



March 5, 2023 Second Sunday of Lent

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
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.

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.
Amen.

Opening Hymn:

No. 448



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - lwers of his way.
 that wash-es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.



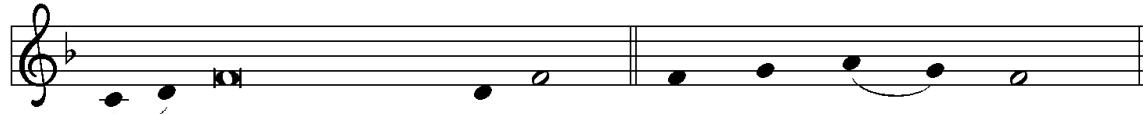
Greeting

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.

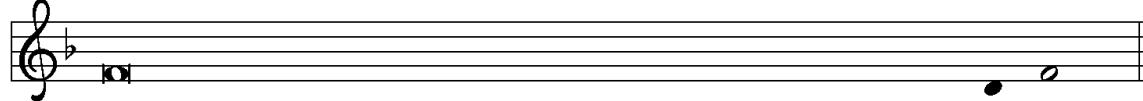


Kyrie

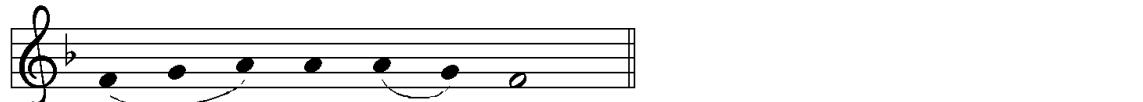


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

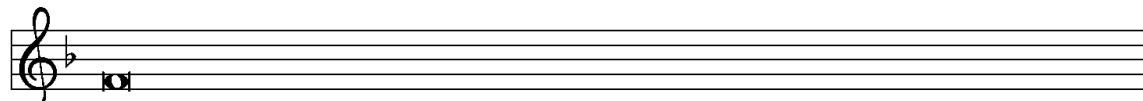
Lord, have mer - cy.



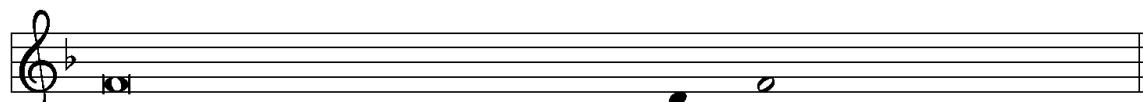
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



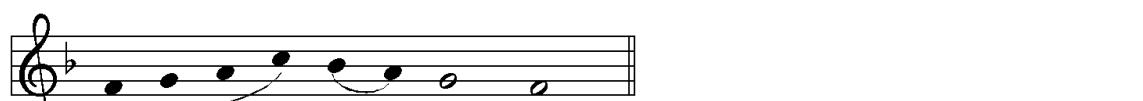
Lord, have mer - cy.



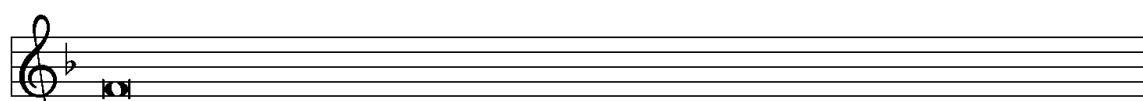
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



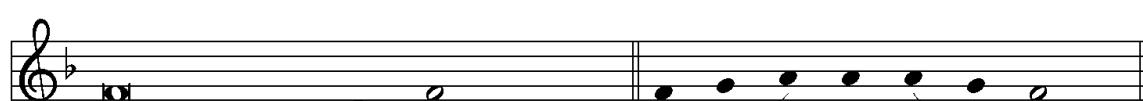
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

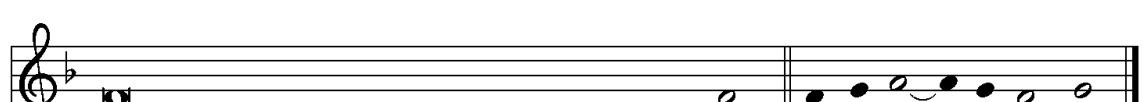


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not

reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a G clef, followed by a series of notes (quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, eighth note). The lyrics "Re - turn to the Lord, your God," are written below the notes. The second staff begins with a G clef, followed by a series of notes (quarter note, eighth note). The lyrics "for he is gra - cious and" are written below the notes. The third staff begins with a G clef, followed by a series of notes (quarter note, eighth note). The lyrics "mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in" are written below the notes. The fourth staff begins with a G clef, followed by a series of notes (quarter note, eighth note). The lyrics "stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love." are written below the notes.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be

born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"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."

The gospel of the Lord.

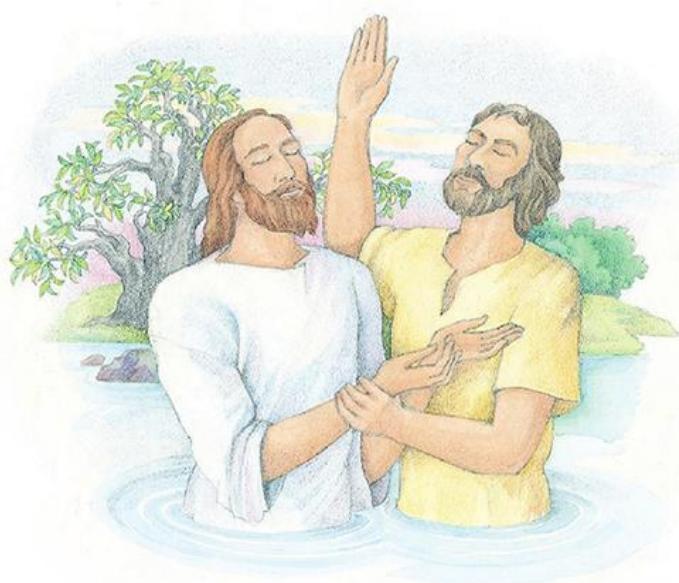
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus

No. 451



451

We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



1 We are bap - tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Apostles' Creed

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 Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he was 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

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

A brief silence.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be 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.

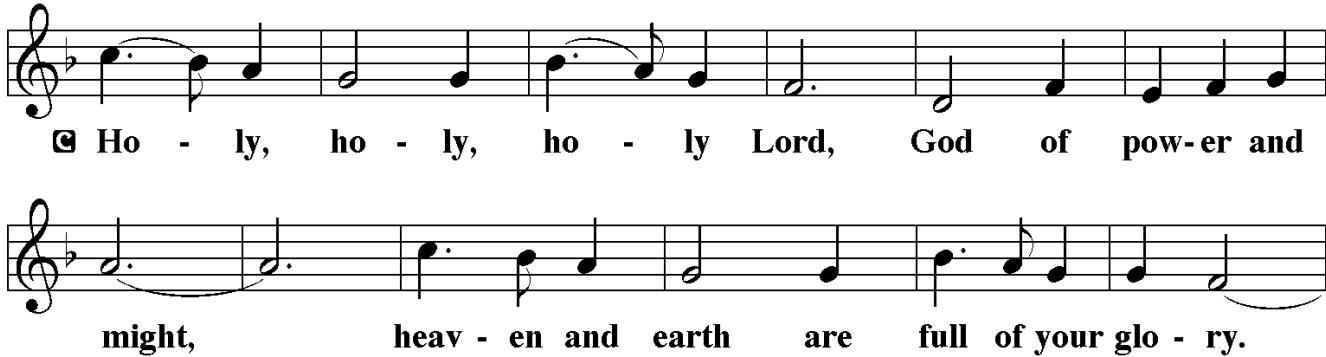
Preface

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and

might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

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 forever.

Amen.

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Communion

Lamb of God

C 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: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

No. 742



What a Friend We Have in Jesus

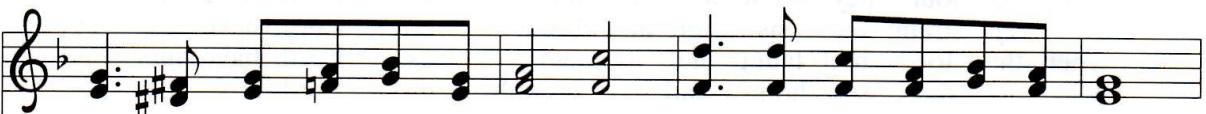
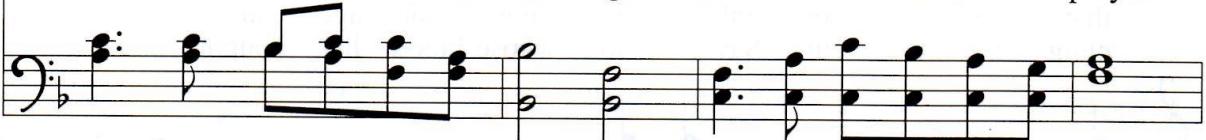
742



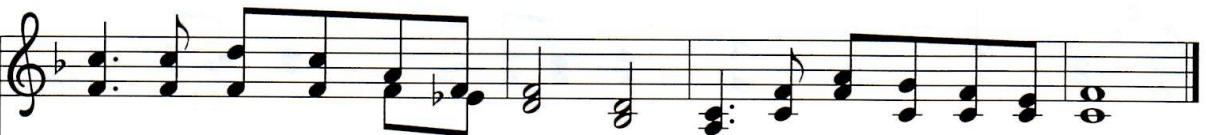
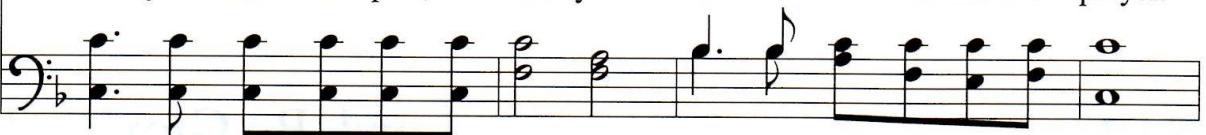
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav-y - lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



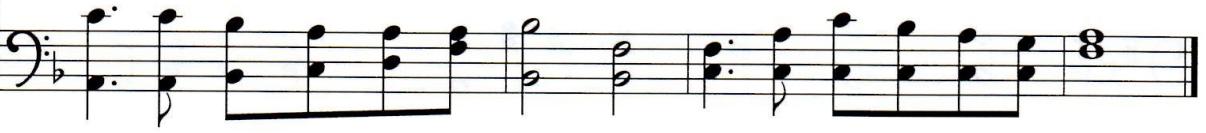
What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



After all have returned to their places, please stand

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

Prayer after Communion

Embody God,
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.

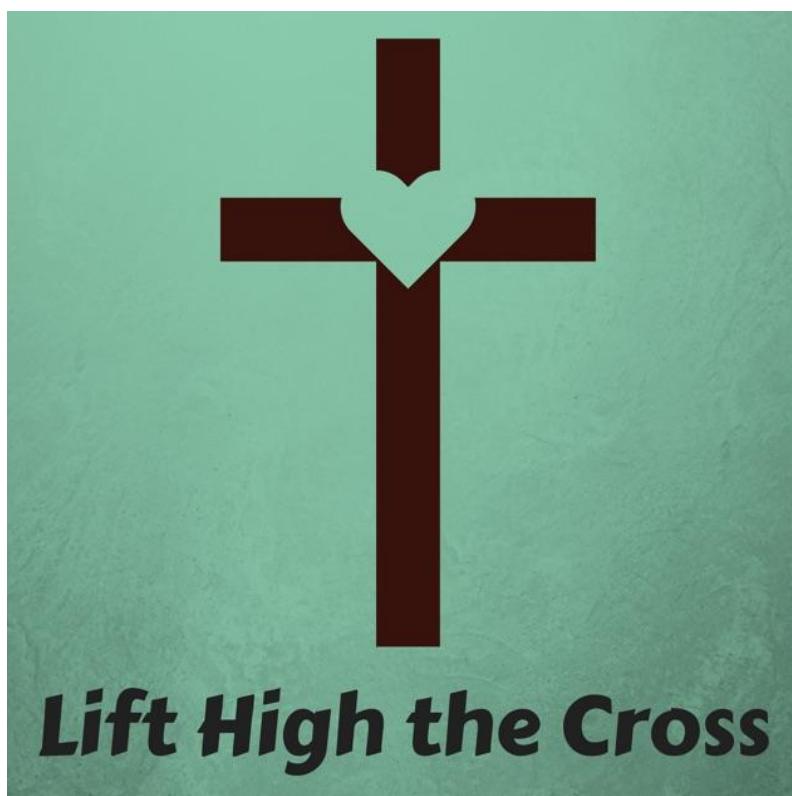
Blessing

God, the giver of love,
✚ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: Lift High the Cross

No. 660



Lift High the Cross

660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till
all the world a-dore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
2 All new-born servants of the Crucified,
3 O Lord, once lifted on the glo-rious tree,
4 So shall our song of triumph ever be.

Refrain

our king vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

Paul Wiedenheft, at Providence Care;
Norm Stierhoff, at Firelands ICU;
All those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey & Syria;
For all directly or indirectly effected by blizzards, tornadoes, and flooding,
Covid, Mass Shootings happening nationwide and Ukraine Crisis;
FAITH members, including; Ruby Stierhoff;
the staff and students of Trinity Lutheran Seminary;
the participants in the Narcotics Anonymous groups that meet at Trinity.

AT WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

At 8:00...

Interim Pastor:	Pastor Ralph Schibler
Lector:	Russ Stephens
Usher:	Justin Stierhoff
Acolyte:	Zane Warner

At 10:30...

Interim Pastor:	Pastor Ralph Schibler
Lector:	Natalie Thompson
Usher:	Denny Sessler
Acolyte:	Eli Conner

March Altar Care:	Pat Wiedenheft and Candy Beatty
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ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the glory of God in celebration of Ryan Wiedenheft's birthday on March 3 and Tyler Wiedenheft's birthday on March 6 from Dad, Mom, and Carlie

ATTENDANCE: February 22: 42; February 26: 46 + 26 = 72



Devotions for Lent 2

The week of March 5th

Called to Openness – As Unfinished People of God

Texts: John 3:1-17 (Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17)

Theme: How can these things be?

Every day of our lives we are asked or expected to be open to different things, circumstances, experiences, or people. Some are rather minor. Am I open to trying a food I've never eaten before? Some could be life changing. Am I open to considering a perspective that is different from mine? Am I open to a new job opportunity that presents itself? Am I open to forgiving someone who has harmed me? Am I open to changing my plans to accommodate another's need? Am I open to imagining that God is up to something, around which I cannot quite wrap my head? In the story of Nicodemus, we encounter an unfinished person of faith who is desperately trying to be open to understanding what God might be up to in Jesus. Amid his wondering confusion, Jesus meets him. Amid our own wondering confusion, Jesus meets us, too.

Reflect upon your openness • How do I typically respond to invitations or expectations to be open? • To what was I asked to be open today? • To what did I say "yes?" • To what did I say "no?" • What do I need for tomorrow?

Prayer: Open my heart, O God, to the mysteries of your saving love. In the name of +Jesus, Amen

DONATIONS TO OUR “PENNY JUG” support the global relief and habilitation efforts of ELCA World Hunger, a mission of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

THIS MORNING’S LOOSE CASH OFFERING (money not in an envelope or given without other designation) benefits Lutheran Disaster Response. **LOOSE CHECKS** will support our Current Expenses Fund unless designated otherwise on the check memo line.

2023 GIVING ENVELOPES AND 2022 STATEMENTS are available for pickup in the church office. If you do not see one for yourself, please let the office know and Carol will get you one.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26 BETWEEN SERVICES will be a brief overview of where the first aid equipment is and how to use the AED. This is open to the whole congregation. Please plan on attending this to help us all be better prepared for a health emergency here at Trinity.

This Week at Trinity

TODAY	Communion Service Sunday School	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am
MONDAY	Dartball Tournaments	7:00 pm
TUESDAY	Soup Meal prior to service at Zion Lenten Service at Zion	6:00 pm 7:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	"We All Belong" (Narcotics Anon.)	7:00 pm
SATURDAY	"We All Belong" (Narcotics Anon.) TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD BEFORE GOING TO BED	11:00 am
SUNDAY	Worship Service Sunday School Jam Session	8:00 & 10:30 am 9:15 am 9:30 am

ATTENTION: Anyone that would like to sing at the Good Friday service at Zion on April 7 starting at 1:00 pm, we will have a practice here after late service on Sunday, March 12. (We will also run through the contemporary songs during the jam session that day.)

ANOTHER CAMP is being planned for April 7 and our focus will be on Good Friday and All of God's Creatures! So, during the month of March until Easter we will be collecting items to give to the Erie County Dog Pound. This is the wish list they have given us: bleach, trash bags, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, fabric softener sheets, puppy food, dog collars, rawhide chewies, and old blankets, towels, or sheets.

There is a large trash container in the upstairs hallway to place your donations in. We thank you in advance for helping us with this project.



SORRY IT HAS TAKEN AWHILE, but we wanted to give you the total amount of diapers and wipes that were collected in January. There were 28 packs of diapers, and 44 packs of wipes, including a couple powders and shampoo. We would like to thank everyone who brought these in. They will be distributed to Children's Services and Project Noelle.

MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL AT LMC ON MARCH 12, 2023, FROM 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Treat yourself to a day filled with maple syrup, all you can eat pancakes, maple infused sausage and live music performed by a local band. You can purchase sassafras tea and donuts that are cooked over an open fire, buy real maple syrup, or take a nature hike. Be sure to visit the sugar shack. You can relax and enjoy a conversation around the fire and connect with friends, old and new. This annual tradition is a fun and welcoming family and community festival themed in maple syrup. Funds are raised at the festival for summer camperships. This event takes place at

HopeWood Pines, 2790 State Route 61, Marengo, OH 43334,

Phone: 419-864-8030, pines@hopewoodoutdoors.org

(HopeWood was formally known as Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, which we send a yearly donation to.)

Directing Choice Dollars® and Personal Giving: A How-To Guide

Direct Choice Dollars Online

1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. Click **Direct Choice Dollars**.
3. Log in by entering your User ID and password.
(If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click **Register for account access**.)
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **Direct Now** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **View activity history** link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **Search**.
5. Choose **Direct All** or **enter a specific number** and click **Direct Now**. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say **Thrivent Choice**.
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program Terms and Conditions.
(If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Want to make an even bigger impact?

Make a personal donation at thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.* Click **Make a personal donation** and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click **Make a Personal Donation**. You'll then be sent to InFaith Community Foundation to make the donation.

*Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year. The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



All floral arrangements will be removed on March 15th, including those on top of the monuments. Spring flowers may be placed the weekend before Easter.

Also, to maintain our cemeteries safely and efficiently, more than 2 items on the ground per plot, landscaping materials and pots larger than 12" will be removed.



Living Gifts to Celebrate Easter Purchase Either or Both!!!

Flowers for Our Sanctuary



Choose from Easter lilies, hyacinths, tulips, Calla Lilly, and daffodils, for our chancel at Easter and for your home or that of a loved one after worship. Flowers will be from Corso's.

Living Easter Gifts Order Form

Please put your name on this form

No. Item _____ Total/Item _____

---	White Easter Lilies (6" pot) @ \$13	_____
---	Hyacinths (6" pot) @ \$11	_____
---	--- pink --- blue --- white	_____
---	Tulips (6" pot) @ \$11	_____
---	--- red --- pink --- yellow	_____
---	Daffodils (6" pot) @ \$11	_____
---	Calla Lilly (4" pot) @ \$14	_____
---	Baby Chicks @ \$1.00	_____

TOTAL DUE (flowers/chicks) _____

Baby Chicks for Families in Underdeveloped Countries

Little chicks make a big difference! When they are just months old, these chicks begin laying eggs, which make nutritious, protein-rich meals for families who are hungry. The many extra eggs are often enough to allow a family to start a small business by selling them for additional income.



Dedicated By _____

DEDICATION FOR EASTER BULLETIN

Make checks payable to
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
and attach to this form.

Place in the offering plate or mail or take to the church office. Paid orders are due no later than March 26!

Order Form on Back