

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 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

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

ELW 618

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

"Love One Another"

Brad Nix

GG Riva & Casey McGrath, Soloists

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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.

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'"

NEW TESTAMENT READING*Romans 5:1-11*

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us, O Lord"*ELW Setting 1, pg 103*

S103

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

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

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

ELW 611

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.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

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

OFFERING/ OFFERING MUSIC

“As The Deer”

Martin Nystrom

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

Verse 1

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

Chorus

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

Verse 2

You're my friend and You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything

Verse 3

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joygiver
And the apple of my eye

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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

"One Bread, One Body"

ELW 496

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

“There Is A Mountain”

Hans Peterson

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

There is a mountain where every tribe meets
There is rich food here and plenty to drink
Love's already there pointing the way
A banquet for all on that day

Here will be laughter and wiping of tears
The hand of God on the mountain is near
Everyone's burden the other will bear
Fullness of life waiting there

There is a cover that mourners all wear
It keeps them from giving each other care
The greatest of lovers will take fear away
Swallowing death on that day

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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

“Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)”

Joel Houston

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

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

- There is **no Affirmation Class on March 15th**. **First Communion Classes start at 9 am on March 15th**.
- There is **no Affirmation Class on March 29th**. Instead, **First Communion Class will be at 9 am**.
- **Please excuse our typo!** The total balance reflected in the Congregational Annual Report for the General Fund should say \$72,371.60. Also, the \$1,000 noted on page 27 for Growing Hope Globally (GHG) Calendars should actually read \$500, as reflected on page 10 for GHG.
- **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!
- **Easter Breakfast is Sunday, April 5th** 8am. The sign up sheet for donations is in the back by Java Junction. **Food is due April 1st**. Please mark the food "For Easter."
- **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**. 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.
- The **Annual Trinity Rummage Sale** is in the planning stages! We are now taking donations for this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carol Wahlstrom, carolwahlstrom@gmail.com. We will need help for set up, during the sale dates & for clean up.
- **Please support our 2026 growing project**. There's information in your pew that tells all about it. Look into the faces of the women there, look at the map of the area - it's a tough place to be a farmer.

● **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- Feb Income = \$26,430.81 (Income YTD = \$46,261.88)
- Feb Expense = \$21,148.40 (Expense YTD = \$42,676.60)
- Income Less Expense = \$5,282.41 (Income Less Expense YTD = \$3,585.28)

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (3/9):**
 - 9a Tai Chi (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 - 10a Staff Meeting (Office)
- **Tuesday (3/10):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 7p Finance Committee (Board Room)
- **Wednesday (3/11)**
 - 1p Bible Study
 - 6p Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
 - 6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 - 7p Lenten Evening Prayer
- **Thursday (3/12):**
 - 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 - 1p Trinity Stitchers (Sewing Room)
- **Friday (3/13):**
 - 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)
- **Saturday (3/14):**
 - National Pi Day! 3.14159.....*
- **Sunday (3/15)**
 - No Affirmation Class*
 - 9a Sunday Session
 - 9a 1st Communion Class (Fellowship Hall)
 - 10a Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

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

<p><u>Sunday, March 8, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Anna Reed</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Altar Guild: <i>Jan Beckman & Debbie Guenther</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers: In Honor of Darren Heldt From Maggie & Amanda Walker</p>	<p><u>Sunday, March 15, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Reagan Duffield</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>Jackie Smith</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Brad Gromm</i> Altar Guild: <i>Jan Beckman & Becky Glaser</i> Video Tech: <i>Anne Lauterjung</i> Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>