

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

10:00 AM Facebook Online Worship Service

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent



The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information about you. **Worship times on Sunday mornings are 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.**

A nursery is available for children up to five years of age during the service. The nursery is located off the hallway on the Huntington Avenue side of the church building. There are also “quiet bags” available for older children to enjoy during the service. Please ask an usher about borrowing one.

Parents are invited to bring children from the nursery for Holy Communion to receive a blessing. If children become restless or noisy during worship, parents are encouraged to take them in to and out of the sanctuary as necessary.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to “T.” If you are unsure if your hearing aid is compatible, please contact your audiologist.

Enlarged print sermon copies are available for the benefit of sight or hearing impaired worshippers. They can be found in the bulletin rack just outside the sacristy kitchen, closest to the wheelchair ramp exit door.

Enlarged print sermon copies are available for the benefit of sight or hearing impaired worshippers. They can be found in the bulletin rack just outside the sacristy kitchen, closes to the wheelchair ramp exit door.



The Reverend Tina Melusky, Pastor

Pastor Melusky's office hours:

Monday: 9 - 2; Tuesday: 9 -10:30, 11:30 - 12:15

Wednesday 9:30 - 12; Thursday 9 - 12

(Times are sometimes flexible with monthly meetings,
but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in)

William C. Solomon, Interim Organist

Congregation of Trinity Lutheran, Ministers of the Word

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

Church office: (757) 245-7861; Pastor's cell: (734) 239-4013

www.trinitylutheran-nn.com

Trinity Lutheran is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center.

Cover image found online at WebStockReview.net

Carillon Call to Worship

Prelude

Announcements

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us.

Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.

**Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.**

Wash us in your cleansing flood.

Make us alive in the Spirit

to follow in the way of Jesus,

as healers and restorers of the world you so love.

Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

The Greeting

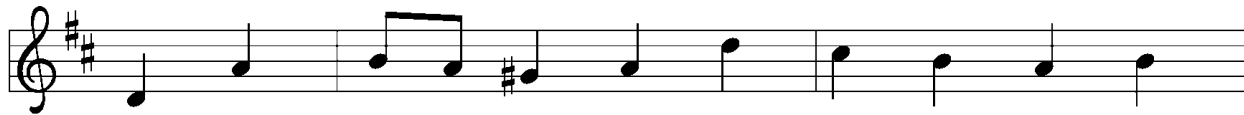
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.
 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Prayer of the Day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.**

Word

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 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 detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (read responsively)

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took rebellious paths;

through their sins they were afflicted.

They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord
and you delivered them from their distress.

You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

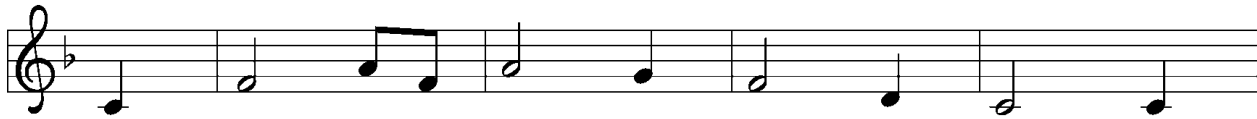
The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

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.**

Sending

Blessing

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.

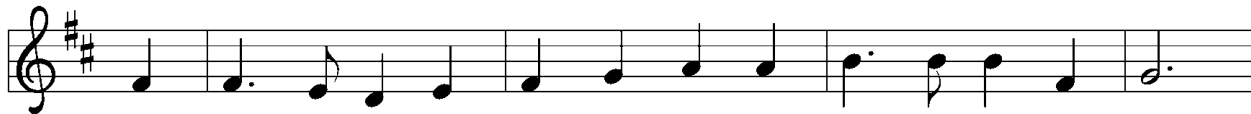
God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen.



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Office Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Drive-by Communion TODAY!: From 12:00 until 2:00 p.m., you may come to the church for our standard drive-by communion. Please continue all COVID protocols for safety. Each of our area groups and friends of the congregation are welcome to come.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR . . .

Children's Sunday School: There will be **NO Children's Sunday School** for the month of **March**. Sunday School will resume in April and run through May.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study: The next Bible Study will be on **Tuesday, March 16**, at **10:30 a.m.** A Zoom invitation will be emailed on the Monday prior.

Easter Lilies: A Constant Contact was sent out recently with a form to donate Easter lilies and/or pay for a potted palm rental for Palm Sunday. Easter lilies are \$13 each this year and palm tree rentals are \$15 each. Pastor Tina has asked for only two potted palm trees. You may pick up your lilies after the service on Easter Sunday.

Tapestry Conversations: Our next Tapestry discussion will be about the film called *The Help*. A zoom invitation was sent out through Constant Contact email on **Monday, March 15**, for a **6:30 p.m. meeting** and also for a **Sunday, March 21, 1 p.m. meeting**. All are welcome to join in.

Lenten Wednesdays: Created for Community: Even if we can't gather together for a meal and conversation in person, doesn't mean we can't still gather together on the Wednesday evenings of Lent. Every Wednesday evening throughout the Lenten season we will gather via **Zoom at 6:30 p.m.** for worship and conversation. Each week we will focus on a different form of community that we participate in. There will be time for prayer, scripture, small group conversation, and time to reflect as a community together. It will be a chance for us to see each other during worship and talk and share time and faith reflections, so that even as we have to be apart we can walk our Lenten journey together.

Schedule

3/17: In community with those on the margins

3/24: In community with Christ

A Zoom link for worship will be sent out every Wednesday morning. If you need help installing Zoom on your device, please contact the church office or Pastor Tina and we will help you get set up.

Giving to Trinity: There are a number of ways that members can give their donations to Trinity Lutheran Church during these times that we are not physically in church.

- 1. You may write a check and mail it in. It can be addressed to the attention of Carol Bessom, Trinity Lutheran Church, 6812 River Road, Newport News, VA, 23607.**
- 2. During the church office hours, you may come in to hand deliver your donation to Anne, Carol or Pastor Tina.**
- 3. Set up an automatic withdrawal from your own bank who will then send it to Trinity.**

And lastly, the newest method is the . . .

4.VANCO Online giving:

If you have questions about the donation site or how to make your donation, please don't hesitate to contact the church office, 245-7861.

Procedure for online giving:

Go to: <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com/>

Press the green "online giving" link.

PRAYER LIST

ILLNESS, SURGERY, RECOVERY, SHUT-INS: Pending Surgery: Brad Goodman (hip) on March 24; Nursing Homes: Jeanette Cantrell (The Chesapeake, 955 Harpersville Road, AL302, Newport News, VA, 23601); Millie Christensen (Morningside: Rm. 131; Charles Kessler (The Chesapeake - Assisted Living, Rm.207); Lucille Lebold (Williamsburg Landing, Memory Care Unit); Barbara Olson, (The Chesapeake, Rm. 3013); Shut-in at Home: Janet Edwards, Gerda Hudgens, Joan Johnston and Doris Moeser.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS: The Ahlen Family, Anne Brady (mother of Marc Ahlen), Paige Ahlen and Maria Goldsby, requested by Kathy Stevens; Bill Nuckols (father), Carolyn Patterson, Shirley Skinner, and Oxana Sidor (and the friends and family of Mr. Kim Lassiter (special friend)), requested by Patricia Fielding; Hannelore Voss (Karoline's mother), requested by the Ardis family; Jack and Sharon (Sherry) Johnston and Pam Little (Donna's sisters), requested by Grant and Donna Owens; Bonnie Carlson, requested by Dave Carlson; Molly Chartrand (Jacob's co-worker), requested by Patricia Wessler; Michael May, requested by Jon May; Millie Christensen (COVID); Kathleen Pietrasantra; Dee Klapperich; Mary Lucia Spake (daughter), requested by Bill Solomon; June Geyer (grandmother), requested by Patricia Wessler; Laura Jones and Jenny Tripp, requested by Suzanne Beckstoffer; Tom Bossermna (hip surgery), requested by Bob and Nancy Schappert; Patty Scheck (sister), requested by Sandy Sniady; the friends and family of Terri Winkleman (friend of Pastor Tina's family), requested by Pastor Tina Melusky and the friends and family of Catherine Dycus (friend), requested by Sandy Cobb;

Those Who Serve, Military and Civilian Duty: James Fielding, Marine Corps; Georgia; Bryan Hunt, State Dept., Washington, D. C.; Eric Lindfors, Deputy Commander US Naval Forces - Korea; Tyler Obara, Air Force National Guard, LAFB and Ashby Owens, Operation Smile.