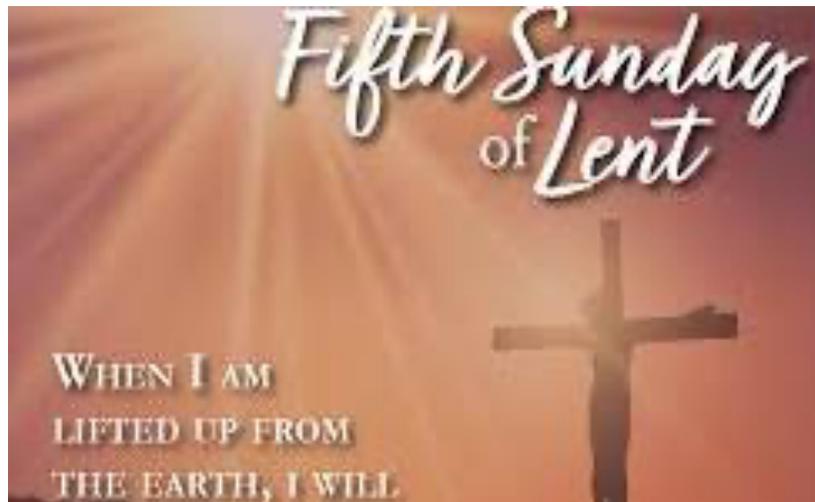


Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 22, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church



195 Claremont Avenue | P.O. Box 15303

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-435-9807

www.trinityjerseycity.com

The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

Order of Service

~ Gathering ~

† Welcome

*† Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection, and self-examination.)

P: Holy God,

C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*† Entrance Hymn: "Lead Me, Guide Me" TFBF 70" TFBF 70

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way;

For if You lead me, I cannot stray;

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power

To help me over my weakest hour;

Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;

Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.

I am putting all my trust in Thee,

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

3 I am lost, if you take your hand from me;

I am blind, without Thy Light to see;

Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,

Lead me, O Lord, lead me. [Refrain]

***† Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***† Kyrie**

A: *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: *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.*

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: *For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

C: Lord, have mercy,

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

***† Hymn of Praise** (*Suspended during Lent*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

***† Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

† **Psalm: Psalm 130; refrain, Ps. 130:5**

Refrain: I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope.

¹ Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O Lord;

² **O Lord, | hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O Lord, | who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

in order that you | may be feared. R

⁵ I wait for you, O Lord; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,**

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is | steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸ **For the Lord shall | redeem Israel**

from | all their sins. R

† **Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11**

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law – indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of

righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

***† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 11th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

***† Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45**

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.”²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.”³⁵ Jesus began to weep.³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise be to you, O Christ

† **Adult Choir Anthem: “Never Would Have Made It”**

† Sermon: The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

† Sermon Hymn: "Like A Ship That Tossed and Driven" TFBF 251

*1 Like a ship that's tossed and driven,
battered by an angry sea;
When the storms of life are raging,
and their fury falls on me,
I wonder what I have done,
that makes this race so hard to run;
Then I say to my soul, don't worry,
the Lord will make a way somehow.*

Refrain:

*The Lord will make a way somehow,
when beneath the cross I bow,
He will take away your sorrow,
let Him have your burdens now;
When the loads bears down so heavy
the weight is shown upon my brow,
There's a sweet relief in knowing
the Lord will make a way somehow.*

*2 Try to do my best in service,
try to live the best I can;
When I choose to do the right thing
evil's present on every hand;
I look up and wonder why,*

*that good fortune passed me by;
Then I say to my soul, don't worry,
the Lord will make a way somehow. [Refrain]*

~ Prayer ~

***† The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will
have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,***

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***† Prayers of the People**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives (*local places in nature may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized (*especially*). Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer our thanksgiving for (Jonathan Edwards and) all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

***† Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***† Offering Canticle**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence.
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***† Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

~ Meal ~

***† The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

A: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***† Words of Institution**

***† 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

† Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

† Communion Hymn: "Lord I Want To Be A Christian" TFBF 234

1 Lord, I want to be a Christian

in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart,

*in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.*

*2 Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.*

*3 Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.*

*4 Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart,
in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.*

***† Post Communion Blessing**

(After all have returned to their places:)

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

C: **Amen**

***† Post Communion Canticle**

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

***† Post Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

*† Benediction

*† Hymn: "Down at the Cross" TFBB 75

*1 Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried;
there to my heart was the blood applied:
glory to his name.*

Refrain:

*Glory to his name, Glory to his name!
There to my heart was the blood applied:
Glory to his name.*

*2 I am so wondrously saved from sin,
Jesus so sweetly abides within;
there at the cross where he took me in:
glory to his name. [Refrain]*

*3 Oh, precious fountain that saves from sin,
I am so glad I have entered in;
there Jesus saves me and keeps me clean:
glory to his name. [Refrain]*

*4 Come to this fountain so rich and sweet;
cast your poor soul at the Savior's feet;
plunge in today, and be made complete:
glory to his name. [Refrain]*

*† Dismissal

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday via Zoom. Next session will resume after Lent season on April 8th at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session April 19th
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, April 10th from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be Saturday, April 4th at 10AM.
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, April 9th at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity's **Youth Game Night** will be Friday, March 27th, 6PM – 8PM
- ◆ **Lenten Service**, Wednesday March 25th at Trinity (*Host Church: Bethany*)
 - ◆ **Fellowship & Soup, 6PM**
 - ◆ **Lenten Service, 7PM**
- ◆ **Maundy Thursday / Agape Love Seder Meal**, Thursday, April 2nd at 7PM
- ◆ **Good Friday Service**, Friday, April 3rd at 7PM
- ◆ **Easter Sunday Breakfast** (*Hosted by Trinity's Men's Ministry*), Sunday, April 5th starting at 8AM
- ◆ **Trinity's Oldies but Goodies Party** will be Saturday, April 25th 6PM - 11PM at the VFW Shelton R. Post #2294, Jersey City. \$30 donation per person. Call 201-846-5372 for more info.
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, May 23rd, 12PM – 4PM
- ◆ **Free Tax Preparers!** Every Wednesday through April 8th from 9:30 AM – 12PM. Federal and State Income Taxes prepared and filed electronically. Call 201-435-9807 to schedule an appointment. No walk-ins allowed.
- ◆ Trinity is selling "**Faith Over Fear**" T-Shirts in 3 different designs. Short-sleeved: \$20; Long-sleeved: \$23. Please check our website for the designs and order info.
- ◆ Visit our **Gifts & Talents Wall** in the Fellowship Hall. Share how you would like to use your gifts and talents to serve the church.

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle. Contact Tina Richardson at 201-435-9807 for more info.
- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
- ◆ **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**