



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church
of the Holy Trinity**

Cocoa and Granada Avenues
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033
(717) 533-2467

**Sunday, March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent**

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Let us prepare for Worship.

GATHERING PRELUDE:

*Two Settings of CONSOLATION (O Lord, throughout These Forty Days) Stephen Gabrielsen/
Wilbur Held*

Out in the Wilderness (Sanctuary Choir)..... Jay Beech

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SIN:

✠ *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

All: Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Holy One,

All: we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✠ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

All: Amen.

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. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 All: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

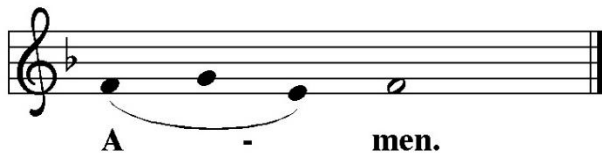
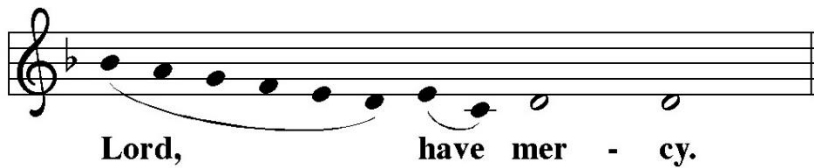


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

(Continued)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

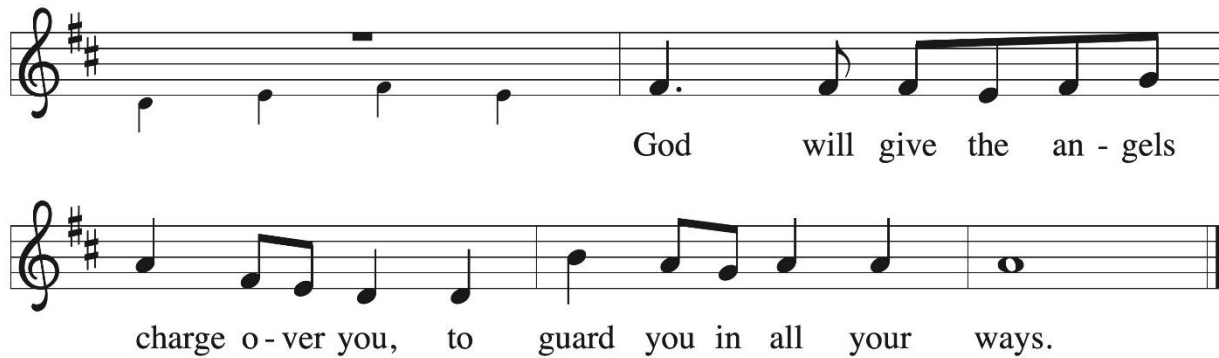
FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

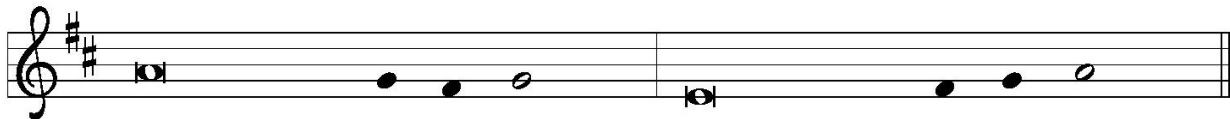
PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 (Congregation sings the refrain and **bold** verses.)

Refrain:



God will give the an - gels
charge o - ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

Verse:



- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.” R**
⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰ **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.
¹² **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**
¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
¹⁴ **I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**
¹⁵ They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No

one who believes in him will be put to shame.”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

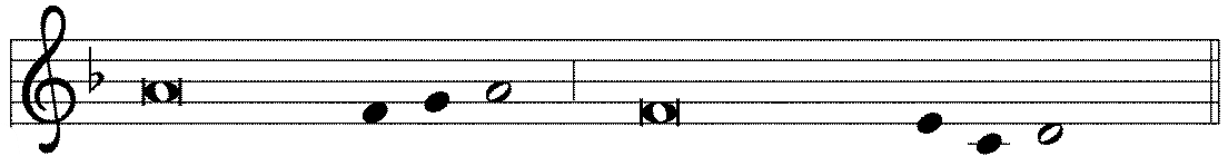
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Verse:



One does not live by bread alone,* but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.
(Matt. 4:4)

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *When We Are Tested*..... ACS 922



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Merciful God.
All: Receive our prayer.

SHARING OF PEACE

The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry at Holy Trinity. Offering can be placed in the Offering Plate at the entrance to worship or in the Offering Box on the table with the bulletins.

TABLE SETTING SONG: *Come to the Table* **ELW 481**

(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

A: Let us pray . . . 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.

All: **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

P:And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

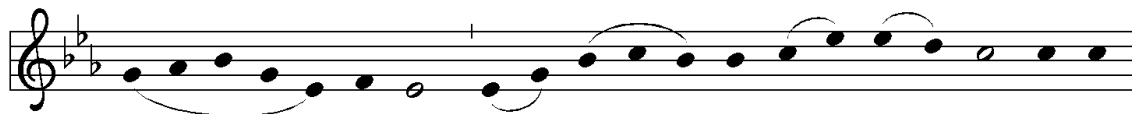
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy

on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION MUSIC: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*..... **ELW 325**
(Join in singing from the red ELW hymnal in the pew.)

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . 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.

All: Amen.

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* **ELW 326**

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ny that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
 All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: LLANGLOFFAN (*Bless Now, O God, the Journey*)Aaron David Miller

BULLETIN IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The bulletin is given in loving memory of Dr. Robert Dye by his wife, Elaine, and their children.

SERVING TODAY

Assisting Minister: JoEllen Myers
Reader:.....Dennis Phillippy
Communion Assistants:.....Deb Brooks and Rodney Gross
Livestream: Kirk Sponaugle



Dear Lord Jesus, When You walked upon this earth, You healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, caused the lame to walk, and raised the dead. Now we come to You on behalf of those who are in need today and pray that You would send them Your healing power. Hear our prayer for Your name’s sake. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Bereaved: The Family of Russell Lingle
The Family of Charles Smith (Grandfather of Ruth Gardner, Great Grandfather of Adam Gardner)
The Family of Glenn Hoffa

Prayer Concerns: Susan Bianchi, Jack Bishop, Lucy Campbell (daughter of Jacob and Sarah Campbell), Barbie (Hocker) Colestock (friend of Kendra Ruhl), Donna Dixon, Bill Fosnacht, Izanne Haak, Terry Longenecker, Chip Murray, Sharon Murray, Tammy Murray, Wanda Oliver (friend of the Lechleitner’s), Julia Padgett, Tony Primerano (friend of Steve Shuey), Chris Ruff, Joyce Schroeder, Jaci Waters, Nicolle Zambrana (daughter of Marilyn Layman), and Ed Zaenglein.

DAILY PRAYERS

Roberta Anderson, Jim Bomberger (friend of Jim and Peg Huebner), Virginia Frank, Mike Hamilton (friend of Kendra Ruhl and Steve Shuey), Drew Herdson (friend of the Dunham’s), Dennis Lubold, Nancy Miller, Darrin Mineke (cousin of the Dunham’s), Ed Schaeffer, Pete Stone, Bob Warden (friend of Mary Ann Kelly), Melissa West (friend of Susan Bianchi), Vwawa Congregation of the Konde Diocese in Tanzania and all of our Homebound members.

Members of Armed Forces and their families: Evan Briggs, Marshal Fox, Michael Kristian, Riley Litman, Tory Young

We invite you to pray for all on our prayer list. Please contact the office by email at htluth@comcast.net or leave a message on the office phone (717-533-2467) if you have any changes to the prayer list.

You are Welcome Here!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes and affirms everyone seeking God’s love and grace, regardless of faith background, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, ability, size, class, immigration, or relationship status. We explicitly stand against hate and discrimination, as our Church community strives to continually grow and learn within the Body of Christ according to Christ’s teachings. We are committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for all people.