



everything [in] between rest & growth

Third Sunday in Lent
March 22-23, 2025



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church
213 North Pennsylvania Ave. | Mason City, Iowa 50401 | 641-423-0536 | trinity-mc.org

Third Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2025 - 5:00 p.m.

March 23, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service/KCMR 97.9



Sometimes faith is simple. But sometimes it's messy and nuanced — more complex than black or white, one thing or the other. This Lent, we are letting the Gospel of Luke guide us to the “in-between” nature of following Jesus.

In the parable of the vineyard, the gardener knows the fig tree needs rest, nutrients, and time—and it also needs to produce fruit. Both things are true, which is also true for us. If we are always striving for more growth without taking time to rest, we will burn out. But if we are only ever resting, we won't bear fruit or grow. It is often the in-between time—of nurture before fruit—where transformation begins.

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad you're here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located next to the nursery. A **unstaffed nursery** is available during the **9:00 and 10:30 services**, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (door under the stained glass window door).

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved in the pew located in front of the Technical booth.

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

Serving in Worship This Weekend

Pastor Pastor Dan Gerrietts
Pastor Daniel Hanson
Pastor Beverly Butler

Organist Deb Nielsen

Cantor Alli Day

Greeters Randy and Kathy Dedor

Coffee Fellowship
Dan and Nancy Clarke
Joann Johnson

Scripture Readers
5:00 p.m. Cliff Rossler
9:00 a.m. Peyton Wickering

Acolytes Addilyn Page, Aubree Kreimeyer

Technical Support
9:00 a.m. Colton Hesley
Sophia Fitzgerald
Kathrine Holmes

Worship Transportation
9:00 a.m. Dean Graven, Kevin Hendrikson

Ushers
5:00 p.m. Liz Fitzgerald, Donna Henaman
9:00 a.m. Mike Brown, Tim Latham
Joe Sanchez, Gary Wattnem

Building Host
Randy Elsbernd

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Who forgives all our sin,
Whose mercy endures forever.

C 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,

**C 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.

C Amen.

***Gathering Hymn**

There is a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW #588

***Greeting**

P Sisters and brothers, called to freedom in Christ:

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

P Creator God,

Your Word is like soil, something we can root ourselves in.

Your Word is like the sun, big enough to touch everything with its warmth.

Your Word is like a gardener,

a love that prunes and encourages,

waters and delights, seeds and tends.

As we turn to your word today,

warm our bones, tend to our broken pieces,

and show us how to grow.

With hope we pray,

C Amen.

Children's Sermon(9:00 a.m.)

Pastor Daniel Hanson

Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

L Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread

and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ 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.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ Now 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.

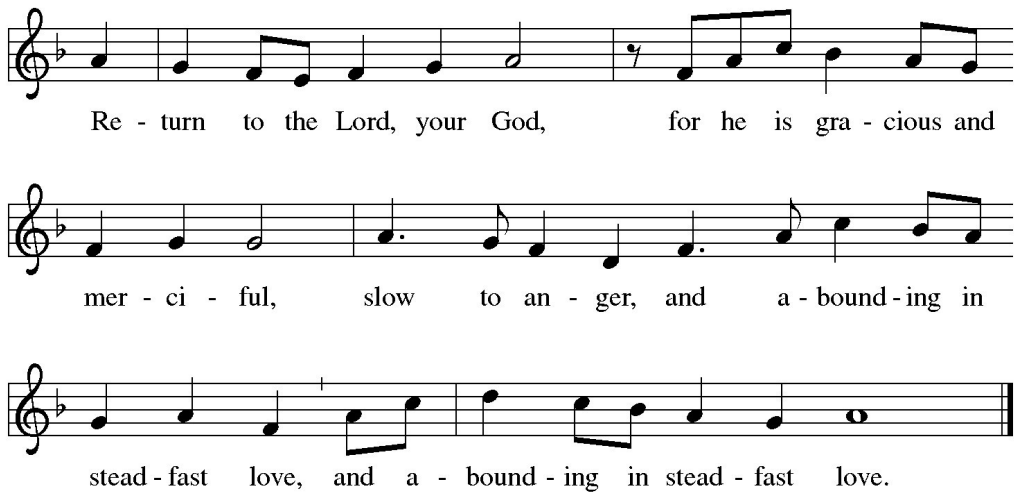
- ⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

ELW pg. 142



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

***Gospel: Luke 13:6-9**

P 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. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘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?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Hanson

Hymn of the Day

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW #592

***Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

P God, in your mercy.

C Receive our prayer.

***Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

During this cold and flu season please greet one another in the name of the Lord with a wave and a smile.

THANKSGIVING

Announcements

Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



***Offertory**

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Offering Prayer**

P 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.

C Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

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

C Amen.

***Sending Hymn**

Amazing Grace

ELW #779

***Sending**

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

C Thanks be to God!

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given by **Ron and Diane Moeller** in memory of loved ones.

Colored Bulletins are in honor of **Craig Warner** who is retiring from the Mason City Fire Department after 30 years of service. Given by Audrey and family.

Lunch and Learn—Dementia Friendly Iowa | Thursday, March 27th | 12:00-1:00 PM / Fellowship Hall

Dementia Friendly Iowa is an initiative of the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging to promote change and education in communities across Iowa to create a more informed, safe, and respectful place for people living with dementia and their caregivers. Come for some practical tips and helpful information. A light lunch of soup and sandwich will be provided for a free-will donation. Please see the sign up sheet located by the church offices.

Living Well in the Midst of Grief and Loss

Living Well in the Midst of Grief & Loss is a four-week class that will give you an opportunity to explore how grief and loss impact your heart, soul, strength, and mind. We will have 4 sessions: **Wednesdays, April 23 and 30, and May 7 and 14, at 2:00 PM**. Please call the office if you are planning to attend so we can plan accordingly. This class is facilitated by Linda Vold, retired therapist, and Beverly Butler, Pastor of Spiritual Care.

Welcome to the Table—April 2 and April 9—5:15 p.m.

The Education Committee and church staff recommend 4th grade as a good time to receive instruction on Communion. Our two-part Communion class, Welcome to the Table, is being offered for Grade 4 students Accompanied by at least one parent. The class is designed for those youth who have already taken Communion and those who are preparing for their first Communion. We welcome older or younger students who have not yet had Communion instruction or desire to have Communion instruction before 4th grade to participate. Students who complete the class will be recognized on Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM with a reception following in the Gathering Space.

SPECIAL WAYS TO HELP AT EASTER

Easter Food Project

The Ministries Committee is asking for monetary donations to provide local, less fortunate individuals or families with a healthy Easter meal to enjoy. Give online or in person! Easter Food Project Envelopes are available by the church office. Funds will be collected through March 31. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving an Easter box, please call the church office. The deadline for submission of recipients is March 31.

You can also help by signing up to deliver food boxes to recipients on Saturday, April 12 in the morning. Please get in touch with the church office by March 31.

Easter Garden & Memorials

Please see the signup sheets located by the church office if you would like to remember or honor a loved one with an Easter plant. Plants can be purchased for \$15 each (Plant limit of 30 total). Remember or honor a loved one with an Easter memorial. You can also call the church office with your request. The Easter garden (and Easter memorial) deadline is March 28.

LENT 2025

Our series, “Everything [in] Between,” is for people living in a divided world. It’s for all who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. It’s for those who want to experience a God who shows up on the edges and everywhere in between.



4TH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 29-30, 2025



5TH SUNDAY IN LENT
April 5-6, 2025



PALM PASSION SUNDAY
*Celebrate Christ's triumphal
entry with Palms, youth sing and
help lead worship*
April 12-13, 2025

Journey with Jesus: Reading Luke through Lent

Using the devotional, Journey with Jesus, we will together read the Gospel of Luke, a chapter a day, along with other readings from the Bible that connect to Luke. For those interested, there will be a ***gathering at noon on Mondays during Lent in the Fellowship Hall, to discuss and process the Scripture for the past week in community.*** People are encouraged to bring a lunch and to stay for whatever time their schedule affords. Copies are available by the church offices and the Welcome Center.

Lenten Offering Folder

This offering benefits Trinity's ongoing ministry in our community. If you're unable to fill it with \$40, please give the amount that feels right for you. To complete online, go to trinity-mc.org/give. Extra coin folders can be found at the welcome desk and by the church offices.

Lent Services will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Based on our Lent Series “Everything [in] Between,” is for people living in a divided world. It’s for all who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. It’s for those who want to experience a God who shows up on the edges and everywhere in between. *Each week someone from our faith community will share a reflection.*

March 26—Dani Vogel

April 2—Brian Koob

April 9—Carlyle Dalen

Middle School Mom Lent Bible Study | 6:00 AM / Cabin Coffee - MC

Middle School moms are invited to Cabin Coffee in Mason City with Carol Dettmer on Wednesday mornings during Lent from 6:00 - 7:00 AM to read and discuss the Lent Bible Study of Luke that is for all Trinity members. No RSVP needed for either, just show up!

Donations Requested: Candy for the Easter Egg Hunt

We are in need of candy donations for Trinity's Community Easter Egg Hunt. Donations of wrapped or plastic Easter eggs are greatly appreciated. We hope to fill 1,500 Easter Eggs. Please bring donations to the church office by **April 1**. Thank you!

**Lent Dinners are from
6-6:30 p.m. in the
Fellowship Hall**

March 26th Menu:

*Hot Dogs, Nachos,
Carrots & Dip & Dessert*
All donations from the meals
will support
Trinity Youth activities.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Quilt Workshop (Fellowship Hall)
9:00 a.m. Lectio Divina (Rm. 322)
Noon Lent Discussion (Fellowship Hall)
6:00 p.m. Trinity Bronze Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, March 25

8-9:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
9:30 a.m. Caregiver Support Group (Rm. 300)
Noon Staff Meeting
4:15 p.m. NordKor Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting (Rm. 300)

Wednesday, March 26

6:00 a.m. MS Mom Lent Bible Study (Cabin Coffee)
7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Lent Meal
6:30 p.m. Lent Worship Service
7:10 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm.)

Thursday, March 27

8:00 a.m. BASES Exercise (Gathering Space)
10:30 a.m. Clappers & Coffee Bell Choir
Noon Lunch & Learn (Fellowship Hall)
7:00 p.m. Una Vocis Rehearsal

Friday, March 28

8am-5pm Mental Health First Aid Class
(Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, March 29

Rite of Healing

5:00 p.m. Worship Service

Sunday, March 30

Rite of Healing

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

2:00 p.m. Wartburg Choir Concert

Camp Scholarship Drive

Trinity's camp scholarship provides funds to offset the cost of attending bible camp. To ensure this can continue, we are launching a special drive to raise \$15,000 for camp scholarships by Easter Sunday 2025. **To make a gift, simply write "Camp Scholarships" on your check or envelope or go to our online giving page.** Thanks for helping camps continue to be sacred spaces for God's holy work!

The 2025 Flower Calendar and Bulletin Calendar

If you'd like to honor a loved one, remember a birthday and/or an anniversary while enhancing Trinity's sanctuary for the celebration of worship, please consider donating altar flowers or **colored bulletins for a week-end**. Both calendars are located on the bulletin board next to the church office. Altar Flowers are \$45 and Bulletins are \$25.

Visio Divina

Tuesday, April 1st | 10:00 AM /

MacNider Museum-303 2nd St. SE, Mason City
Visio Divina, or "sacred seeing," is an ancient form of Christian prayer in which we allow our hearts and imaginations to enter into an image. In silence, we hope to see what God might have to say to us. Come and encounter the Divine through visual art. The current exhibit, *Different Perspectives*, focuses on artists who have not always received equal time in the artistic spotlight.

Baby Kits for Lutheran World Relief are in need of the following items for babies 6 to 24 months.

1. Diapers - pre-folded
2. Socks
3. Receiving Blankets
4. Ivory soap bars
5. Hand towels
6. Monetary donation

Items can be placed on the tables on the stage.

Trinity's seeks a skilled and organized individual to serve as our Administrative Assistant to Congregation Life. This person is our front-of-office receptionist, providing welcome and assistance to those entering the church and phoning in. They also produce and print worship bulletins, manage new members and church membership, serve as staff support for church committees, cabinets and other program staff, coordinate volunteers, and provide assistance with scheduling of events. To learn more visit Trinity-mc.org/employment.

2025 NATIONAL CONCERT TOUR

THE WARTBURG CHOIR

DR. LEE NELSON, CONDUCTOR



FEATURING MASON CITY HS CONCERT CHOIR | ETHAN PRUISMAN, CONDUCTOR
CLEAR LAKE HS CHAMBER SINGERS | JASON HEITLAND, CONDUCTOR

Sunday, March 30 2 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

213 N. Pennsylvania Ave., Mason City, IA 50401

Freewill donations will be accepted to support scholarships and future concert tours.

Belong and Grow—Membership Class

Tuesday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. or Sunday, April 13th at 1:30 p.m. *(Choose one session)*

Looking for a church home? A place to belong? Interested in learning more about Trinity's life and mission, or whether this might be the place to connect and grow?

Pastor Dan Gerrietts leads an interactive class for those exploring membership or wondering if Trinity is right for them. This is the only session one attends to prepare for membership. Learn about our mission commitments and the faith expressions that ground us. Take a tour of the building. Meet other people!

New Member Sunday will be May 4th at the 9am worship service, reception to follow.

New Christ in Our Home devotional books for ***April, May and June*** are available at the Welcome Desk and by the church offices.

Community Lenten Service of Repentance and Reflection

On **Sunday April 6 at 2:00pm at First Presbyterian Church**, there will be a special Lenten service of repentance and reflection. Several area churches have planned this service which focuses on our shared history of complicity in allowing social injustice. This worship service will include readings from scripture, a litany of confession, and hymns. Discussion and snacks to follow. All are welcome.