



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, February 28, 2021
Second 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

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

PRELUDE

O Mensch, beweine dein' Sünde groß
BWV 622 from *Orgelbüchlein*

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Often the first step to change is listening. We have to listen to those we've hurt. We have to listen to creation as she cries. We have to listen to the voice of the oppressed, if we ever hope to make things right.

So today as we begin our prayer of confession, we will start with a moment of silence – a moment to listen. And then we will pray together trusting that God is always listening to us, and that God's ears listen with love.

So let us confess, silently and then together.

Listening God,

Take what is closed in us and open it. Take what is distracted in us and settle it. Take what is hurting us and hold it.

Take any and all parts of us that create distance from you. For we are like Peter, O God. We argue what we don't know. We fear what we cannot see. And we almost always speak sooner than we listen.

So open us, settle us, hold us, forgive us. WE long to hear you more clearly. We long to know you more fully.

With hope we pray, and with gratitude we confess. Amen.

Siblings in Christ,

We confess with gratitude because we know that God already has heard and forgiven us. No matter what we have done or left undone, we are held in God's hand. So rest in this good news:

God invites us in. God meets us where we are. God hears our prayers. God forgives us.

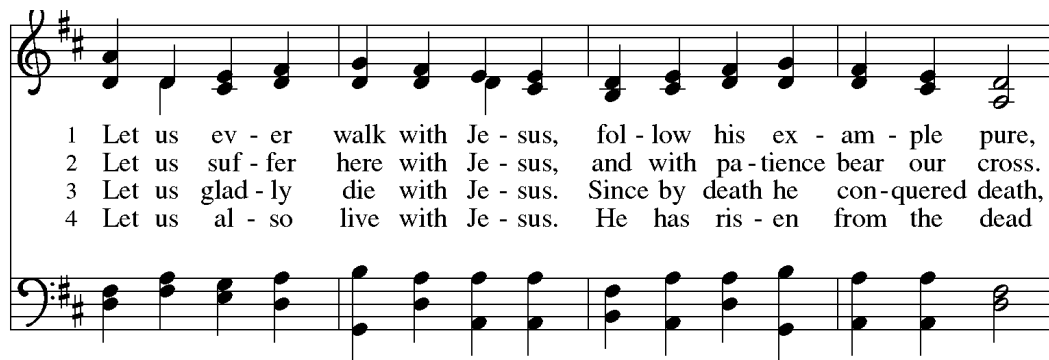
Thanks be to God for a love like that.

OPENING HYMN

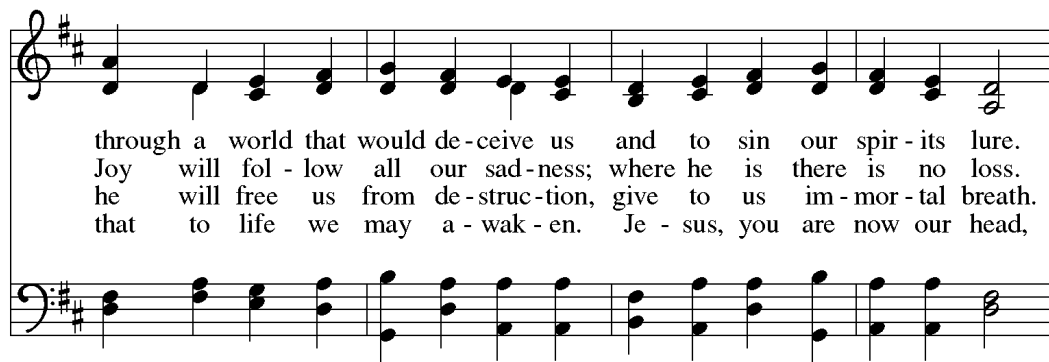
Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus "Lasset uns mit Jesu Ziehen"

ELW 802

(vs. 1 & 2)



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



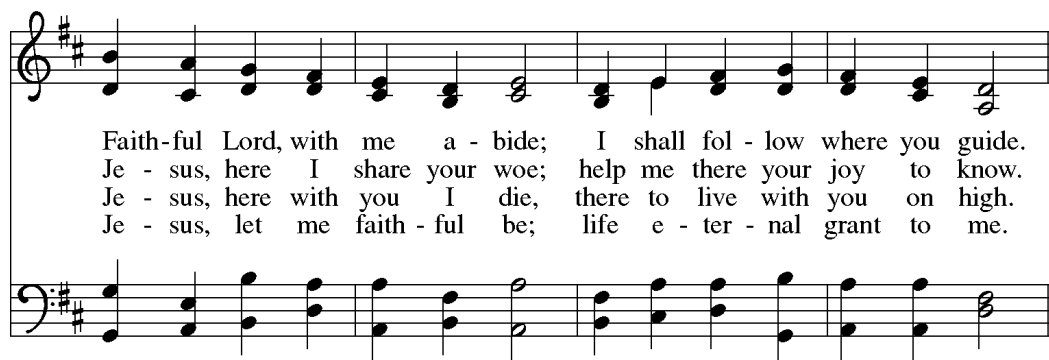
through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bid - e; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1-7, 15-16

The first reading for the Second Sunday in Lent is recorded in Genesis, the 17th Chapter.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Gott sei mir gnädig
from *Paulus*

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Shane Keyes, *baritone*

God to me be merciful according to your goodness,
And blot out my sins according to your great mercy.
Spurn me not from your face and take your Holy Spirit not from me.
A contrite and broken heart will you God not despise.
Then I will the trespasser your ways teach, that the sinner to you convert.
Lord, open my lips, that my mouth your glory make known.
Lord! Cast me not away!

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Saint Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

SERMON MEDITATION

Ich ruf’ zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ

BWV 639 from *Orgelbüchlein*

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. 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.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. 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.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. We pray for your daughters and sons, including the children of our community and especially Stuart and Simon. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. 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

Don't You Weep When I'm Gone

Text: Jeremiah 22:10

African-American Spiritual

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

(1866 – 1940)

Shane Keyes, *baritone*

When I'm gone, gone, when I'm gone, gone, gone;
O mother, don't you weep when I am gone.
For I'm goin' to Heav'n above, Going to the God of Love,
O mother, don't you weep when I am gone.
O mother, meet me there, mother, meet me in de air,
O mother, don't you weep when I am gone.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Creator God, we cannot hear the trees growing – seeds pushing up through the dirt into the sun. And we cannot hear a single drop of rain, missing one in the many. We cannot hear the weight of people's grief, a burden that so often is silent. And we cannot hear when hearts are changed, but you can. You hear it all.

So once again, we come to you with bowed heads and hopeful hearts, asking that you would lend us your ears. Help us to hear as you hear so that we can live as you lived. We are listening. 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

O God, My Faithful God "Was Frag Ich Nach Der Welt"

ELW 806

(vs. 1 & 4)



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.



The flowers on the altar are given In Loving Memory of Richard Bundt who was born 94 years ago on February 23 by Susan Bundt and Brian Webb; In Loving Memory of Arthur O. Pellnat; Happy 90th Birthday today from Ron Pellnat; and in Honor of my first great-grandson, Austin Valor Byrne's 1st birthday today by Thomas W. Johnson.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Stuart and Simon Ames.

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 date has one vase available 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: You are invited 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. We have also been asked to help support Buffalo Seminary and their drive to benefit Her Drive and local shelters as well. While the Conference Collection is limited to menstrual hygiene products, Her Drive is accepting items such as gently used bras, menstrual products, contraceptives, dental care products, personal care items (including for natural curly hair) monetary donations, etc. for women (or anyone with a uterus). 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. We hope you will be considering donating for both of these good causes. There might be a friendly competition among conference congregations. Let's see how well we do!

PLANT SALE: It's that time of year for the annual LYO plant sale! The pick-up date for the plant sale will be Saturday, May 15. Order forms can be found in the newsletter, in our weekly email, or by calling the church office. Orders are due back to the church by Sunday, April 4. The proceeds will go towards our mission fund which helps to support service events, such as the youth gathering, located in Minneapolis in 2022. Any and all orders are appreciated.

RENOVATION PROJECT: The Fellowship Room Renovation Project postponed when the pandemic began is back on schedule. Limited furniture items including small end tables and chairs are available for free-will donation. Pick up is available following the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, March 7. See either pastor or project manager, Ron Pellnat for more information.

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.

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

Barb Wozniak, President
Emily Notari, Vice-President
Guy Huber, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

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

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