

**February 26, 2023**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**St. James Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Introduction**

*Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Temple Talk: Thrivent**

**Sheri Sorensen**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **C Amen.**

P Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

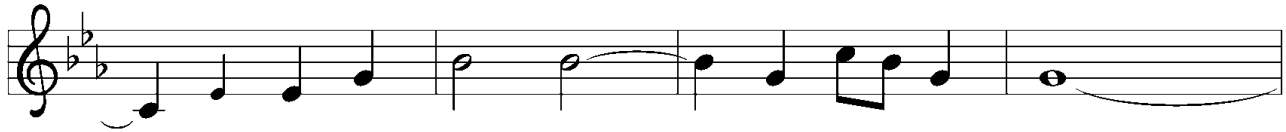
Gracious God,

**C In this unfinished life, we confess that  
our values do not always align with yours.  
We do not know how to value what you value,  
and amid the temptations, tests, and trials of our lives,  
we choose wrongly.  
Forgive us,  
and lead us through the wilderness  
so that cross-marked and Spirit-sealed,  
our lives will reflect you and your love for this world.  
Through Jesus Christ,  
Our Savior and Lord, Amen.**

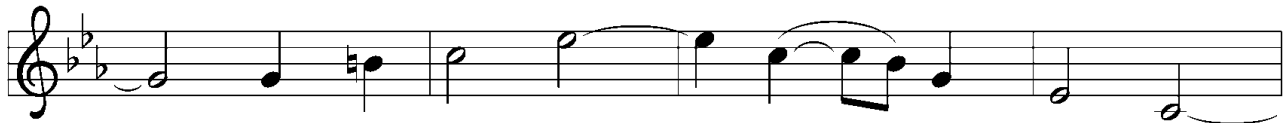
P Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
✚ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power. **C Amen.**



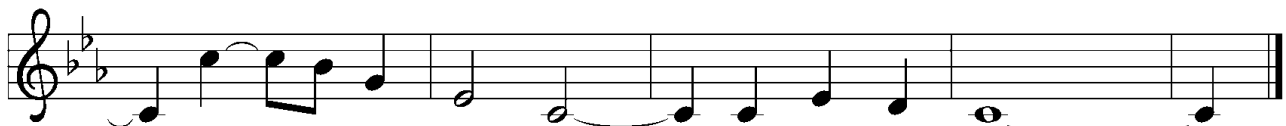
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



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

**Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray.

**C Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Children's Message**

*Following the Children's Message, children are released for Sunday School and will return during the offering to be seated with their families for the rest of the service.*

**\*\*Reader/Lector: Please read aloud both parts so those watching online can hear.**

**Psalm: Psalm 32**

A <sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

**C <sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

A <sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

**C <sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

A <sup>5</sup>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.

**C <sup>6</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

A <sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**C <sup>8</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

A <sup>9</sup>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."

**C <sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

A <sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: *Oh, Love, How Deep*

ELW 322



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
 he bore the shameful cross and death;  
 for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;  
 for us he went on high to reign;  
 for us he sent his Spirit here  
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
 the Trinity whom we adore  
 forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.  
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

**Apostle's Creed**

- C** 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

- P Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation, responding to each petition with "receive our prayer",  
*(A brief silence.)*
- P You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God... **C receive our prayer.**
- P You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God... **C receive our prayer.**
- P You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God... **C receive our prayer.**
- P You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially...READ NAMES*). Merciful God...
- C receive our prayer.**

*Prayers: Dave C.; Jo Ann B.; John K.; Lucille D.; Stacey K.; Jeff H.; Eliza, Juan & Baby Opal; as well as those we name aloud or in our hearts.*

- P You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially lectors, communion assistants, ushers, tech assistants, and counters. Merciful God... **C receive our prayer.**
- P You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God...
- C receive our prayer.**
- P We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

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

*(During cold season, we will not be shaking hands. Please greet one another with a wave, peace sign or elbow bump and you may say: "Peace be with you.)*

## Offering

*Home: You can either mail or drop your offering at the Church. Through Vanco Faith, we also offer online giving, a mobile app and text giving. Please visit our website for instructions. (For Text Giving: Text the Contribution Amount to 833.409.0619)*



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
 4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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### Offering Prayer

P Let us pray.

C **Blessed are you,**

**O God, ruler of heaven and earth.**

**Day by day you shower us with blessings.**

**As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### Blessing

P God, the giver of love,

✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

C **Amen.**



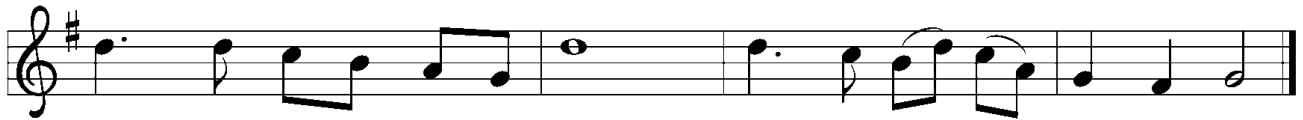
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

**Dismissal**

**P** Go in peace, remembering who you are.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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**Facebook Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/stjamestrinity.org>

**You Tube Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSrzs9m9vOTpn1zwnlvYzQQ>

**Today's Worship Servers:**

Lector: Deanna Schilling  
Ushers: Mark Kaeding (Head)  
Comm. Assts: N/A

**Next Sunday's Worship Servers:**

Lector: Crystal Vagts  
Ushers: Doug Sorensen (Head)  
Comm. Assts: Maxine O'Brien & Loretta Carter

## Announcements

- **VISITOR & PRAYER REQUEST CARDS** – If you are visiting us this morning or if you have a prayer request, please fill out the Welcome Card in the Pew and place in the offering plate. Thank you!
- **PRAYGROUND** – Our PrayGround is available in the back of the Sanctuary for small children and a parent at any time during the service. Coloring books and other quiet activities are available.
- **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES** – Please see one of the Ushers if you need hearing assistance.
- **OFFERING ENVELOPES** – Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2023. They are available by the office entrance.
- **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES** – Join us for Midweek Lenten Worship Services on Wednesdays from March 1st to March 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 pm. Pastor Rick is doing a series on the prophet Jonah.
- **EASTER LILY ORDERS** – It's time to order Easter Lilies again! They are \$10.50 each and orders need to be received by March 5th. There are order forms next to the bulletins or you can order online through the following link: <https://forms.gle/39p4EhdEGnmZp3EQ8>
- **LIBRARY NEWS** – Books have been removed from the Church Library Youth Section. They are at both entrances with a FREE sign. Please take them as we want them to find new homes.
- **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** – Sheri Sorensen will be available after church today if anyone would like help designating their choice dollars or if there are any questions.
- **MISSION OUTREACH SUNDAY: MARCH** – We have designated the second Sunday of the month as Mission Outreach Sunday. In March, we will be supporting those affected by the Earthquake in Syria/Turkey through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). We will collect a special offering on March 12th during worship. There are designated offering envelopes available next to the bulletins. You can also mail a check to the church or donate online through our website. Just go to Mission Outreach and click donate.
- **BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY** – Next Sunday, March 5th, will be Bold Women's Sunday and we will have a guest preacher, Diane House. Bold Women's Sunday is something the Women of the ELCA recommends on the first Sunday in March to lift up the role of women in the church.