



the good news is..

rooted in justice, mercy,  
& faithfulness

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

MARCH 21-22, 2026



SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

***Pastors***

Dan Gerrietts, Daniel Hanson

***Preacher***

Pastor Dan Gerrietts

***Organist***

Jodi Korth

***Cantor***

Saturday: Julia Hines      Sunday: Kylie Hansen

***Acolytes***

Jay Lingbeek, Devin Dettmer

***Special Music***

**Clapper Bell Choir**

**Bronze Bell Choir**

Directed by Marta Eenhuis

***Scripture Readers***

Saturday: Cliff Rossler      Sunday: Gary Wattnem

***Ushers***

Saturday: Stu Vold, Earl Kiefer

Sunday: Dean Graven, Tracy Farland, Joe Blanchard, Brook Boehmler

***Technical Support***

Ella Bolinger

***Greeters***

Kay Larson, Earl Kiefer

***Coffee Fellowship***

Patty Hestad, Bernie and Jena Bjorklund

***Worship Transportation***

Dean Graven, Craig Remmen

***Building Host***

Jim Reisinger

# *Third Sunday in Lent*

Saturday, March 21, 2026 - 5:00 PM

Sunday, March 22, 2026 - 9:00 AM with Livestream / KCMR 97.9

## **The Good News is....**

### **...rooted in justice, mercy & faithfulness**

Lent was originally a season for new converts to Christianity to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: God's mercy, radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—good news for us and for all people.

As we move toward Holy Week, we see how Jesus' ministry was increasingly at odds with the religious leaders who prioritized loyalty to legality and perceived Jesus' teachings as a threat. When questioned about a woman caught in adultery, Jesus flips the script and invites each person to consider their own sin. Jesus defuses the spectacle by condemning no one.

## **BAPTISM**

*We welcome*

### ***Barrett Paul Deardeuff***

To the font for the sacrament of Holy Baptism.  
Barrett is the son of Alec and Andrea Deardeuff

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

are given in memory of

*Donna Stoltenberg's 1st Heavenly Birthday on March 21st*

***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. An **unstaffed nursery** is also available, located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (the door under the stained glass window door).

***Seating for People with Limited Mobility*** is reserved in several places throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs.

***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.

## Prelude

*(Saturday)*

*(Sunday)*

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*Fantasy on an Irish Tune*

Kaye Steger, Flute

Mike Last, Drum

Martha Lynn Thompson

Barbara Kinyon

## Welcome

## The Service of Holy Baptism

*Barrett Paul Deardeuff*

ELW p. 227

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** Jesus once said to a crowd, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.” Friends, none of us are without sin. None of us get it right all the time.

None of us can get by without God’s grace. In the Prayer of Confession, we acknowledge this truth. We put down our stones and we turn to God for forgiveness. Join me in this act of transformation.

*(silence is kept)*

**P** Let us pray:

**C** Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules.  
We love clear answers. We love right and wrong.  
We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones,  
but you show us another way.  
You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.  
You prioritize mercy over vengeance. You prioritize people over tradition.  
You prioritize love over everything.  
Forgive us. Soften our hearts.  
Root us in mercy, justice, and love.  
With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

**P** Church family,  
Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way.  
Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us.  
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**C** Our God is a God of mercy.  
Our God is a God of compassion.  
Our God is a God of grace.  
We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way.  
Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.  
Amen.

**\*Greeting**

P The grace of God that extends to all nations in Christ Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

**\*Prayer of the Day**

P Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you wake with the dawn, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So open our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray.

C **Amen.**

**Children's Message** (*Sunday*)

**Pastor Dan Gerrietts**

**First Reading: John 8:2-11**

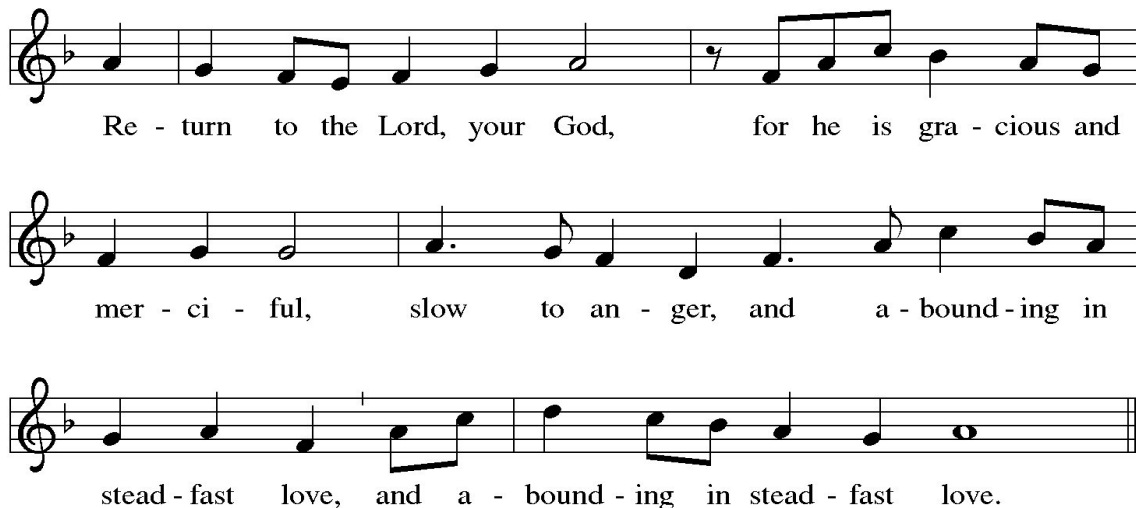
Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup>they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup>Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup>They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup>And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup>She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

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.

**\*Gospel: Matthew 23:23**

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the twenty-third chapter.

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

<sup>23</sup>“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day

*Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

ELW 334

**\*Nicene Creed**

C 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 Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

## **\*Peace**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

## **Announcements**

### THANKSGIVING

#### **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, whose blessing gives us life,  
Like morning's gentle dew.  
We will trust you through the wilderness  
And walk the way with you.  
To the God who calls us servants  
Neighbor, stranger, friend made fair;  
Christ is present in the water,  
In the fire, the earth, the air.  
May we live to love in all we do,  
And grant our neighbor rest;  
All creation praises God on high,  
Now may these gifts be blest.**

Sung to the tune "Thaxted" ELW 880  
Written by Colby Gochanour

#### **\*Offering Prayer**

P God of surprising grace, receive these gifts as small seeds of your kingdom, and grow them beyond our imagining into mercy, welcome, and love for all.

Use what we offer, and who we are, to share the joyful, unruly good news of Jesus Christ for the life of the world.

C Amen.

## **\*Lord's Prayer**

**C** 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**

**P** As you leave this place,  
when you meet anger, speak with love.  
When you meet fear, speak with hope.  
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.  
But no matter what, speak the good news of the gospel:  
God became human in Jesus for us,  
to bring love and justice for all,  
and joy that surprises.  
Thanks be to God  
for this good news!

**C** Amen.

### **\*Sending Hymn**

*You Are the Way*

ELW 758

### **\*Sending**

**P** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

## Lenten Season at Trinity

**JOURNEY WITH JESUS: Mondays in Lent, Monday, March 23** | 12Noon | Fellowship Hall  
We invite everyone at Trinity to read Scripture together as a spiritual discipline, using the devotional Journey with Jesus, as we read the Gospel of John. Journal questions are provided to dig deeper and to reflect on the daily readings. Join the gathering at noon on Mondays in the Fellowship Hall to discuss and process the Scripture in community. Bring a lunch and stay for as long as you are able.

**BROWN BAG BACH Wednesdays in Lent | Wednesday, March 25** | 12:15pm to 12:45pm  
Join us for a series of Wednesday Noon-hour concerts during Lent. Music begins in the Sanctuary at 12:15 for 30 minutes. This week's organist will be Mark McClellan from Iowa Falls.  
You are welcome to bring your lunch and enjoy it in the pew during the concert.

**JOURNEY WITH JESUS WALK & TALK Thursdays in Lent | Thurs, March 26** | 4:15 pm  
Join us to walk and talk about the Gospel of John. We'll walk inside or out, depending on weather, as we discuss the Scripture from the past week in the Lenten devotional. Meet at the East Entrance.

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER** *Gathering in prayer to hold space for peace and unity.*

Thursdays in Lent | Thursday, March 26 | 2pm—2:45pm | Good Shepherd Chapel  
Join us in a time to gather as Christians as we offer Prayer petitions for our community, our country and our world. We gather at a different church every week.

**TRINITY COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT Saturday, March 28** | 10am - 11am  
Trinity will be hosting the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt for infants through 6th grade. All children from the surrounding area are welcome to join us!

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE Thursday, April 2** | 6:30pm | Sanctuary  
Our Holy Week observance of Maundy Thursday includes several of our young people taking Communion for the first time. Join us for a reception for them will follow the Service.

**GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY "CROSS WALK" Friday April 3 | 12Noon**  
Join the Mason City Christian Community as the cross is carried through the downtown area. Meet outside main entrance First United Methodist at 119 S. Georgia Ave. at 12:00 Noon.

**GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA Friday, April 3** | 6:30 pm | Sanctuary  
Our Good Friday Service will be the Cantata *"It is Finished"* featuring the Trinity Choir, Bronze Bell Choir and various instrumentalists from Trinity and the Community. Join us for this meaningful observance of Good Friday during Holy Week.

**BRASS MUCISIANS NEEDED FOR EASTER SUNDAY**

If you play a brass instrument and would like to play for the Easter Services, please contact Coby Gochanour at [colby.gochanour@trinity-mc.org](mailto:colby.gochanour@trinity-mc.org).

**EASTER EGG CANDY & TOY COLLECTION**

We are looking to fill 2000 eggs this Easter season for our Community Easter Egg Hunt! Your donation of candy and toys helps to off-set the cost. Donations should be dropped off to the office by March 27th. Please bring wrapped candy, small toys/stickers/tattoos to fit into plastic Easter eggs.

**NEW TRINITY PICTURE DIRECTORY** *Schedule Your Photo Session Now!*

Please sign up now by going to our Trinity webpage, booking with one of our volunteers between the Services or by calling the office. We want everyone in the directory! If you have any questions, please reach out to Carol Dettmer at 423-0536.

## Wednesdays in Lent, March 25

**COMMUNITY MEAL THIS WEEK:** 6:00pm to 6:30pm | Fellowship Hall

**Menu:** “Take Me Out to the Ball Game!” (Hot Dogs on the Grill, Nachos, Ice Cream)

Please note! This is the last Lenten Wednesday Meal served by our Youth.

Join us to support their Youth Trip to California this summer with a free-will offering.

You won't want to miss this fan favorite menu!

### \*Lenten Mid-Week Services

1:00 PM (Chapel) & 6:30 PM (Sanctuary)

*Shorter traditional service with a creative liturgy and message*

\*Confirmation | Fellowship Hall | 6:30pm

\*Choir Rehearsal | Choir Room | approx. 7:10pm (After Lenten Service)

Trinity's Choir is open to all vocalists, high school age & older. Please join us!

\*Nursery | 6:30pm—7:30pm | The Nursery is located on 2nd floor, just outside the Sanctuary.

The Nursery is unstaffed but is available for preschoolers and their parents during this time.

\*Campfire Kids, Grades 1-6 | Rm 208 | 6:30pm—7:10pm

Campfire Kids is our elementary programming here at Trinity on Wednesday nights. Students embark on fun Bible adventures with their leader Nate Ruge, and other wilderness guides, as they experiment with Bible Stories and Faith Traditions. This week we are learning about “Lent”.

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### BAPTISMS AT THE EASTER VIGIL SERVICE

Are you, or someone you know, interested in being baptized? We would love to talk with you about our opportunity for baptism at the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday, April 4th at 5:00 pm. People of all ages are baptized each year at the Vigil, following a centuries old tradition in the Christian church. Please contact the office or one of the Pastors to learn more.

### EASTER GARDEN & MEMORIALS due by Sunday, March 29th

Easter Plants for our Easter Garden can be purchased for \$15 each to honor or remember a loved one. You can also honor or remember a loved one with an Easter Memorial, which is money given to a specific ministry. Sign up boards are posted outside the church office or you can call the office with your request.

### 2026 EASTER BAG FOOD PROJECT *Monetary Donations are still being accepted.*

Monetary donations are needed to provide local, less fortunate individuals and families with a healthy Easter meal to enjoy. A donation of \$35 will feed a household of up to four people, \$70 will feed a household of eight people, and so forth. Donations are accepted online, using the special envelopes at the entrances and in the offering as well. Contact the church by calling (641) 423-0536.

### MIDDLE SCHOOLERS! Join us for Packing Easter Food Bags plus hiding Easter Eggs.

Middle Schoolers are needed to help fill Easter Food Bags on Friday, March 27 from 4:00-6:00pm at Trinity. The bags will be distributed to families in need on Saturday. After filling the bags, we will eat pizza and hide Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt that will take place on Saturday, March 28th (10:00am-11:00am.) Please let Carol know if your 7th or 8th grader would like to help on Friday.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### MONDAY, MARCH 23

- 9:00 AM Quilting Workshop (Fellowship Hall)  
12Noon Lenten Scripture Discussion (Fellowship Hall)  
5:30 PM Bronze Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 24

- 8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
9:30 AM Fellowship Coffee (Fellowship Hall)  
9:30 AM Caregivers Support Group (Rm 300 and zoom)  
12Noon Staff Meeting  
6:30 PM Trinity Council Meeting (Rm 300)  
8:00 PM Confirmation (Fellowship Hall)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

- 7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)  
8:30 AM Women's Bible Study (Library)  
12:15 PM Brown Bag Bach Organ Concert (Sanctuary)  
**1:00 PM Lenten Mid-Week Service (Chapel)**  
5:15 PM First Communion Instruction (Rm 208)  
6:00 PM Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)  
**6:30 PM Lenten Mid-Week Service (Sanctuary)**  
6:30 PM Campfire Kids (Rm 208)  
6:30 PM Confirmation Class (Fellowship Hall)  
7:10 PM Choir Practice (After Service in Choir Room)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

- 8:00 AM BASES Exercise Class (Gathering Space)  
10:30 AM Coffee and Clapper Bell Choir (Rm 307)  
12Noon Lunch & Learn (Fellowship Hall)  
2:00 PM Let Us Pray Gathering (First Presbyterian)  
4:15 PM Journey with Jesus Walk & Talk (East Entry)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 28

**5:00 PM WORSHIP SERVICE**

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

- 9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** - Livestream, KCMR  
**10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE** (Contemporary)  
11:30 AM No Youth Group

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT AFFORDABLES

Trinity supports Affordables Thrift Store by gathering once a month at the store to help with assorted tasks. Tasks include sorting, hanging and organizing donated items as well as assisting with stocking the store. Join us to support this great cause that empowers those we serve on their path to independence while having fun as we do it! We meet at the store on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for two hours from 9:30am to 11:30am. Sign up on the clipboard by the office and contact Affordables with any questions at [Cindy@43northiowa.org](mailto:Cindy@43northiowa.org).

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Trinity provides 4-6 volunteers at the kitchen, two times per month: first Monday mornings from 9:00 to 12:30; fourth Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00. Typically, volunteers help prepare the meal by cleaning and preparing fresh fruit and vegetables, then helping serve the meal to the community, all the while enjoying the fellowship of one another. If you are interested in being a part of this opportunity, please use the sign up sheets outside of the church office! If you have any questions, volunteer coordinator Susan Bangert is happy to answer them at (515)341-2193.

### MISSION JAMAICA: A VACATION WITH A PURPOSE *Reserve your spot by May 31, 2026*

Mission Jamaica returns in Spring 2027 for the week of March 13-20! Travel to Montego Bay for a meaningful week of service at the Westhaven Children's Home, worship with a Jamaican congregation, and time for rest and renewal. Cost is approximately \$2500 per person. Adults and families are welcome and membership is not required. An informational meeting will be held Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30 pm.

To reserve your spot, contact Pastor Dan Gerrietts at [dan.gerrietts@trinity-mc.org](mailto:dan.gerrietts@trinity-mc.org).