HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Celebrating our 141st Anniversary

Holy Communion – 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!
Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God’s people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ’s teaching to love one another as God loves us.

We invite our guests as well as members to fill out the blue sheet, found inside your bulletin, and place in the offering plate.

Share your story!
Check-in, Tweet, post, or send an Instagram about your experience at Holy Trinity.
Use #PowerofTrinity to share your Faith in an instant!
Find us on Facebook at:
Facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo
Facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic

INTRODUCTION
Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. “I was blind, now I see,” declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God’s beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

VOLUNTARY
Aria, Opus 1184

Carson Cooman
(b. 1982)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able (10:30)*

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*
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 mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.
CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray together.
Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN The Rev. Brenda Maynor

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
The first reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is recorded in 1st Samuel, the 16th Chapter.
1The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” 2Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” 4Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” 5He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” 7But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” 10Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” 11Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” 12He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” 13Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23
The congregation will sing responsively the bold-faced type.

1The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

2The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.
3 You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14
The second reading for today is recorded in Ephesians, the 5th Chapter.

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake!

   Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.
The holy gospel according to Saint John

Glory to you, O Lord.

1 As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, 7 saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”
They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.
Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord:

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

*Please stand, if able.*
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 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

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Strengthen all communities of faith, including the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Resurrection, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. We pray especially for all men and women serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. We pray for all those we now name out loud, and those we remember in our hearts… Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Strengthen those who serve in the armed forces including the National Guard as they are deployed throughout the land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with faith, compassion, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. We pray for all those we now name out loud, and those we remember in our hearts… Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
God of insight, watch over the young and young at heart. For your daughters and sons, including the children of our community. Hear us, O God.  

**Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.  

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.  

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  

*And also with you.*

*Let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace.*

**Please be seated.**

**THE OFFERING**

**SOLO AT THE OFFERING**  
*God is My Shepherd* Op. 99 No. 4  
Antonín Dvořák  
(1841-1904)

Thane Schulz, *tenor*

God is my shepherd, I want for nothing. My rest is in the pleasant meadows, He leadeth me where quiet waters flow. My fainting soul doth He restore, and guideth me in the ways of peace, to glorify His name. And though in death's dark valley my steps must wander, my spirit shall not fear, for Thou art by me still. Thy rod and staff are with me, and they shall comfort me.

*Please stand as you are able.*
OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray together.
Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have
given us to share, that all people may know your peace through
Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Thanksgiving for the Word
Let us pray.
Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all
things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.
By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

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; 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.
How Can I Keep from Singing

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentations;
I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is lord of Heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear and hear their death knells ringing;
When friends rejoice both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
It sounds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

BENEDICTION
Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ✩ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.
Amen.
Amazing Grace

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Follow the cross.
Thanks be to God.

While we will continue to staff the church office to conduct everyday business, such as answering the phones and mail service. The office will be closed through the end of March. We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYO PLANT SALE: It’s that time of year again for the Annual LYO Plant Sale. Order forms may be obtained on the website or by calling the church office. Orders are due by Sunday, April 4 and pick up will be Saturday, May 16 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Please turn in your order form as soon as possible. Order forms and payments can be mailed to the church office.

Unfortunately, the March 29th "Into the Light" special Service with composer Jake Runestad has been cancelled. However, the March 29th Service will be livestreamed from the Mansperger Chapel at 10:30 am. Tune in to www.holytrinitybuffalo.org to view the Service, as we all work together to support each other through this difficult time.

ELECTRONIC GIVING: Holy Trinity has an electronic option for making regular offerings or a one-time donation. If you would like to sign up, please fill out the forms located on the tables in the narthex and return to the office. Please call the church office with questions.
Lenten and Easter Worship

Times and schedule may change in response to Synodical and State recommendations. Stay tuned for updates.

Thursday Lenten program at Holy Trinity
(3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2)
12:00 p.m. Worship in Mansperger Chapel via Livestream

Palm Sunday, April 5
8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Chancel Choir

Monday, April 6 – Friday, April 10
7:00 a.m. Holy Week Morning Devotions and Breakfast

Monday, April 6
6:30 p.m. Passover Seder Dinner

Maundy Thursday, April 9
**7:00 p.m.** Holy Communion/stripping of the altar w/Chancel Choir

Good Friday, April 10
**3:00 p.m.** Family Service
**7:00 p.m.** Tenebrae Service with Chancel Choir

Easter Sunday, April 12
8:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast by the Fellowship & Hospitality Group
9:45 a.m. Pre-service music
10:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion with Choir/Brass/Organ

**Please note time change from previous years**
The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Randall F. Smith and Marie E. Smith, by Kevin, Helen, Ann Marie and Randi Jones.

The flag flying on the flagpole has been dedicated In Memory of Ken James by Gail and John Camilleri.

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Stewardship Thought of the Day

*If everyone took only what was sufficient for their needs, leaving the rest to those in want, there would be no rich and no poor.*

*St. Basil*
HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council
Uli MacDonald, President
Emily Notari, Vice-President
Guy Huber, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Thedralyn Bradley, Kathy Crissey, Ryon Fleming, Richard Lee,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

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Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor
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The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
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