



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent
Celebrating our 142nd Anniversary

Service of the Word 8:30 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.

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

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

PRELUDE

Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort

(2 settings)

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God meets us where we are, again and again. God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget.

Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone. And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder.

Family of faith, please pray with me.

God who meets us where we are – there is nowhere we can go that you are not.

You were with Jesus at his baptism. You were with him in the wilderness, and even in between, you were there, saying aloud, “This is my beloved.”

We know that you are with us too – in the good, the bad, and everything in between – but so often we act like we are alone.

Instead of coming to you with our hurt, we hold it in or cast it into others. Instead of coming to you with our joy, we credit ourselves and offer you nothing.

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you while living like you are nowhere to be found?

Forgive our self-centered ways. Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.

You are the God who meets us where we are.

Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this: God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning, and God calls you beloved.

We are washed by the water. We are called beloved. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

OPENING HYMN

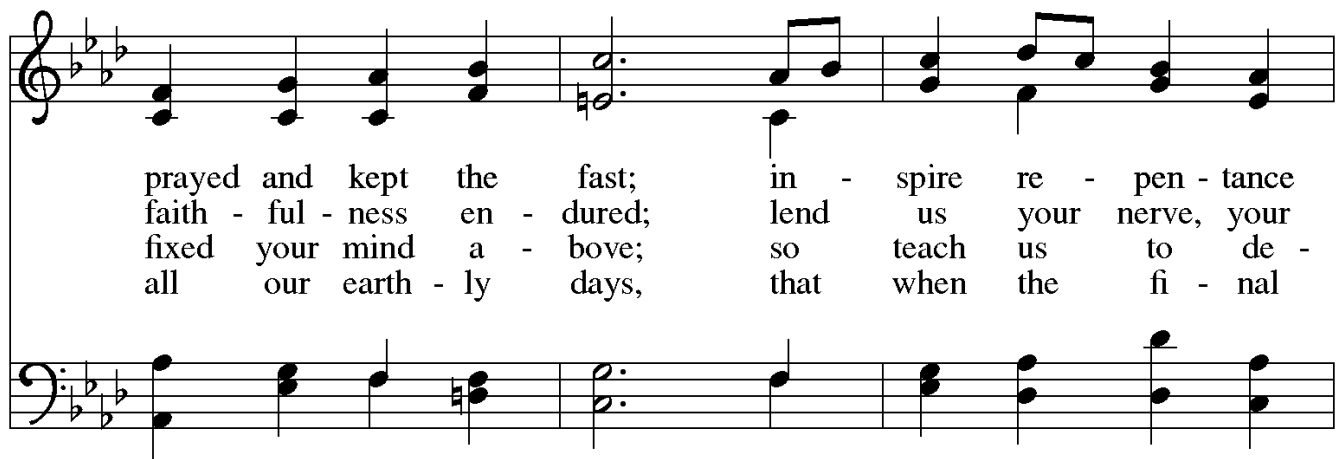
O Lord, throughout These Forty Days “Consolation”

ELW 319

(vs. 1 & 4)



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE READING: Genesis 9:8-17

The first reading for the First Sunday in Lent is recorded in Genesis, the 9th Chapter.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Total Eclipse from *Sampson*

George Frideric Handel

(1685 - 1759)

Tyler Huk, *tenor*

Oh, loss of sight! Of thee I most complain!

Oh, worse than beggary, old age, or chains!

My very soul in real darkness dwells.

Total eclipse! No sun, no moon, all dark, all dark amidst the blaze of noon!

O glorious light! No cheering ray to glad my eyes with welcome day! Total eclipse!

Why thus deprived Thy prime decree? Sun, moon and stars are dark to me!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

SERMON MEDITATION

Once More, My Soul

Based on the Hymn-Tune "Consolation"

George Shearing

(1919 - 2011)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. We pray for our ecumenical and inter-faith siblings in VOICE Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities, and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, North Park, Parkside, Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction. Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts and our minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern. We pray for your daughters and sons, including the children of our community and especially Amanda and Macartney. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share a sign of peace with someone in your home, or share a message of peace via text, tweet, or post (or call someone after worship.)

THE OFFERING

Thank you for your gifts and offerings which make our ministry possible. You may share your offering by clicking the “Contribute Today” link below this Livestream and on our Homepage, or by mailing your gift to the church office. Thank you!

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

Hear My Prayer

from *Biblical Songs*, Op. 99, No. 3

Antonín Dvořák

(1841 – 1904)

Tyler Huk, *tenor*

Hear, O God, hear my prayer, and hide not Thyself from my plea.
Attend unto me, and hear me, for I mourn in my lament, and I am dejected.

My heart is sore within me, and the fear of death is fallen upon me,
and horror hath overwhelmed me. And I said: Oh that I had wings like a dove!

For then would I fly away, and find rest. Lo, then would I wander far off, and I
would dwell in the wilderness.

I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Holy God, faith often feels like water in our hands. No matter how hard we try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through. This human inability to hold onto you leaves us thirsty for more.

So as we read scripture, we pray that once again, you would meet us here.

Meet us in our hope and our heartache. Meet us in our fear and our joy. Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists.

And even if the water keeps running, and we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarify, or a tangible sense that you are near; even if we do not hear the words, “This is my beloved,” ringing in our ears, we will trust that you are near, always and forever meeting us here, running toward our hearts. Gratefully we pray,

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.

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me "Sojourner"

ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of our parents Robert and Mira Thomson and Etta and Franklin Kroll by Paul and Judy Kroll; and In Loving Memory of their mother Carolyn Hughes by Karen Saona and her brothers Bob, Carl and Don Hughes, and In Loving Memory of Marian Vivian and Margaret McPherson by Ann and Don Hughes.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Amanda Allen and Macartney Amato.

Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

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

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS: Our theme for Lent this year, once again comes from A Sanctified Art and is Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain. This theme will be incorporated into our worship liturgy, as well as items included in our worship space, and through a sermon series each week. We will also be providing a Lenten Weekly Devotional to incorporate into your prayer life. Please see the weekly email for the link. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please call the church office.

EASTER FLOWERS: The Worship Committee has once again arranged for lilies to be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday. Flowers are \$10 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms can be found in the next church paper, in the weekly email, or by calling the church office, and completed forms may be mailed to the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following dates have one vase available - March 7th and March 28th. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for these or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at msmarylschmidt@gmail.com or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP Happy Hour – Join us each Friday via Zoom at 5:00pm. We'll meet together through safe physical-distancing while being able to check in with each other and enjoy the company. Bring your favorite beverage to the computer. Zoom Meeting ID: 285 453 435. Password 299123.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S 40 DAYS OF GIVING WALKING TO END HUNGER: Get out those walking shoes, running sneakers or boots that were made for walking, and join Bishop John Macholz and members of the Upstate New York Synod as we walk and give to end world hunger. The Bishop is inviting participants to walk (or run) 40 miles in the 40 days of Lent and donate \$40 to ELCA World Hunger. Go to <https://upstatenysynod.org/new-events/2021/2/17/40-days40-miles40-dollars-walking-to-end-hunger> for more information. Log your miles at home each week. When you reach 40 miles, register your accomplishment at <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/3172318> to share your donation. You may also send a check to Holy Trinity with "ELCA World Hunger" on the memo line. Share your progress on social media using these hashtags #UNYSWalkingToEndHunger #40days40miles40dollars #ELCAWorldHunger. Join us for the ELCA World Hunger 40 Days of Giving Campaign!

2021 LENTEN CONFERENCE COLLECTION: We invite you to join the Niagara Frontier Conference in collection of Menstrual Hygiene Products for our local food pantries. All products we receive will be distributed between the food ministries of the Community of Good Neighbors, and the Network of Religious Communities Food Pantry. The Period Projects reports that "tampons and sanitary pads are not a luxury. Without proper supplies, women miss work. Girls miss school. Life for homeless women becomes even harder and less dignified. Access to menstrual products is both a health and an economic issue. The average lifetime cost of menstruation-related supplies is nearly \$20,000 per woman." Gifts may be given in-person at Holy Trinity or by giving through Amazon (or another vendor) and sending to 1080 Main St., Buffalo, 14209. There might be a friendly competition among conference congregations. Let's see how well we do!

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Each week via Zoom at 9:30 am at <https://zoom.us/j/427428740?pwd=Y1BZdUdLL3l4YU5QWnJUUTdkRlk4Zz09#success>.

Join via Zoom ID 427 428 740. Password 849195. During Lent Pastor Brenda will be leading us on a new, inspiring way to think about the stories in the Bible. We will be basing our lessons on the book *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. If you would like to download the reading guide for the book you can find that by going to <https://rachelheldevans.com/inspired>. There is no need to purchase the book, we will mostly be following the reading guide.

WIGGLY GRACE SPACE: This space, located to the left of the baptismal font, is intended especially for families with toddlers and preschoolers, recognizing that smaller kids are more engaged when they can see what is going on. Small tables and chairs, and age-appropriate soft toys help to keep our little ones occupied. The Space is designed for toddlers/preschoolers who are too old for nursery care and not quite old enough for faith formation. This is a space that is more open than in the pew and just the right size for our littlest ones to move around. Here they can engage in age-appropriate activities while still experiencing worship in the sanctuary alongside their families and the whole community in Christ. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to worship with their child(ren) when this space is being used. During COVID, the activities in the space will be limited and we ask that while in this space you continue to follow the HT COVID precautions (wear a mask, social distance, etc.).

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

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

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Gary Herrnreiter, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona, Elizabeth Vihnanek and Barb Wozniak

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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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