

March 10, 2019
First Sunday in Lent

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
205 West Grove Street (P.O. Box 544)
Clarks Summit, Pa.

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

*Worship leaders' parts are in regular font.
Responses of the assembly are in bold font.*

Notations

*"Pg." - Page Numbers – front half of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship"
"No." - Hymn Numbers – rear half of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship"*

+ Gathering +

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

Amen.

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

(kneel - Silence for reflection and self-examination)

God at the margins,

We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way.

We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.

We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows.

Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care.

Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy.

Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ, leading you from death into life.

Amen.

Greeting (stand)

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 (stand - sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, 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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

(sit)

+ Word +

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt

and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

After the First Reading the following will be said:

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm (*Congregation: refrain and verses in bold print*) Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

¹You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.”**

⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

¹⁰**no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

¹³You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation.**

Second Reading:

Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

After the Second Reading the following will be said:

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

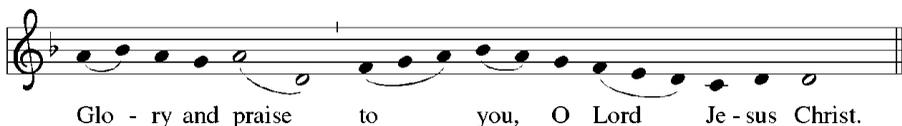
Gospel Acclamation for Lent: *(stand - sung)*

Pg. 160

Sung by the choir and the congregation:



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



Gospel: *(stand)*

Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

The Gospel is announced:

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written,

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

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’
¹¹and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day (*stand*)

No. 325

Nicene Creed (*stand*)

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 Intercession

(stand)

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

We remember those within the Trinity family who are sick, hospitalized, or in special need, especially . . .

We remember those who are serving in the armed forces, especially . .

We remember those outside the Trinity membership who are sick, hospitalized, or in special need, especially . . .

We remember our bishops . . .

A brief silence.

Holy and steadfast God, keep your word near to us, planting it in our hearts and communities. Make it blossom into proclamation for all people to receive. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

As you give your Spirit freely, so also give bread that sustains every living thing. Graciously feed hungry souls and hungry stomachs with your bountiful provision. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Stir up courage among your people to resist oppressive powers and to lead people into freedom *(as you did through Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today)*. Shine the light of your justice through their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hold tightly those who grow weary in their struggle with addiction or temptation *(especially)*. By your strength bear them up to live fully in your presence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Teach us the stories of our faith by heart. As you accompanied our ancestors in their uncertainty, so guide us confidently into the future. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

When we struggle and are tested, redeem us by the endurance of Christ. Give us steadfast faith to strive for your glory until we witness its fullness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please Note: During the cold and flu season, at your discretion, you may share the peace with those about you with the customary handshake. If you would prefer not to share the peace in this manner, please be seated immediately following the above liturgical dialogue.)

+ Meal +

Offering

Choir Anthem:

Offertory:

(stand - sung)

No. 188

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.

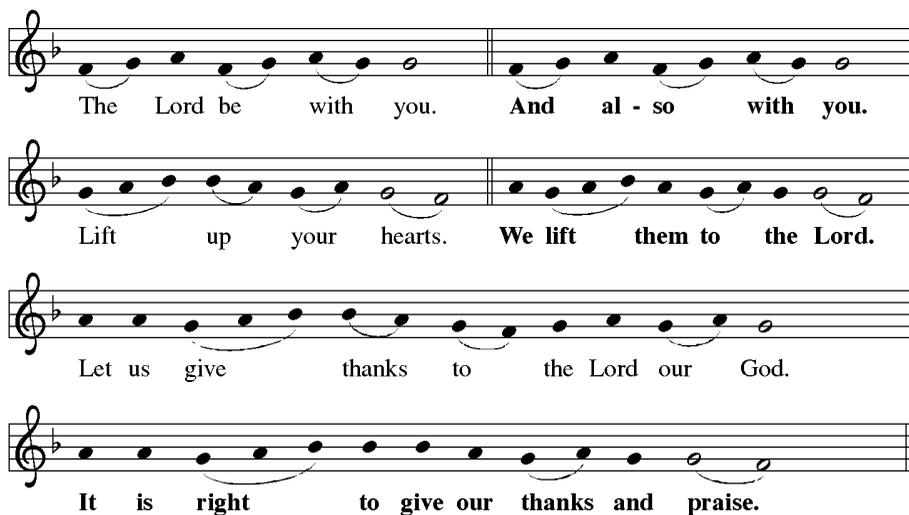
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

(stand - sung)

Pg. 161

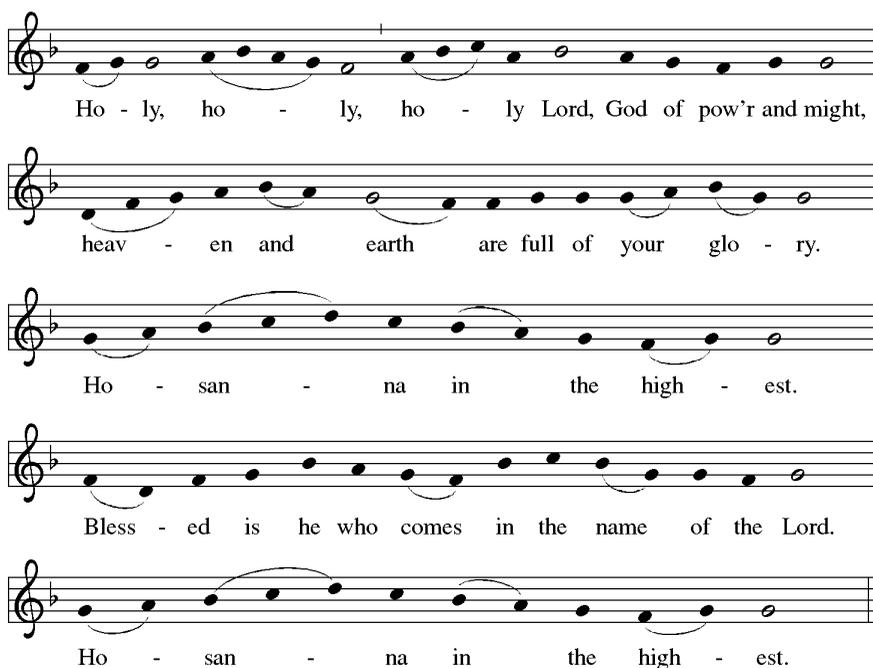


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**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, God of pow'r 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.

Thanksgiving at the Table (*Prayer for Lent*) (from *With One Voice*)

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and
springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and Our Water,
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the
love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer (*stand*)

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; 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 (stand)

Christ has prepared the feast.

Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

Communion Song (stand)

Pg. 164

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. A - men.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

If you have been baptized, have received your First Communion, and share our belief in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament, you are invited to receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist will be distributed by *intinction* (*the wafer dipped into the wine*). Please come to the altar at the direction of the ushers.

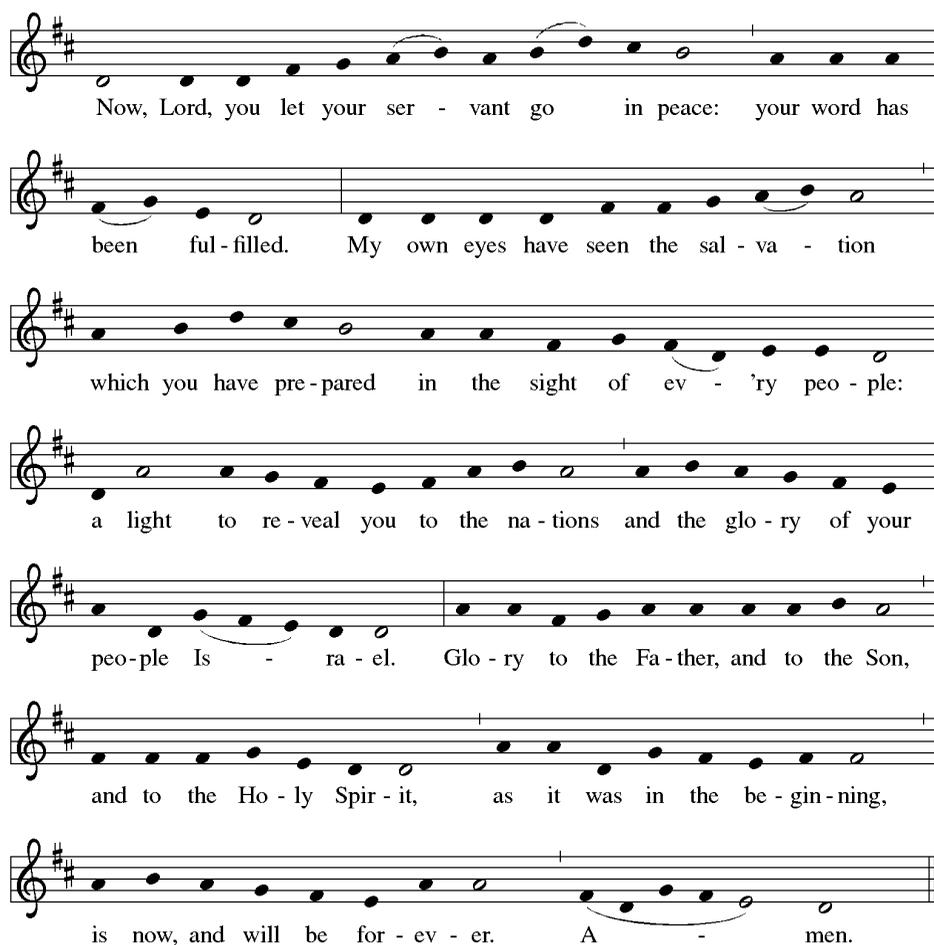
Children not receiving holy communion are invited to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. They should bow their heads for the blessing as they are approached by the pastor.

Post-Communion Blessing: (stand)

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

Amen

Now, Lord



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has
 been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion
 which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
 a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Prayer After Communion

(stand)

Let us pray.

Tender and merciful one,
 at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness
 into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of
 reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving
 for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen**+ Sending +****Blessing:**

(stand)

God, who fills the creation with abundance,
 Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws
 ever near to us, † bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen

Dismissal*(stand)*

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

The Postlude**Wilderness Encounter**

The devil did not make him do it! No, it was not the Evil One who put Jesus on the path to the wilderness. Imagine the scene in this gospel story. Listen beyond the hissing sun and the howl of silence while you contend with this detail: It wasn't the devil's hand that tugged Jesus into the wilderness. No, it was not the diabolical villain of Eden's paradise nor the conniving accuser in Job's tragic saga that took him to taste loneliness and hunger. It was the Spirit! (Luke 4:1).

In a seemingly wretched epilogue to the grand scene by the river, Jesus, clean from the water of his baptism in the Jordan, goes to the wilderness. And yes, no surprise, in the wilderness the devil, the Great Deceiver, arrives with an unholy trinity of deceptions that offer nothing more to a hungry world than scraps that will not do. The Deceiver offers nothing more for empty lives than knock-off royal pedigrees that are cruel illusions, nothing more for unsteady nerves and faint hearts than a mockery of faith that bears no truth.

But the Spirit is there too, in this seemingly desolate place. There Jesus, the beloved Son, claims for himself more than name and ancestry; he reveals for us the holy work of God's mysterious Spirit. The same Spirit that descended on him at his baptism sustained him in the wilderness, and that very Spirit is wildly, graciously, probingly loose in the church and in the world today.

In our own wildernesses, where faith and doubt often collide, we can be sure that Jesus goes with us. The one who was led, accompanied, and followed by the Spirit in the wilderness surely does not abandon us to our doubts and fears. In places we are deeply afraid to go, Jesus waits for us with bread for the journey in his wounded hands.