



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Third 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 third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

PRELUDE

Abide With Me

C. Hubert H. Parry
(1848 - 1918)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Science tells us that a person makes about 35,000 choices in a day. 35,000 choices each and every day!

In the prayer of confession, we pause to take a moment to think and to ask: How many of our decisions are choices God would have us make? How many are not?

So let us pray together, knowing that we need guidance, and trusting that even if we fall, God is showing us the way.

God of Justice, we are guilty of building tables.

We have built tables that oppression dines on, sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.

God of Justice, we are guilty of forgetting where we are,

Of turning faith into a negotiation tool and the church into a place for insiders.

God of Justice, we are guilty of ignoring the point;

For you taught that the temple was for worship and your message was for all.

God of our hearts,

Be in our decision making.

Draw near to our choices.

Forgive our mistakes.

And as you do,

Flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting.

With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

Family of faith, the good news is that God took on flesh and walked this earth to show us the way. God took on flesh so that we could see what it looks like to disrupt and overturn systems of corruption. God took on flesh to teach us another way. God took on flesh to point us to restoration. God took on flesh so that we might be forgiven.

Friends, we are held, loved and forgiven by a just and merciful God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

OPENING HYMN

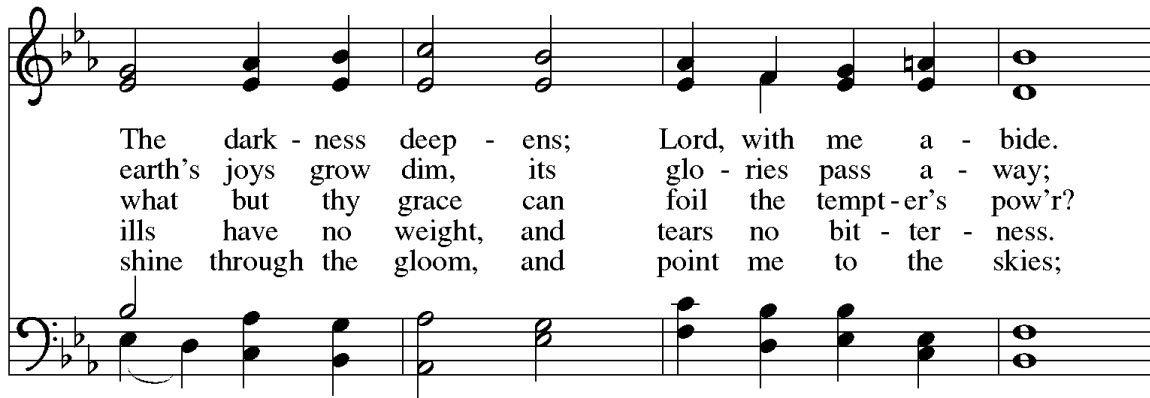
Abide with Me "Eventide"

ELW 629

(vs. 1 & 3)



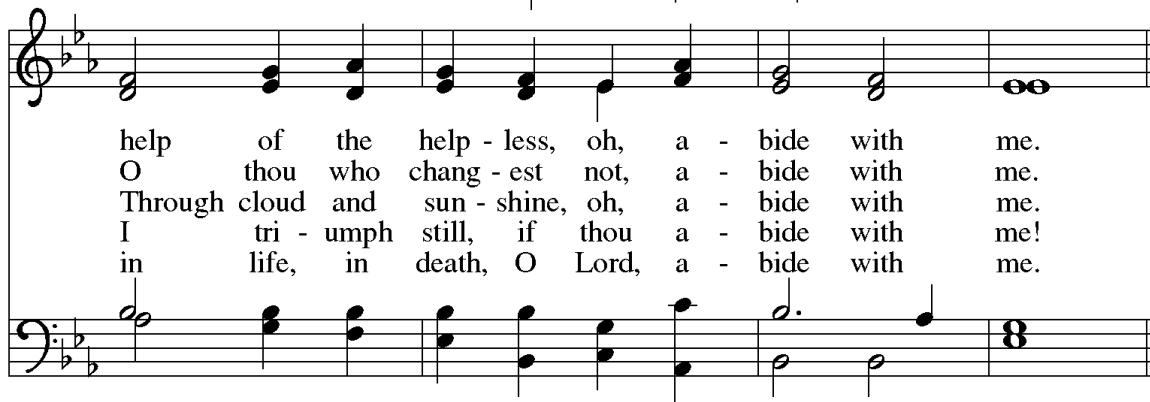
1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with 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.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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: Exodus 20:1-17

The first reading for the Third Sunday in Lent is recorded in Exodus, the 20th Chapter.

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Abide With Me

Text: Henry Lyte (1793-1847); altered, G. Walker

Gwyneth Walker

(b. 1947)

Grace Mingoea, *mezzo-soprano*

Come, stay by me, Lord, when falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, Lord, come stay by me.

Swift to its close ebbs out our little day.
Earth's joys grow dim, the glories pass away.
Change and parting all around I see.
O Lord who changes not, come stay by me.

I need your presence ev'ry passing hour,
Only your grace can conquer, conquer evil's power.
Only your Light my guide and stay can be.
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, come stay by me.

Hold high your cross, before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee.
O Lord who changes not, come stay by me.

Come strengthen me, come live in me!

GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to Saint John

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

SERMON MEDITATION

Chorale Prelude on “*Abide with Me*”

William Bolcom

(b. 1938)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people’s words and actions honor your name. 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.

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. We pray for your daughters and sons, including the children of our community and especially Skylar and Avery. 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 call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. 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

Pie Jesu from *Requiem* Op. 9

Maurice Duruflé
(1902 – 1986)

Grace Mingoea, *mezzo-soprano*

Gracious Lord Jesus,
Grant them eternal rest.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Creator God, we don't just want to listen. We want to hear you. We want to read scripture aloud and know that you are as close as you have always been. We want to read scripture aloud and feel your word resonating inside our bones. We want to read scripture aloud and have your words stuck in our heads like a melody, falling off our lips like a love song.

Creator God, we don't just want to listen, we want to hear you. So turn our hearts toward you, just as you turned strangers into disciples. Turn our ears toward you, just as you turned tables in the temple. 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

Lift High the Cross "Crucifer"

ELW 660

(vs. 1 & 4)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied tree,
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.



The flowers on the altar are given In Honor of my father, Karl B. Huber, Sr., born on March 7, 1914 by Guy Huber; and In Honor of our parents Elaine and William Fuhlbruck and Melissa Thomasula and Aaron Fuhlbruck by their Family.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Avery and Skylar Ast.

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 today. 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

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist
Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster
kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager
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
pastor.lee.miller@holytrinitybuffalo.org

The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209
(716) 886-2400 phone/(716) 884-7505 fax
e-mail: info@holytrinitybuffalo.org
www.holytrinitybuffalo.org

Friend us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/holytrinitybuffalo
www.facebook.com/BuffaloHTLCMusic



Copyright ©2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
CCLI License No. 243