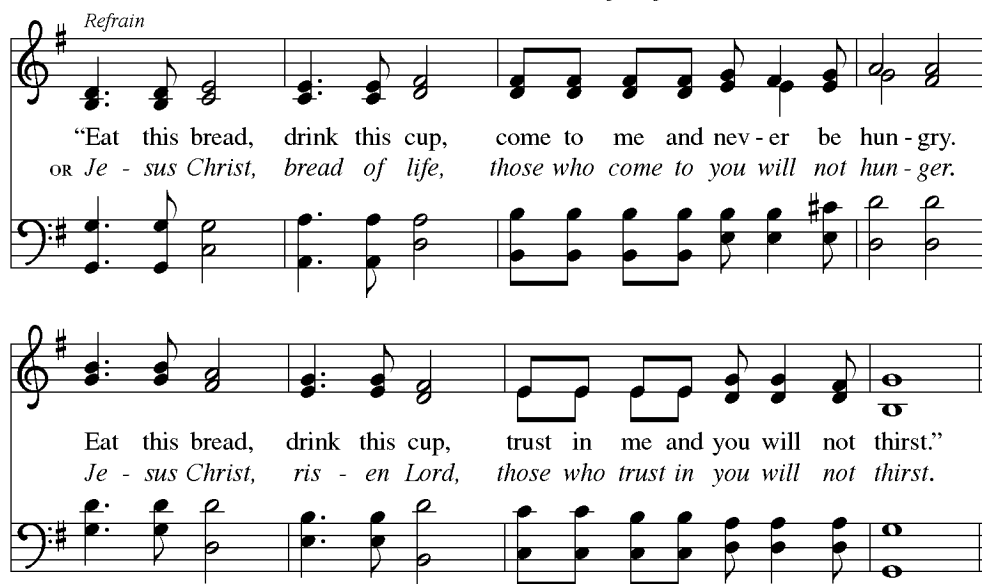
Blue Book: #706

To be sung during the distribution of communion - until distribution is complete

Eat This Bread

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life

Refrain



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
or Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

L: The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in God’s grace, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L: Embodied God,

ALL: at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

L: God, the giver of love,

✙ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

ALL: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**
Green Book: #343

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on

pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,

feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Office hours

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tracy: Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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*God's love is powerful...powerful enough to wade through our doubts, fears, and challenges.
And, God's love is for YOU and ALL*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Pray For:

Strength & Healing for:

Bill Beaky – beginning cancer treatment
Roger Hofmeier - healing from a fall
Sharon Dixon – healing from broken leg
Jake Smith – prayers for healing
Scot Baron – prayers for strength
Terry Smitch
Jim Blake
Sherri Popalardaro
Thomas Hofmeier – strength, support and guidance
Flo Goeseke – foot surgery

The family & friends of:

Mary Frye
Clara Weber
Don Holmes
Judy Bell
Johanna Metz Coleman
Jason Arno
All those affected by the storms in California, Oklahoma and Tennessee

Safe travel for:

David Hofmeier
Sharon & Norm Waff

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing, and also to give thanks for good news. Trinity sees prayer as an essential ministry, and has several ways we pray for those in need, and for you to take part in those prayers:

- 1. Trinity has a vibrant Prayer Chain ministry. Please contact Sue Kidder, our Prayer Chain coordinator, at 716-542-2095 anytime if you would like your prayer request(s) to be shared with our Prayer Chain group. Sue uses our OneCall phone system to share prayer requests with our group ASAP. Also, let us know if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain.*
- 2. Trinity maintains a prayer list in both the Sunday bulletin and the Beacon newsletter. Let us know about names you would like listed in the church office, or via the signup sheet at worship. Names remain listed for about a month unless you let us know otherwise.*
- 3. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let us know privately. We also have a moment of silent prayer during worship to lift up any one person or situation too sensitive to share otherwise.*

Counters: March: Paula, April: MaryLou

Thank you to Pastor David Ellis for leading us in worship today, and to Marilyn Horwood for musical accompaniment!

Spaghetti Supper March 25th

Join us for the Spaghetti Supper on **March 25th from 4:30-7:00**. We'll be going **back to in-person dining with a basket raffle!!** The cost will be **\$11 for adults and \$7 for kids** ages 12 and under. Flyers are available in the narthex – help us spread the word to the community!

Supper includes all-you-can-eat Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, French Bread & a cookie. A sign-up sheet is now in the Narthex for donations of ingredients and volunteers. Baskets for the **basket raffle** can be left in any the Sunday School rooms. The Crittenden Quilters will also be setting up a table of hand-made goods for sale – you won't want to miss this!

Spring Cleaning

Bring your cleaning implements to help make the church shine this spring! We've scheduled our indoor cleanup day for **next Saturday, March 18th**, and our outdoor cleanup day for **Saturday, April 1st**. Both dates start at 9 am and go until we're done. Stay tuned as the weather may cause us to swap which day we clean indoors or outdoors.

Bible Study continues through Lent

Join us as we continue our Bible Study on Matthew Wednesday evenings at 6:30. During Lent, we'll begin and end with evening vespers prayers. There will be no Bible Study on April 5th or 12th.

Choir

Choir is meeting Wednesdays at 7:30 all are welcome. Please see David for additional Sunday rehearsal dates. There will be no choir March 15th.

Little Food Pantry

The Little food Pantry is in constant need of restocking. Dry, non-perishable items like peanut butter and mac 'n cheese will help keep the pantry afloat to help those in need. Please spread the word so we can get the community involved as well. There is a collection box in the narthex, or you can place your items in the Pantry itself.

Sunday School

Join us **TODAY**, and March 26th for Sunday School!
Kids – bring your banks back on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday!

Lenten Collection Challenge: R.I.P. Medical Debt

Did you know:

- Over 1 in 3 Americans struggles with the weight of medical debt?
- Over HALF of all Americans struggle to afford paying off medical debt?
- And over 6 in 10 families of color and low-income adults struggle to afford healthcare costs?

Let's do something about this! We are teaming up with our Synod churches to collect funds to eliminate medical debt. How it works:

- You make a donation at church in our collection pots
- We'll send donations to *RIP Medical Debt* (more about them at ripmedicaldebt.org)...
- They pinpoint the debt of those most in need by using poverty and income data
- *RIP Medical Debt* then buys medical debt at a steep discount (\$100 buys about \$10,000 in medical debt!)
- For those whose medical debt gets wiped out, they receive a letter that their debt has been erased, with no tax or financial penalties...just like that! And all of this will be forgiven in New York State!

What a wonderful way this Lent to practice faith and forgiveness, which Jesus talks about a lot! **Our collection challenge runs through Palm Sunday (April 2nd)**. Our Synod's goal is to raise \$10,000, which translates into eliminating \$1 million of medical debt! Even Sunday School is collecting donations in piggy banks! Be sure to grab a collection bottle or use your own container...any and all donations (paper and coin cash, checks, etc.) are welcome!

**Pastor Rick will match the first \$200 that is donated, and he challenges Trinity to raise at least \$1,500! That would eliminate \$150,000 of medical debt! We can do it!*

Adult Forum

Adult Forum Book Study: Tattoos on the Heart

We have our next book that we are going to dive into in our Adult Forum times this spring: *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* by Gregory Boyle. More on the book:

For twenty years, Gregory Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In *Tattoos on the Heart*, he distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness. In each chapter we benefit from Boyle's gentle, hard-earned wisdom.

These essays about universal kinship and redemption are moving examples of the power of unconditional love and the importance of fighting despair. Gorgeous and uplifting, *Tattoos on the Heart* reminds us that no life is less valuable than another.

Options to get your copy of *Tattoos on the Heart*:

- Pastor Rick has copies available for purchase for \$10 each.
- The Erie County Public Library has copies available for loan.
- You can also purchase your own copy elsewhere.

We'll dive into our book at these upcoming Adult Forum times following Sunday worship:

10:45 am on March 19th

10:45 am on April 16th

10:45 am on April 30th

Hope Haven

Hope Haven is a non-profit inpatient chemical dependency rehabilitation program that provides an opportunity for WNY adults to overcome alcohol and substance abuse. They are in need of donations of the following items:

Magazines

Journals or composition notebooks

playing cards

yarn

crochet needles

puzzle books

adult coloring books

colored pencils

exercise equipment

To donate any of the following items, please contact Shannon Kern at 716-462-1212.

Holy Week Services

Join us as we complete the walk towards the cross on Holy Week. Our services are:

-Maundy Thursday: April 6th at 7 pm

-Good Friday tenebrae (a service of light to darkness): April 7th at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday at Trinity

We celebrate Easter at Trinity on Sunday, April 9th:

-Easter breakfast at 8 am...this year will be a potluck breakfast, details TBA

-Easter worship is at 9:30 am

-Following worship will be the Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

First Bible

One of the promises we make for children at baptism is to "place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer."

To fulfill this promise, Trinity is starting a First Bible program where we will provide an age-appropriate study Bible for children currently in their third grade year. (We'll also include older children in this first year of the program up to 6th grade.) And we'll hold a workshop for parents on ways you can use this Bible with your family.

First Bible Sunday will be Sunday, May 18th, with the workshop during Sunday School on May 7th. There is no cost to First Bible families. For everyone else, if you would like to sponsor a Bible for a child, the cost is \$30 for each Bible. Please contact Pastor Rick by Easter Sunday if you are interested in this new program for your family or are interested in sponsorships.

Summer Worship and Picnic: Mark your Calendars

Trinity is going back to Akron Falls Park for worship and fun and food! We'll have our Summer Worship and Picnic at the Brooklyn St. shelter in Akron Falls Park at 10:30 am on Sunday, July 16th!