

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

htlsomerset.org

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a member of the New Jersey District of the **Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, a family of congregations focused on bringing Christ to the nations and sharing His unconditional saving love within our community.

Chaplain Gregory D. Jans, Lt Col, USAF Vacancy Pastor

John W. Bremer Acting Parish Administrator Church Office: 732-873-2888 info@htlsomerset.org www.htlsomerset.org

Welcome!

We are glad to have you worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, please introduce yourself to Chaplain Greg, and sign our guestbook in the narthex. We hope you will join us again, and cordially invite you to become part of our church family.

About Receiving Holy Communion



We believe that Jesus is truly present when we receive His Body and Blood "in, with and under" the bread and the wine. In this Sacrament, God pours out His grace on us and strengthens our faith. Before we receive, it is important to examine ourselves and be truly repentant of our sins. Those who share this understanding and walk with us by the same faith are welcome at the Lord's Table.

All others are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, indicating this by folding your arms across your chest at the rail.

Biblical Sources - Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 11: 27-29

There is non-alcoholic grape juice and a gluten-free bread option available.

If you are unable to come forward, please alert the usher and Communion will be brought to you.

Service Bulletin Notations:

 \mathbf{P} or \mathbf{L} = Pastor

A = Deacon or Cantor

C = Congregation

LSB = Lutheran Service Book

WOV = With One Voice

OAR = One and All Rejoice

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

♣ 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

Divine Service - Lenten Setting

Welcome to Worship

Chaplain Greg

Worship during Lent begins with the ministers in place on the chancel.

Please stand as you are able

Gathering Hymn Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611

1864 Irish text based on 1 Timothy 1:15 and Genesis 5:22, 24; 1864 English tune



Text and tune: Public domain

Confession for Lent

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** the maker of heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.
- **C** Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- P Beloved in the Lord: let us now draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father.

Kneel/Stand Silence for reflection and self-examination.

- P Together we speak,
- Defore the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault. I have not loved You with my whole heart, mind and strength. I have not forgiven others as I have been forgiven. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- I will answer when you call to me, says the Lord.
 I will show you my salvation.
 Upon this your confession,
 I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you,
 and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ
 I forgive you all your sins
 in the name of the Father, and of the ⅓ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

Kyrie ~ Kyrie Eleison (Lord, Have Mercy)



- **L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
- **L** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
- **L** 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.
- C Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
- **L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
- **L** For the spread of Your life-giving Gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost to sin may be brought to faith in You, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Stand

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

- P Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. The grace, mercy, and peace of God be with you all.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
Your mercies are new every morning;
and though we deserve only punishment,
You receive us as Your children
and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness,
give thanks for all Your benefits,
and serve You in willing obedience;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

The Bronze Serpent

Throughout the Hebrew scriptures, the time of Israel's wandering in the desert is seen as a period of testing. Though God delivers the people from slavery and provides for all their needs on the journey, the people whine and grumble. They fail to see the gift of salvation in the exodus. Yet God's anger is not the final word. God continues to lead the people toward the land promised to their ancestors.

A The Old Testament reading for the Fourth Sunday in Lent is from Numbers, the twenty-first chapter.

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 107:1-9

Now Thank We All Our God

 ${\it After introduction, congregation sings refrain and cantor speaks the verses.}$

Refrain:



Verses:

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. *Refrain*

Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;
hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;
he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.

Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things. *Refrain*

Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

By Grace Through Faith

God raised us up to new life while we yet belonged to powers of evil. If such was our past, we now live with Christ and will spend eternity discovering the breadth of God's goodness.

A The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter 2.

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁵so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ³For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁵not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹oFor we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

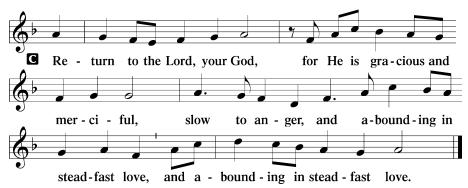
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation for Lent





Holy Gospel John 3:14-21

For God So Loved the World

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
- **C** Glory to You, O Lord.



¹⁴[Jesus said:] "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is

condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

-8-

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon "Our God is Rich in Mercy"
Ephesians 2:1-10

Chaplain Greg



Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Creed

- Let us confess our Christian faith together in the words of the Nicene Creed:
- I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

Creed continues on following page→

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Us men means all people.

Christian: the ancient text reads "catholic," meaning the universal Church.



The Prayers - Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Lenten journey leads us to repentance and new life. Let us turn our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Brief pause.

- P O Lord God, draw us into Your light. Expose wherever we, like Your people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against You, that in repentance we might look to Your Son lifted up on the cross and be saved from Your righteous wrath.

 Create in us a clean heart. O God.
- and renew a right spirit within us.
- Lord of hosts, You gave Your only Son so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Bless the work of missionaries as they carry this Gospel to the ends of the earth, that many may hear of Your love in Christ Jesus and be saved through Him. Create in us a clean heart, O God,
- and renew a right spirit within us.
- P Almighty God, You have set Joseph, our president, and Phil, our governor, as authorities over us for our good. Bless and sustain them with all they need to govern us, that we might be ruled wisely and in accord with Your will. Create in us a clean heart, O God,
- **C** and renew a right spirit within us.
- P Heavenly Father, You had Moses lift up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, thereby foreshadowing Your own Son's lifting up on the cross. Teach us to hear in the Old Testament the promises and pictures of the coming Christ, who is their Savior and ours. Create in us a clean heart, O God,
- **C** and renew a right spirit within us.
- O God, You are our light and our salvation. We lift before you all in need [_____] and those we name silently now in our hearts [pause......]. Keep them in their day of trouble from falling into faithless fear, and uphold them with Your peace in Christ. Create in us a clean heart, O God,
- and renew a right spirit within us.
- P O Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever, we lift up our voices in thanksgiving. You have redeemed us out of trouble and gathered us here to feed us, that our souls may not faint within us. Satisfy the longing of our hearts with Your Son's good things, His body and blood, that we may abide in Your eternal peace. Create in us a clean heart, O God,
- **C** and renew a right spirit within us.
- P Gracious Lord, You have made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins. Cause Your Spirit to be at work in us, that we may not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds, but be Your workmanship in Christ Jesus, walking in the good works He has prepared for us. Create in us a clean heart, O God,
- and renew a right spirit within us.

- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

Sit

ThanksGiving



We give thanks through our offerings. You are welcome to leave your gift in the offering plate at the rear of the main aisle, or you may give in any of the following ways:

- 1. Go to www.htlsomerset.org and click on the "Give Now" button.
- 2. Use the Vanco Mobile App and search for Holy Trinity Lutheran in Somerset.
- 3. Scan the QR code.
- 4. Postal mail your gift to the church.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness!

Preparation Hymn *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*We sing this hymn as we prepare to receive the Lord's Supper.





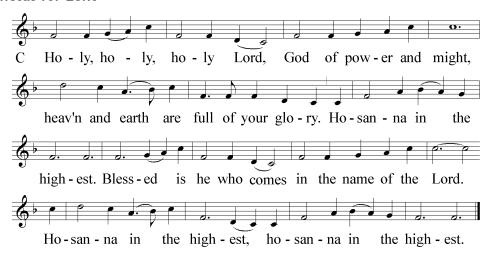
Stand

Service of the Sacrament ~ Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- That we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many, that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.

And so, with the Church on earth and the choirs of angels, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus for Lent



The Words of Our Lord



Here, observe as Pastor proclaims the Words of Christ consecrating the bread and the wine.

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- 1 Corinthians 11:26

- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- **P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.

Invitation to Communion

- P Come to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
- C Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Agnus Dei ~ Lamb of God



Sit

The Distribution of the Blessed Sacrament



+If you are visiting, please see note about receiving Holy Communion on page 2 of this bulletin+

The usher will guide those wishing to receive.

We encourage all to use this special time to pray and meditate.

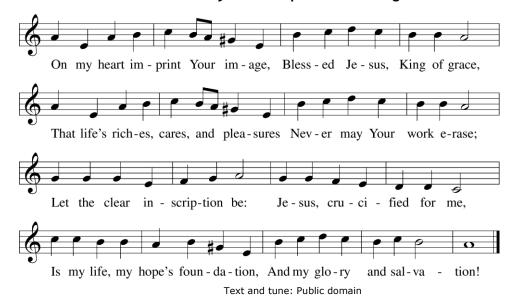
After all have been served, please Stand

Post-Communion Blessing

- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
- C Amen.

Post Communion Canticle On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



Post-Communion Prayer

- Let us pray. We thank and bless You, O God, for the free gift of righteousness and peace in Jesus Christ, whose body and blood have nourished us here.

 Lead us out from this house of prayer to the places You will show us, so that we will be a blessing to others in the name of Christ, our Redeemer.
- C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and

 → give you peace.
- C Amen.

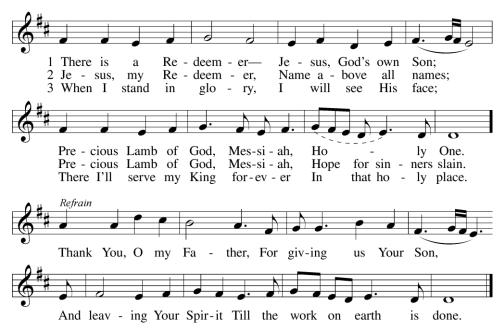
Sit

Announcements

Sending Hymn There Is a Redeemer

LSB 971

Words and music composed in 1982 by Christian composer Melody S. Green



Dismissal

- A Goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life. Go now in peace as you serve the Lord.
- **THANKS BE TO GOD**. [Remember, **NO** Alleluias during Lent!]



A NOTE FROM CHAPLAIN GREG

Dear Holy Trinity Lutheran congregation,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous memorial gift given after Karen Jans fell asleep in Jesus. Your heartfelt care has amazed us during our time of mourning. We all continue to find hope and joy in the certain promise of the resurrection of the dead unto eternal life for all who die in Christian faith!

In Christ, Chaplain Greg Jans and the family of Karen Jans

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About this Day

Jesus reveals the problem with us: "People loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil" (John 3:19). Jesus, the light that has come into this world, exposes our loveless, self-seeking lives precisely by His selfless, self-giving love, manifested on the cross. He shows us once and for all that God truly is love as He chooses to be condemned in our place that we might be saved.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus compares Himself to the serpent in the wilderness. He is lifted up on the cross so that all who hold to Him will be healed. God sent His Son, not to condemn, but to save the world. We who have heard the words of love and mercy in today's scriptures go forth to speak with forgiveness rather than condemnation. Our baptism calls us to a life of good works, not to point to ourselves, but to the immeasurable riches of God's grace made known to all the world in Christ our Lord.

Serving Today:

Presiding Minister Chaplain Gregory D. Jans

Deacon

 Acolyte
 Organist

 John Bremer

 Aaron Bianchi
 Lorna-Jane Bremer

Cantor Diane Trampe

Vocalist
 Altar
 Usher
 Diane Pagano
 Sharon Czebotar
 Sharon Czebotar

Offering Counter
 Service Bulletin
 Marty Czebotar
 John Bremer, Thomas Jennings

Service Bulletin John Bremer, Thomas Jennings
 Live-Stream Maureen Haney

Fellowship Hour Host Diane Pagano

Worship Opportunities during Lent

- Sundays at 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
- Thursdays at 7:00 PM Lenten Mid-Week Worship

A service of Vespers with a message from Chaplain Greg. An excellent way to follow through with your Lenten discipline.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week and Easter

- Palm Sunday Sunday of the Passion March 24
- Holy (Maundy) Thursday March 28
- Good Friday March 29
- Easter Sunday The Resurrection of Our Lord March 31

AgnusDay, the Lectionary Comic Today based on the Epistle Ephesians 2:1-10

