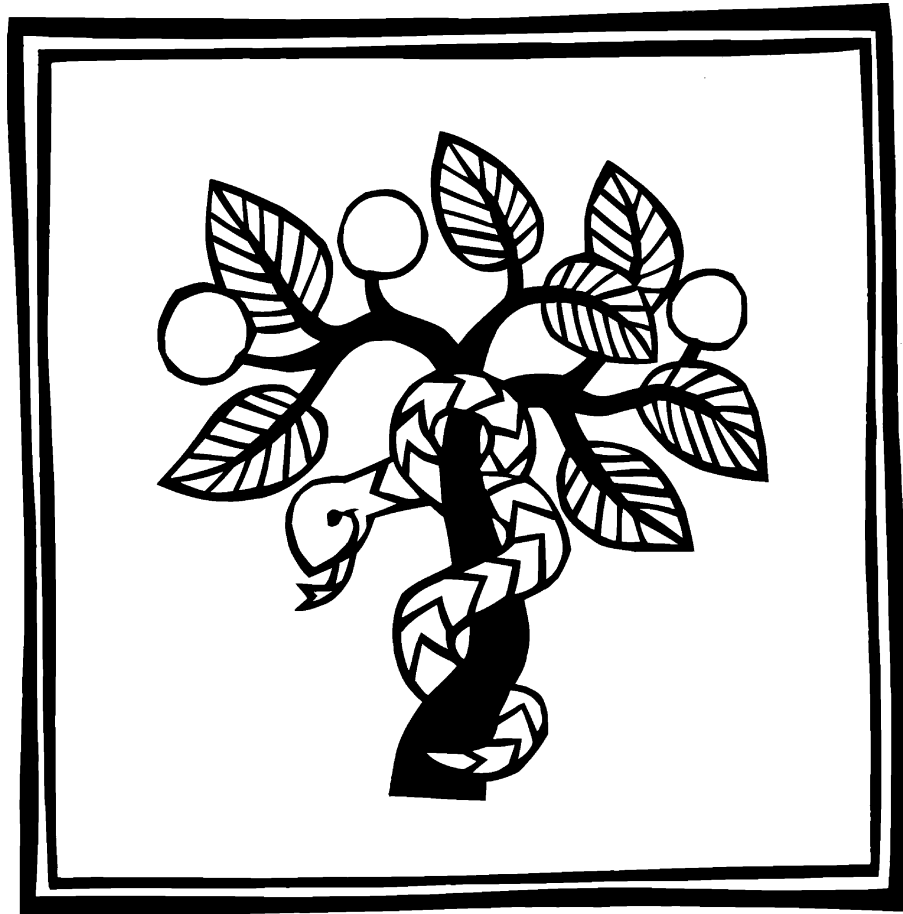


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 26th, 2023

First Sunday in Lent



Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

- 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: A Mighty Fortress is our God
Green Book: #229**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EDN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

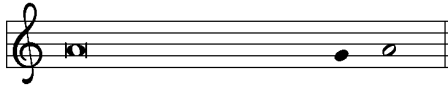
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***GREETING**

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.



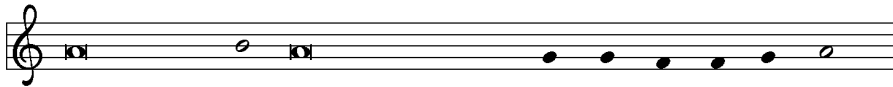
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

L: ¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

L: ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

ALL: ²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,

and in whose spirit there is no guile!

L: ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**ALL: ⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

L: ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**ALL: ⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

L: ⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**ALL: ⁸"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

L: ⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

**ALL: ¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

L: ¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

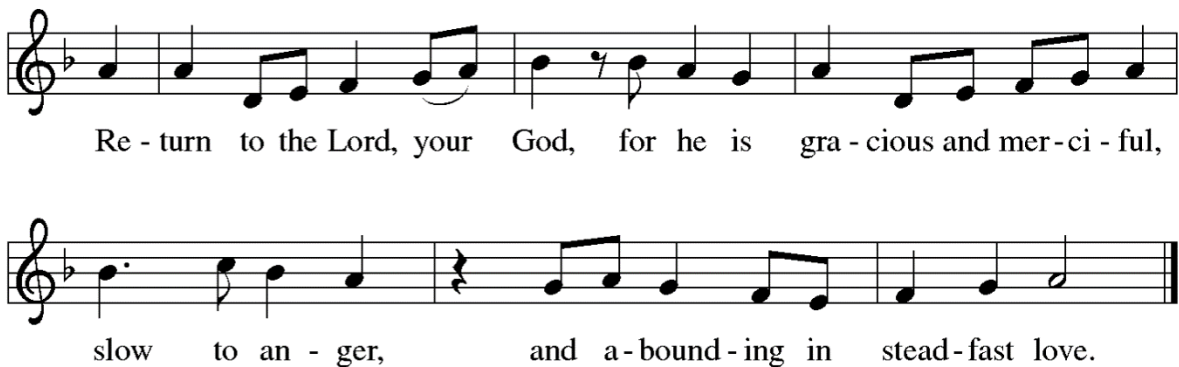
¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

L: The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL: Matthew: 4:1-11**

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.

L: ¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,
‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON: Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill

***HYMN OF THE DAY: I want Jesus to Walk with Me
Blue Book: #660**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 me; in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 me; when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*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.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

***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.*

CHOIR ANTHEM: All Night, All Day
With musical accompaniment by Julie Conschafter

Arranged by Walter Ehret
Copyright 2000 by Carl Fischer, LLC

***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.

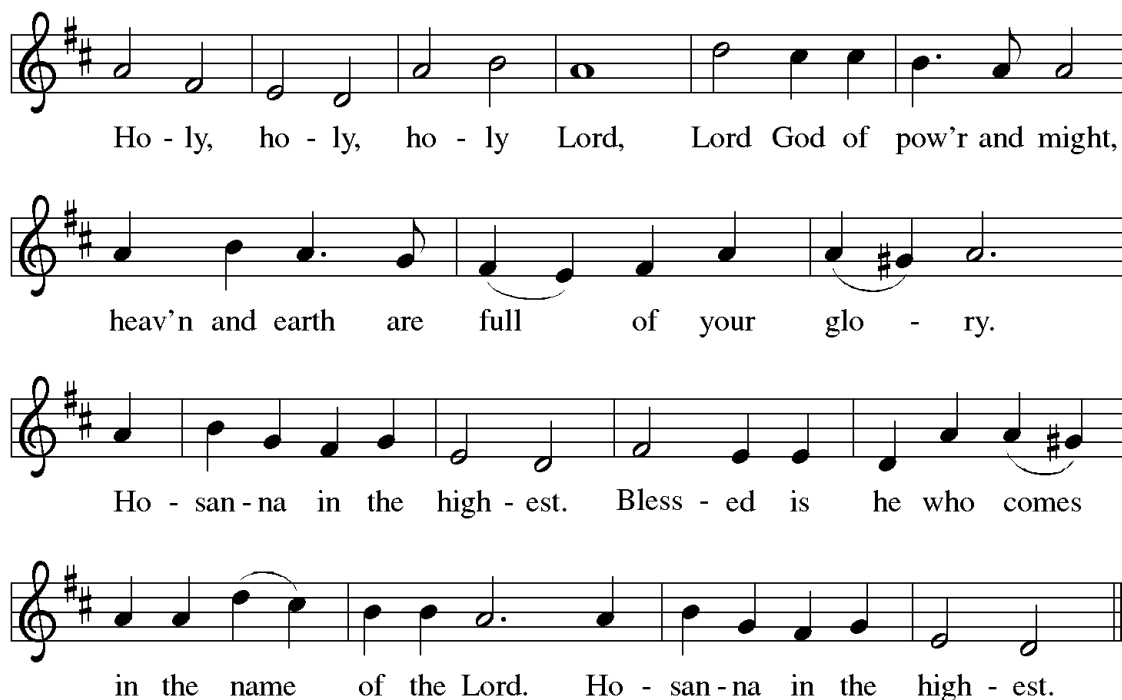
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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



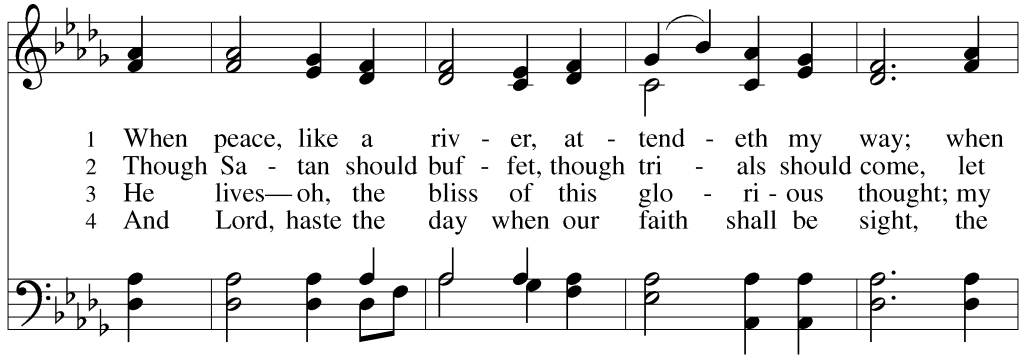
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: When Peace, Like a River

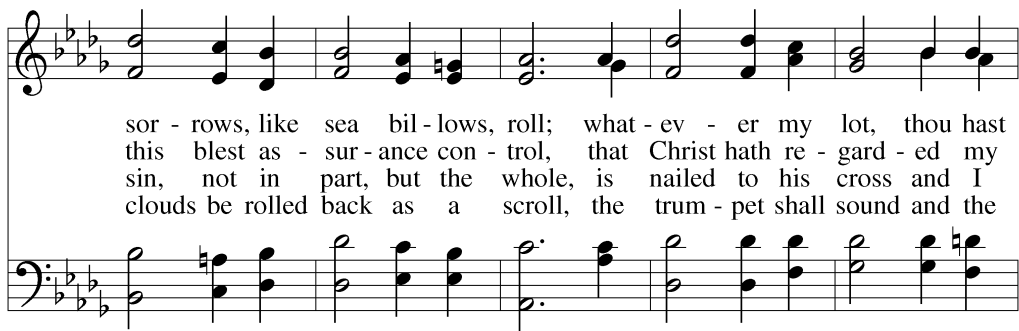
Green Book: #346

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

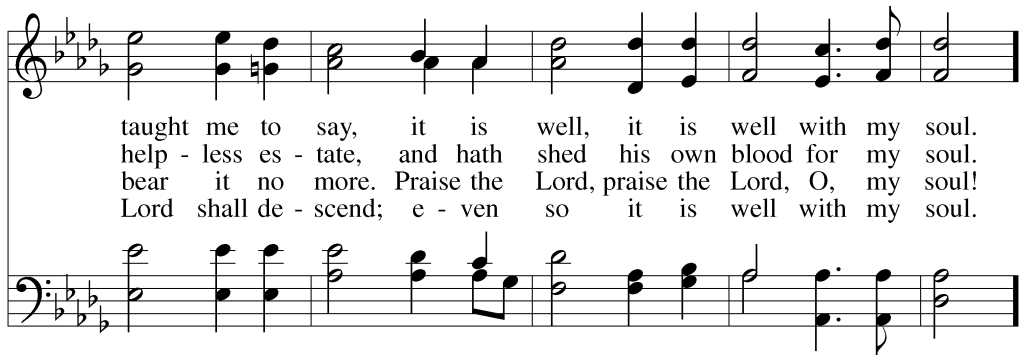
When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O, my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 it is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

*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: Jesus, Still Lead On Green Book: #341

Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith-less
3 When we seek re-lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta-tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead-er,



way be cheer-less, we will fol-low, calm and fear-less;
fears o'er-take us, let not faith and hope for-sake us;
come al-lur-ing make us pa-tient and en-dur-ing;
still di-rect us, still sup-port, con-sole, pro-tect us,



guide us by your hand to our Fa-ther's land.
safe-ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe-ly stand in our Fa-ther's land.

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

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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*Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church of South Newstead
4809 S. Newstead Rd.
Akron, NY 14001*

716-542-9828
trinlc@rochester.rr.com
www.trinlc.com

*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:

Michael – health issues

Carl Patterson, Sr. – broken hip

Debbie Smith – broken hip

Carl Patterson – recovery from broken hip @ Beachwood Nursing Home

Bill Beaky – beginning cancer treatment

The family & friends of:

Mary Frye

Clara Weber

Don Holmes

Judy Bell

Johanna Metz Coleman

Praise & Thanksgiving for: Jim – Diane Hurne's son, who is back to work!

Prayers are a powerful way to lift up people who are sick, injured or suffering for God's healing. Let us know of names you would like to have the church pray for, and we'll add them to the list here and in the Beacon. If you wish for names to remain anonymous, you can let Pastor Rick know privately and he'll pray for them silently. Names will remain in the bulletin and Beacon for around a month unless you let us know to extend their listing or remove them sooner. There is a list near the offering collection plate to write names down, or you can leave a message with the church office.

Counters: February: Jennifer, March: Paula, April: MaryLou

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to all those who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring! We raised \$125, and the proceeds will go to the Community of Good Neighbors.

Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School Today! We will be painting banks for a Lenten collection by the kids.

Communion Helpers:

We have resumed our communion "helpers"! Any child that wishes to help with communion by handing out goldfish to the other children during communion is welcome. Pastor will ask

for a volunteer during service and will choose a different volunteer to help each week. Every child will get a chance to help if they desire.

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 8th & 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.

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

Save the date: March 25th Spaghetti Supper

Mark your calendars for the Spaghetti Supper on March 25th. We'll be going back to in-person dining with a basket raffle! Stay tuned for a sign-up and more details.

In Search of:

Do you or someone you know have a spare laminator lying around that's not being used? If so, please see Ronda. She is looking for one for Sunday School use. Thanks!

Spring Cleaning

Bring your cleaning implements to help make the church shine this spring! We've scheduled our indoor cleanup day for 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.

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