

Third Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

Praise Songs

We Have Come Into This House

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him.

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him.

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord.

Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him.

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him.

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Christ the Lord.
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Him.
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Him.
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His name and worship Christ the Lord.
Worship Him, Christ the Lord.

This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made,
That the Lord hath made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord hath made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.

Installation of Church Council

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. **Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

First Reading *Isaiah 55:1-9*

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

....*The Word of the Lord*

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

....*The Word of the Lord*

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

(sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because

these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

...*The Gospel of the Lord*

(sung) *Praise to you, O Christ.*

Youth Time

Please be seated


Choir Anthem

God Knows


Message

Hymn of the Day

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me




1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Prayers of the Church

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda, Ralph, and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. Bless the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd and Pr. Sohail's South Asian worshiping community, that they will be a voice for those in need.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us 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.**

{**P** *All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.*}

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

Please stand as you are able

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Blessing

P 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. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn (*next page*)

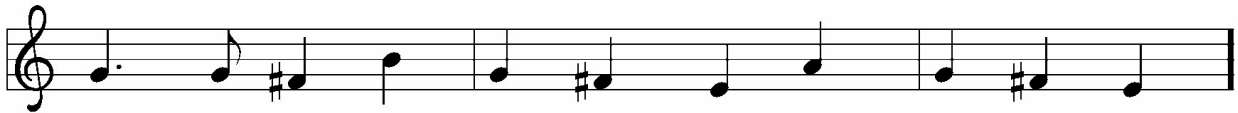
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C Thanks be to God.

Liturgical elements: Sundays and Seasons, Augsburg Fortress License Number 026761

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation
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trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Pastor's Study: 716-836-4990 Email: pastor_tol@verizon.net
Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com
Music Minister: Don Grabau Media Minister: Jeff Ward
Today's Worship Assistant: Barb Edwards
Today's Prayer Partner: Don Grabau
Today's Ushers: Sharon Wall and Kelly Barker

Prayers and Announcements

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the Parents' Room in the back of church following worship. Prayers are confidential. Today's prayer partner is Don Grabau.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL's website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or on your smartphone.

March Mission: This month, your support will be directed to Lutheran Disaster Response as it assists communities impacted by catastrophic wildfires in January. Please see the article in March Trinity Tidings for further details. Please use the marked envelopes in the narthex, or contribute through tithe.ly, indicating that it is designated for LDR – US Wildfires. Thank you.

WWI: We will be having a brief meeting following the worship service **today**, in the Fireside Lounge. Hope to see you there.

Sermon Discussion/input: Meets again **this Wednesday, March 26 at noon**. Please let Pastor Fred know if you are interested in discussing the texts for the next month of sermons.

Mid-week Lenten Services and Soup Suppers: Here is this year's schedule of Wednesday Lenten soup suppers (6 pm) and worship services (6:30 pm):

March 26	Augustana, 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
April 2	TOL
April 9	St Martin's, 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda

Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch: Our annual meeting and congregation potluck is scheduled for next **Sunday, March 30** following our worship service. Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board and let us know what you'll bring to the potluck and how many will be attending. Copies of the printed Annual Report are available or we can email one to you if requested.

Adult Education: The next two classes are listed below. **Please contact Charlie Schmidtke if you need a Zoom invite.** The focus this year will be biblical pairs and trios.

March 31	Ester and King Xerxes
April 14	Priscilla and Aquila

Grief Support Meeting at TOL: For those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month, next on **Tuesday, April 1.** The meetings begin at 10 am until 11:30.

Lenten Midweek Soup Supper: Calling all soup/dessert makers! On **Wed., April 2,** TOL is hosting the Lenten supper and worship service. If you can help us by preparing your favorite soup or dessert for that evening, please sign up on main bulletin board. Thank you!

Easter Flowers: This year Easter is **Sunday, April 20.** There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board with details about ordering Easter lilies and hyacinths. The deadline to sign up is Palm Sunday, April 13. Thank you.

Help Wanted - Usher Sign-Up Sheet: If you can help us by ushering some Sunday, please add your name to the sign-up sheet, for the months of April through June, on the main bulletin board. Thank you!

Please Complete Survey: Representatives from Augustana, Good Shepherd and TOL have been meeting to discuss our congregations. **If you have not already done so**, please complete the survey, which is available online or there are paper copies in the narthex. This will be used to inform the committee into recommending short-term and long-term options for the congregations. There is a marked bin in the narthex for returning your completed survey, or use this QR code to complete online:



Operation Christmas Child: The suggested donations for March are hairbrushes and other hair items, and dental floss. Thank you for your support.

Book and Puzzle Sale: Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library, which is the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board. Books and puzzles are available for a fraction of the cost at retail. No cost for the greeting cards available.

Friends of Night People: Thank you to our volunteer teams who continue to prepare and deliver 100 sandwiches each week! You can help the homeless by donating winter clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, boots, gloves, hats, hygiene items, lip balm & travel mugs. Please place donations in the blue barrel in the hallway. Thanks!

Devotionals: If you would like a “Christ in Our Home” devotional for **April through June 2025**, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office at 716-836-4868 to have one mailed to you.

We continue to collect for these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House.
- Dash’s Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled.
- Material and sheets for the LWR Quilters.
- Church supplies, such as Renuzit gels, paper towels, tissues, etc.
- Clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Calendars for 2025.

Thank you for your contributions and generosity!

This week's calendar

<p><i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon.</i></p> <p><i>For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i></p>	Sun	3/23	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Brief Meeting - WWI Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting
	Mon	3/24	10 am 1 pm 5:45 pm 6 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Yoga Sandwich Team #4
	Tues	3/25	5:45 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Chair Yoga Emergency Planning Team Eta Sigma Sorority CoDA
	Wed	3/26	11 am 12 noon 6 pm	Yoga Sermon Discussion w/ Pastor Fred Mid-week Lenten soup supper and worship at Augustana
	Thurs	3/27	9 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 5:45 pm 7 pm	Weavers Guild LWR Quilters Yoga Yoga GA Meeting
	Fri	3/28	10 am	South Asian Lutheran Community
	Sat	3/29	4 pm	South Asian Worship Service
	Sun	3/30	9:30 am 11 am 12 noon 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Potluck and Annual Meeting Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

Announcements: *If you'd like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning.*

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

