

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026



PRELUDE

“What If”

Bunn, White, Ward, Ward

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

Verse 1

I wanna run
But what if I fall
I wanna climb
But what if the wall is just too tall
Higher than my faith could ever reach
I wanna trust but God I'm afraid
Open my heart but what if it breaks
It's hard to believe
I'll ever be more than I'll ever be
What if I give up right before He parts the sea

Chorus

But what if the door swings open
To all I've been hoping and praying for
And what if my season of waiting
Was changing and leading to something more
What if jumping leads to flying
And fear didn't stop me from trying
What if God's just waiting for me to start seeing
How big He is
What if

Verse 2

What if He hears all of your prayers
You cry out to Jesus to find that He's there
Cause He still cares for the broken and the prodigal
So don't give up on this side of your miracle

Bridge

What if your doubts and fears
Were the only chains that are holding you
What if the prayer of faith
Is all it takes for the breakthrough
Don't get stuck by what you see
What has been or what it is
Don't be scared by your past to ask what if

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WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

PROCESSIONAL

“Living Waters (As The Deer)”

Cash, Getty, Nystrom

We journey together as a people called into God's story, walking in the way of Jesus.

Verse 1

Are you thirsty
Are you empty
Come and drink these living waters
Tired and broken
Peace unspoken
Rest beside these living waters

Chorus

There's a river that flows
With mercy and love
Bringing joy to the city of our God
There our hope is secure
Do not fear anymore
Praise to the Lord of living waters

Verse 2

Christ is calling
Find refreshing
At the cross of living waters
Lay your life down
All the old gone
Rise up in these living waters
(Chorus)

Verse 3

As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

You alone are my strength my shield
You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee

Verse 4

Spirit moving
Mercy washing
Healing in these living waters
Lead your children
To the shoreline
Life is in these living waters
(Chorus)
(Chorus)

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GREETING

God names us as beloved and draws us into community.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We tell the truth about our lives and hear again that grace comes first.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdainingly the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed
in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

(Assembly is seated.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

Let us pray.

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.

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

God speaks across time and tradition: in promise, struggle, praise, and the life of Jesus.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 2:15-17: 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

A reading from Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 32

We give voice to God's faithfulness, participating in the living story of God's mercy and love by echoing the ancient prayers of God's people.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

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

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

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."
**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

A reading from Romans.

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1-11

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

The gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.' "

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

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

(The Assembly stands.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Jars of Clay, Bliss

We respond to the promises of God in song.

Verse 1

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like a sea billows roll
Whatever my lot You have taught me to say
It is well it is well with my soul

Verse 2

Through the devil will ruin through trials may come
Let this blessed assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And He shed His own blood for my soul
It is well with my soul
It is well it is well with my soul

Verse 3

My sin oh the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord praise the Lord oh my soul
(Chorus)

Chorus

It is well with my soul
It is well it is well with my soul
It is well with my soul
It is well it is well with my soul

Verse 4

And Lord haste the day
Where my faith shall be sight
And the clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
Even so it is well with my soul
(Chorus)

We join the wider church in naming the story that holds us.

**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

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, please respond: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great!**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We offer signs of Christ's peace, joining God's work of reconciliation.

May the peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In the wilderness of Lent, God meets us with mercy.
From that mercy, generosity is born. We offer our gifts and ourselves as signs of hope in a hurting world.

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

Verse 1

Healer heal me Savior save me
Maker change me Lover love me
‘Cause I’m so tired of living for
The kind of love that only lasts a while
The pain the shame tear me up inside

Chorus 1

So I fall on my knees to get back on my feet again
And I cry out for You to hear You speak to me
(Would you please speak to me)

Verse 2

Healer heal me Savior save me
Maker change me Lover love me
‘Cause I’m so tired of living for
The kind of love that only comes and goes
But Your love You love lasts forever

Chorus 2

Yes I fall on my knees to get back on my
feet again
And I run hard for You to enter Your rest

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OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus’s name. Amen

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God’s life-giving work.

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 our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We recall the story of Jesus and ask the Spirit to make us one.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe... With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With Martin Luther and your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

Tomlin, Newton, Giglio

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

Verse 1

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Chorus

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We share news and opportunities to live God's love together as a community.

BLESSING

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

Amen.

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

Verse 1

If you've had water in the wilderness
If you've ever been pulled up out the pit
If you made it through and it makes no sense
That's how you know it was Him

Verse 2

If you've got a Savior who broke your chains
If you've got a Maker who made a way
If you've got a Holy Ghost in your veins
Then praise Him like you're not ashamed

Chorus 1

Who opened your prison doors
God did God did
Who dried up your ocean floor
God did God did
Who did everything He said
God did God did
Who raised you from the dead
God did God did

Verse 3

Anybody in here can testify
If you've got a story how He changed your life
If you've got a hallelujah let it fly
Sing like you know the Most High

Chorus 2

Who came in the nick of time
God did God did
Who snatched you out of the fire
God did God did
Who healed you of your disease
God did God did
Tell me who slew all these
God did God did

Interlude

God did God did

Bridge

For how You saved my soul
For how You made me whole
For how You paid it all
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough
For those mountains You moved
For those shackles You loosed
No one did it but You
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough
For Your body and blood
Your love never gave up
Here's my hallelujah
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough

Tag

I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough

Chorus 3

Who opened your prison doors
God did God did
Who dried up your ocean floor
God did God did
Who did every little thing He said
God did God did
Who raised you from the dead
God did God did
Who gave you another day
God did God did
Who gave you a brand new name
God did God did
Who rolled away all your shame
God did God did
Who gave you breath to praise
God did God did

Ending

God did God did
God did God did

SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**
Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- If you would like to help serve in the capacity of **Worship Assistant**, please sign up by Java Junction in the Worship Assistant book. **Lectors & Communion Assistants are needed.**
- **Join us for Soup Suppers during Lent** on Wednesdays at 6 pm, followed by Lenten Evening Prayer (including music from Holden Village) at 7 pm. All are welcome! *If you are bringing soup, please arrive at 5:45pm to set up your food.* Thank you!
- **Please stop by the Giving Tree** in the narthex and pick up a tag or two for Mission/Outreach's next project. **We are collecting items for PADS Move-Out Kits.** These kits are given to clients who are leaving the shelter to help them get started as they move on. Thank you so much for your generosity!
- **First Communion Class Registration has started!** To register please contact the office at 815-434-0596 or by emailing Pastor Phil at pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com. Individuals who have not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion who are aged 7 or older are invited!
- **First Communion Classes** are scheduled for **9am-9:50am on Sunday, March 15th & March 29th, 2026.** We meet in Fellowship Hall, beneath the Sanctuary. **First Communion Sunday is Sunday, April 12th, 2026.**
- The **February 11th blood drive was a success!** 34 products were collected in total.
- **The next blood drive is Wednesday, April 8, 2026.** Please contact Carol Wahlstrom to donate or to volunteer to help: carolwahlstrom@gmail.com.
- There is a **Lost and Found** bin by the coat rack in the Sanctuary. There is also a ring found and held in the office. If items are not claimed, they will be donated to the garage sale. If the ring is yours, please call the office 815-434-0596 or send an email to tlcoffice@trinitylutheranottawa.com.
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**
 - Jan Income =19,831.07 (Income YTD = \$19,831.07)
 - Jan Expense = \$21,528.20 (Expense YTD = \$21,528.20)
 - Income Less Expense = -\$1,697.13 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$1,697.13)
 - Loan Payment = \$406.68
 - Principal Payment = \$0
 - Left On Loan = \$0

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (2/23):** 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
10a Staff Meeting (Office)
- **Tuesday (2/24):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (2/25)** 1p Bible Study
6p Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
6:15p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7p Lenten Evening Prayer
- **Thursday (2/26):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
1p Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)
- **Friday (2/27):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (2/28):** *National Tooth Fairy Day!* 
- **Sunday (3/1)** 9a Sunday Session
9a Affirmation Class
10a Holy Communion (SoulShine)

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<p><u>Sunday, February 22, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Pearl Manning</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>LouAnn Gayan</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Sue Williamson</i> Altar Guild: <i>Cindy Komater, Diane Wahl</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>	<p><u>Sunday, March 1, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Madi Perino</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Amy Boyles</i> Communion Assistants: Altar Guild: <i>Debbie Guenther</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>