

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026



PRELUDE

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

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

PROCESSIONAL

"We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus"

ELW 451

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

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 disdain 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Lonesome Valley / We Shall Walk"

Arr. By Mabry & Schwartz

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

A reading from Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 121

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.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;

the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

A reading from Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

S103

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL READING*John 3:1-17*

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

ELW 735

We respond to the promises of God in song.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

ELW pg 104

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.

OFFERING/ OFFERING MUSIC

“God So Loved”

Lamont Hiebert

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

Chorus

For God so loved the world
That He gave His only Son
That whosoever believes will not perish
They shall have eternal life

Verse 1

I shall hold to the cross
I shall hold to God alone
For His love has salvaged me
For His love has set me free

Verse 2

I shall wait upon the Lord
I shall wait upon his word
And by His grace I am released
By His grace I am redeemed

Bridge

By His precious blood
I have been set free
For the glory of Jesus' Name
I surrender all now to Christ alone
In Jesus I am saved

Tag

Yes they shall have eternal life

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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

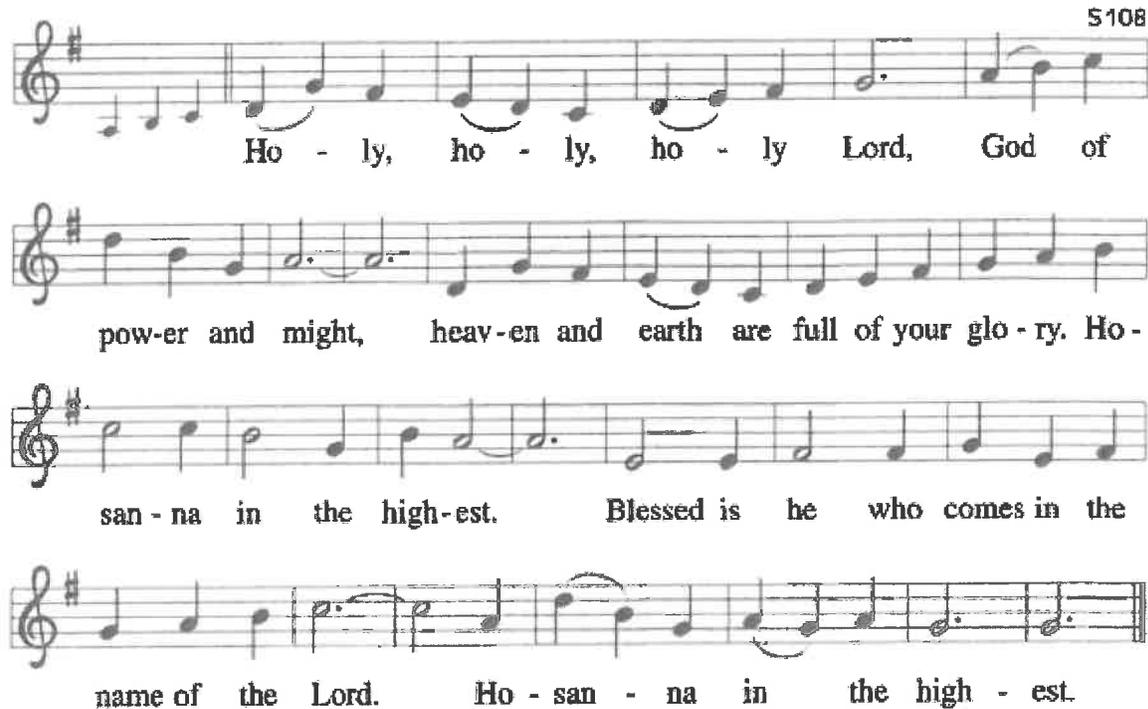
We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

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

ELW Setting 1, page 108

5108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

"Waterlife"

ELW 457

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

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.

RECESSIONAL

“By Grace We Have Been Saved”

Edwards & Whitfield

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

By grace we have been saved through faith
And not by keeping law
God's saints believed by what they heard
And not by what they saw

God gave to earth a perfect love
Through Jesus on the cross
While we were foes Christ died for us
We gained by God's own loss

For all have sinned and fallen short
God's plan not one obeyed
Christ has for all fulfilled the law
Believe confess be saved

We know the wage of sin is death
Thank God we shall revive
For just as Jesus rose again
We too are made alive
(Chorus)

Chorus

Oh how I love Jesus
Oh how I love Jesus
Oh how I love Jesus
Because He first loved me

Set free we now have peace with God
Salvation is secured
How beautiful the feet of those
Who share this gospel word
(Chorus)

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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. Believe the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“I Lift My Eyes”

Hans Peterson

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

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*****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.**
- **Easter Lily orders are being taken.** The lilies will decorate the Altar on Easter Sunday. The sign up sheet is in Java Junction. Cost is the same as last year, \$18 each. **Orders are due by March 16th and payment is due by March 30th.**
- **The Alice Guenther Memorial Scholarship was established in 2023 to celebrate the life and legacy of Alice Guenther and her love of music.** She started taking organ lessons when she could reach the pedals and she began playing the organ at her church by the 5th grade. Her interest in music led her to pursue a career in teaching music to others. She was a music teacher for the Ottawa Elementary Schools for 23 years. Alice was also the organist at Trinity for 40 years. She had a lifelong love of music in the church as she believed it enhances the worship services. The purpose of the scholarship is to award a student for their music involvement in church and/or school and help support the student(s) who demonstrates a love for music. To apply for the Alice Guenther Scholarship, you must be: an active member of Trinity, a high school Senior planning to further your education through college or trade school, and active in music at Trinity or active in music at your respective high school. **Applications must be completed by April 2nd. Scholarship will be awarded May 2nd.** Scholarship applications are available at the office or at the Information Kiosk in Java Junction.
- **Endowment Fund grant applications** are available in the church office and on Trinity's website (in the footer under 'Quick References'). They are also available in a red folder in the black bin under the 'Elevator' sign at the back of the sanctuary. Applications are **due no later than March 31st.**
- **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 (3/2):**
 - 9a Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
 - 4:30p Mission Outreach (Community Room)
 - 6p Christian Education (Board Room)
- **Tuesday (3/3):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Wednesday (3/4)**
 - 1p Bible Study
 - 6p Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
 - 6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 - 7p Lenten Evening Prayer
- **Thursday (3/5):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
- **Friday (3/6):**
 - 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (3/7):**
 - National Cereal Day!* 
- **Sunday (3/8)**
 - Daylight Savings Time Starts*
 - 9a Sunday Session
 - 9a Affirmation Class
 - 10a Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

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

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Madi Perino*
 Ushers:
 Lector: *Amy Boyles*
 Communion Assistants:
 Altar Guild: *Debbie Guenther*
 Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
 Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
 Altar Flowers:

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Anna Reed*
 Ushers:
 Lector: *Anne Lauterjung*
 Communion Assistants: *Anne Lauterjung*
 Altar Guild: *Jan Beckman & Debbie Guenther*
 Video Tech: *Anne Lauterjung*
 Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*
 Altar Flowers: *In Honor of Darren Heldt From Maggie & Amanda Walker*