

## First Sunday in Lent

Sunday, February 22, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM



## Trinity Lutheran Church



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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: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away, and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **C: Amen**

\*† Entrance Hymn: "Come By Here" TFBF 43

*1 Come by here, my Lord, come by here;*

*come by here, my Lord, come by here;*

*come by here, my Lord, come by here;*

*O Lord, come by here.*

*2 Someone's crying, Lord, come by here;  
someone's crying, Lord, come by here;  
someone's crying, Lord, come by here;  
O Lord, come by here.*

*3 Someone's singing, Lord, come by here;  
someone's singing, Lord, come by here;  
someone's singing, Lord, come by here;  
O Lord, come by here.*

*4 Someone's praying, Lord, come by here;  
someone's praying, Lord, come by here;  
someone's praying, Lord, come by here;  
O Lord, come by here.*

*5 Someone needs you, Lord, come by here;  
someone needs you, Lord, come by here;  
someone needs you, Lord, come by here;  
O Lord, come by here.*

**\*† 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.*

**C: Lord, have mercy,**

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

**C: Amen**

**\*† Hymn of Praise** *(Retired during Lent)*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

**\*† Prayer of the Day**

**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. Amen.**

*~God's Word~*

**† 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.*

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but 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."

<sup>3:1</sup>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?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but 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.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>So 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. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

† **Psalm: Psalm 32; refrain, Ps. 32:10**

*Refrain: Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.*

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the  
guilt | of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye. R**
- <sup>9</sup> Do 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."
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

† **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.*

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But 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 gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

### **\*† Gospel Acclamation**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter

*C: Glory to you, O Lord*

### **\*† Holy 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.*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying 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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

*C: Praise be to you, O Christ*

† **Adult Choir Anthem: "Jesus Will Fix It"**

† **Lay Sermon: Annette Megargel Morris**

† **Sermon Hymn: "Jesus Promised"**

*Oh, how wonderful it is*

*Jesus promised he'll take care of me*

*Oh, how marvelous it is*

*Jesus promised he'll take care of me (x3)*

*I don't have to worry about the things ahead*

*All I have to do is live right*

*and believe in what he said*

*I can call him in the morning*

*I can call him in the middle of the night*

*And when I call him*

*He'll make everything alright*

*It does not matter*

*How big the problem may be  
Jesus promised he'll take care of me  
Jesus promised he'll take care of me*

*I don't have to worry about the things ahead  
All I have to do is live right  
And believe in what he said!*

*I can call him in the morning (x6)  
Jesus promised he'll take care of me*

*~ Prayer ~*

**\*† The Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
He descended into hell.\*  
On the third day He rose again;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
He will come again 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 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.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). 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.**

**\*† 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

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

\*† Benediction

\*† Hymn: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” TFBF 296

*1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.*

*2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the  
gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

*3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.*

\*† Dismissal

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

## Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday via Zoom. Next session will resume after Lent season on April 8<sup>th</sup> 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 March 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 2PM – 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM
- ◆ Trinity will host a **Fish-Fry fundraiser** on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 12PM – 4PM
- ◆ **Lenten Service**
  - ◆ Wednesday, 2/25 at 7PM
  - ◆ Wednesday, 3/4 at 7PM
  - ◆ Wednesday, 3/11 at 7PM
  - ◆ Wednesday, 3/18 (*Christ Our Redeemer is our Host Church*) at 7PM
  - ◆ Wednesday, 3/25 Trinity at 7PM
- ◆ **Maundy Thursday / Agape Love Seder Meal**, Thursday, 4/2 at 7PM
- ◆ **Good Friday**, Friday, 4/3 at 7PM
- ◆ **Free Tax Preparers!** Every Wednesday through April 8<sup>th</sup> 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.
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your

\*Congregation Standing

**Bold Font:** Congregation Response

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**