



*Nurturing a Living Faith
with Open Hearts
and Serving Hands*

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Introduction to the Day

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

**4th Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025
8:30 a.m.**



PRELUDE

CENTERING SONG “Come, Holy Spirit, Descend” ACS #980

WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW pg. 94

OPENING SONG “O Living Breath of God” ELW #407

GREETING/KYRIE ELW pg. 203

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW pg. 204

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: JOSHUA 5:9-12 Effie Carr, reader

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Welcome to
Worship at Trinity
Lutheran***

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we are very glad that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not a building – it is you, the people. If you look around what you will see are imperfect people. Some with smiles, some with broken hearts, some with secrets they are ashamed to share... and yet all of us together are the “church.”

We are thankful you are here. Through God’s Holy Spirit we pray you hear a word of grace and hope today.

PSALM 32

Refrain

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
² Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!
³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.



Refrain

⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

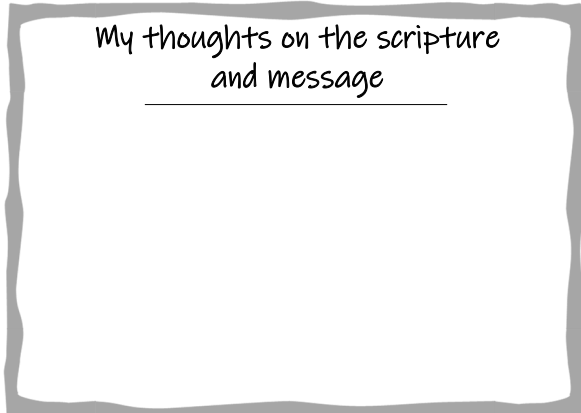
Refrain

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Refrain

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Refrain



SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us, O Lord"

ELW pg. 189

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 15, beginning with verse 1.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S TIME/SERMON

Gracia Johnson

Youth & Children’s Ministry Coordinator

ELW #606

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

APOSTLES’ 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.

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please pray for James, Terry, Dick, Wendy, Amy, Dennis, Rod, Grant & Renae.

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider.

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

pg. 206

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

pg. 207

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Prayers of healing offered during communion.

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 208

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

ELW #763

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in memory of Harry & Ruby Carr and Wesley & Ann Morrison. Given by Mark & Effie Carr.

SWEET DEAL FOR C.A.R. – We still have a few tubes of M&M’s for those that wish to participate in raising money for the Lutheran church in the Central African Republic (C.A.R.) – our sister synod! Please turn your tubes in **by April 13th** with your donations. Thank you!

EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING - This year’s Easter Special Offering is to help “dress” the worship space at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center. Trinity, along with other ELCA congregations, are working together to make the chapel space feel more like a worship space. We will collect this special offering through Easter Sunday. Please write a note in the memo line of your check “Special Easter Offering.” Thanks again for your generosity.

BLOOD DRIVE - Trinity is hosting a blood drive on Friday, April 25th. There are slots for 15 people willing to roll up their sleeves and bless those in medical need of life saving blood. A registration sheet to sign-up is available in the Narthex.

ONLINE GIVING - Giving has never been easier! Open your camera on your phone and scan the QR code. It will take you right to Trinity’s online giving site. You can choose to give via credit card or bank account. Try it out today!



Your Gifts

<u>February 2025</u>	<u>Month Actual</u>	<u>Year-To-Date Actual</u>
INCOME		
Contributions	\$53,929.00	\$124,984.00
Other Income	\$14,966.00	\$29,503.00
Transfer	-\$300.00	-\$960.00
Total Income	68,595.00	\$153,527.00
EXPENSES		
Income less expenses	\$79,495.00	\$163,371.00
	-\$10,300.00	-\$9,844

Electronic Giving - Trinity offers the option of Electronic Giving as a simple way to contribute. This would allow you the freedom from worry or concern whether you are out of town, on vacation or wondering how to budget your contributions. Giving forms are available in the office, at the Welcome Center or on Trinity’s website.

At www.trinitybismarck.com, you can give electronically to the general fund, Capital Campaign and others. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact our Financial Director, Brent Winkelman at winkelman@trinitybismarck.com. Thank you again for your continued financial support.

NORTHERN LIGHTS CHORUS
50 YEARS
 OF
NORTHERN LIGHTS HARMONY:
The Return of A Capella Man

With special guests:
 • River Rhapsody
 • Mixed Nuts Quartet
 Free concert for the public (free will donations happily accepted)

2 p.m., April 5
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 502 N. 4th St.
 Bismarck, ND

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday 3-30
 8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
 9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
 9:35 AM - Church School
 10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary

Tuesday 4-1
 9 AM - Quilters in Quilters’ Room
 5 PM - Worship & Music Committee in Conference Room
 6 PM - Community Builders Committee in Conf. Room

Wednesday 4-2
 11:45 AM - Lunch served in Community Center
 12:15 PM - Lenten Worship in Community Center
 2:30 PM - Upstairs Bible Study in Room 212
 4:30 PM - Trust Fund Committee in Conference Room
 5:15 PM - Meal served in Fellowship Hall
 6 PM - Worship in Sanctuary
 6:40 PM - Church School, Confirmation, Youth Group

Thursday 4-3
 6:30 PM - Re-Entry Meal in Fellowship Hall

Saturday 4-5
 10 AM - Grief Support Group in Conference Room
 2 PM - Northern Lights Chorus Concert in Sanctuary

Sunday 4-6
 8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
 9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
 9:35 AM - Church School
 10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary