

March 17, 2019  
Second Sunday in Lent

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

*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*

*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.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, 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:

*Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a son, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said,

"You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

<sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your

descendants be.” <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

*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 27: 1-14

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

<sup>2</sup>**When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,**  
**they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup>**One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my**  
**life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the**  
**temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high  
up- | on a rock.

<sup>6</sup>**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who**  
**surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of**  
**rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

<sup>8</sup>**My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup>**Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup>**Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing  
violence.**

<sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

## **Second Reading:**

## *Philippians 3:17--4:1*

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

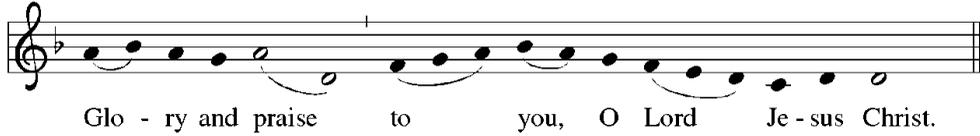
<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*After the Second Reading the following will be said:*

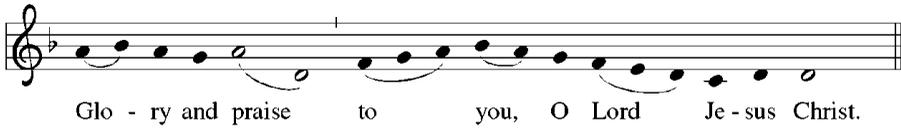
Word of God, Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

*Sung by the choir and the congregation:*



The Son of Man must be | lifted up,\*  
that whoever believes in him may have e- | ternal life.



**Gospel:** (stand)

*Luke 13:31-35*

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

*The Gospel is announced:*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

*After the reading:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** (stand)

No. 323

## **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.*

Compassionate God, call your people to stand firm as citizens of heaven. As we are humbled by your wondrous love, nurture such mercy in our hearts and ministries. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Display your faithfulness to creation in the changing of the seasons. Orchestrate the great song of praise that comes from rivers, birds, mountains, livestock, and wind. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Drown out the terror in the world with acts of lovingkindness and generosity. Release political leaders from pride and fear to act justly and to serve citizens. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rush to answer those who cry out to you in time of trial (*especially*). Give shelter to your vulnerable children, and cover them in the comfort of your mothering wings. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Grant solace to people who long to be parents, but have faced difficulty in bearing or adopting children. Build life-giving parent and child relationships for the sake of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Build up your holy community of saints through the work of bishops and missionaries (*like Patrick, whom we commemorate today*). Spread your word through your people for the sake of the world. 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)

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**

## Song after Communion

(stand - sung)

No. 201

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****Here and Now**

There may be a credible argument to be made for living life fully in the “now.” It might go like this: “Yesterday is no more, tomorrow may never come, so be present in the present because it’s all you’ve got.”

Some Pharisees, members of the group of religious interpreters of God’s law who so often appear as Jesus’ adversaries, showed up at a critical hour with an urgent and, by all indications, well-intentioned warning for him: he was in the crosshairs of killers. Herod, the embodiment of “law and order” for the Roman Empire (more accurately, the incarnation of an empire’s brutal force—an offense of power not left behind in the first century), wanted Jesus dead.

Jesus, not ignoring the Pharisees or their warnings, nonetheless rejected them with the sort of loving intensity a mothering hen might have for her brood of chicks. With an eternal “right here, right now” challenge to the power and the authority of both Herod and empire, Jesus refused to flee from tomorrow’s trials; he refused to withdraw from what might come. He stayed in the now.

When everything seems to be going wrong, the one who is Alpha and Omega holds by faith a course toward hope. Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow, stands firm when certainty breaks apart in storms of chaos, when doom leases the moment, and when the long, sharp claws of tragedy and sorrow cut close. Jesus’ way among demons and despair is to heal—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Jesus’ way of hope transcends the pinnacles upon which vacant optimisms teeter—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Neither counsels of caution nor threats from empire, not the demise of prophets nor rejection from his own can stall the blessed hope that comes in the name of the Lord.