

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 23, 2025

THE WAY BACK HOME: DON'T DELAY!

When a wayward child wanders far from home, a loving parent wants nothing more than for him or her to come back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he eagerly desires to welcome us back home. But he doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He opens the door *and* lovingly pursues us to show us how we can come back through it: *The Way Back Home*.

Today, God shows us that his patience and grace toward us is not an excuse for indifference. **Don't Delay** your return on the way back home! The time we have to return to him in faith is not unlimited. Eventually there will be a day when we are called to account. And yet that day has not yet come. God is still with us, present in the lives of his children. The way back to him remains open. So let's not abuse his patience and waste the time he so graciously gives us! Let's repent and return and respond to his love *now*. Let's live in and enjoy the salvation he longs for us to have.

THE MISSION OF TRINITY

The members of Trinity are joined together in Jesus' love to worship our Lord, grow in his Word, and share it with others.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER IN TODAY'S SERVICE.

St. Paul writes that everyone who receives the Lord's Supper must "recognize the body of Christ," and therefore "ought to examine themselves" (1 Cor. 11:27-29) before eating and drinking. He also writes that it is God's desire that as his people commune, they do so as "one body" (1 Cor. 10:17), "perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Cor. 1:10). For this reason, Trinity follows the biblical and historic practice of closed (or member) communion. We welcome members of WELS or ELS congregations to commune with us. If you are not a member of a church in fellowship with Trinity, please refrain from communing today. We want nothing more than to receive the Lord's Supper with you, but we want to do so in the unity of faith that Jesus wants for his people (cf. John 17:20-23). We hope that can happen soon! Please speak to our pastor after the service, and he would be happy to further explain our practice and help you work toward full unity with us.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations (including liturgical and musical settings) are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.
Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Hymn 833 I Run to Christ

Led by a soloist · Join in when comfortable!

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

When God's children rebel and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

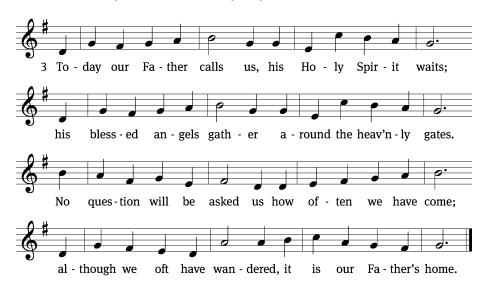
There is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.

2 Corinthians 5:21-6:2



Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

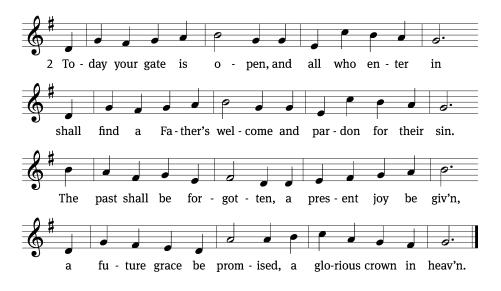
with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

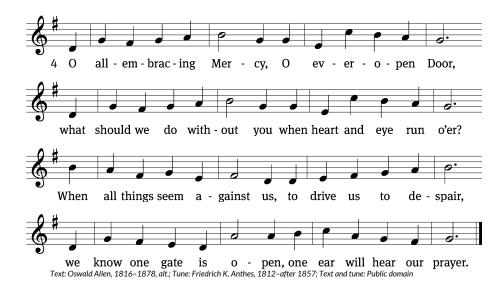
For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**.



THE WORD

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated

First Reading Exodus 3:1-15

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

¹²And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

¹³Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

 $^{14} God$ said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.'

"This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

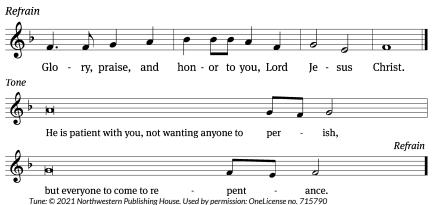
¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

2 Peter 3:9



Gospel Luke 13:1-9

¹Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

⁸" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

712 Delay Not! Delay Not

Sermon

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Check Your Footing

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 in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Each petition will end with "Lord, in your mercy..." The congregation is invited to respond, "Hear our prayer."

Offering

The members of Trinity Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

At this time, we ask both members and guests to fill out the **friendship register** found at the end of each pew. When you've written your information, please pass it to the next person until everyone has had a chance to sign it. Thank you for helping us serve you with the gospel!

THE SACRAMENT

As you have the opportunity, take a moment for selfexamination before receiving the Sacrament. You may wish to review the "Christian Questions" beginning on page 295 of the hymnal or read through a "Holy Communion" hymn (659-677).



Stand

Preface CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

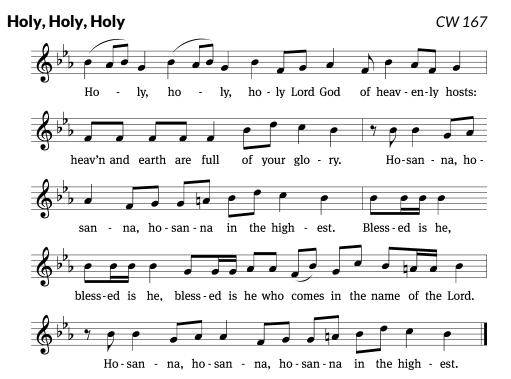
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

...The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**



Be seated

Distribution

grant

us

your

In order to receive communion today, we ask that worshipers be able to check all of the following boxes:

A

 $\ \square$ I repent of all my sins, holding nothing back from God (1 John 1:9).

peace.

- □ I believe that Jesus took away my sins when he died for me on the cross (John 3:16; 1 John 3:5).
- □ I believe that in communion I receive Jesus' true body and blood along with the bread and the wine (Mt. 26:26-27; 1 Cor. 10:16).
- I have made a statement of my agreement with all the teachings of this church family and its church body (WELS), as I have learned to know them through a Catechism or Foundations Class.

If you are not able to check all these boxes today but would like to commune with us in the future, please speak to our pastor after the service. He would love to help make that happen!

Distribution Hymns

406 In the Hour of Trial 923 Guide Me. O Thou Great Jehovah

men.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Seasonal Closing Hymn

550 Lamb of God

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

TNT BOWLING OUTING: The Trinity Nicollet Teens are planning a bowling outing today, *Sunday*, *March 23*. We will meet at church at 1:00 PM, then go to Kegel Klub in New Ulm. Contact Sarah Enter or Pastor Plocher with questions.

MLC BOOK FAIR: Last day! The book fair will run through *Sunday, March 23*. If you need gifts for Confirmation or any other occasion, please take a look!

LADIES GUILD EVENT: On Thursday, *April 3rd*, at 1:30 pm, The Ladies Guild will have an attorney from the Jacob Birkholz Law Office. He will present a program on Estate Planning, Living Will, Power of Attorney, Medical Power Attorney, etc. Taliesen Burrows is an attorney presenting this. Anyone is welcome to attend. Bring any questions that you may have. It will be presented in the Fireside Room.

TRINITY NEWS

- **DIVINE CALLS:** Pastor Plocher is deliberating a call to be the pastor at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Wasser is deliberating a call to be the principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Stevensville, Michigan. Please keep them and their families in your prayers, and reach out with questions and thoughts you'd like to share.
- **LENTEN MIDWEEK MEDITATIONS:** Join us at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in Lent for a series of devotional services under the theme "God on Trial." Each one will be preceded by a meal that begins at 5:00 pm.
- **SPRING BREAK:** Lori Enter, along with the TLS school and Faculty will have Spring Break. March 24th-28th. The secretary will be in Florida for the week and will be back on Saturday the 29th. You can still text or call with questions!
- **CEA CARNIVAL**: Sign up sheets are in the Narthex for different areas if you can help or donate! **April 5**th **from 11-3 pm** we will have our annual carnival and fund raiser. If you can donate an item, please bring it to the office by April 1 so the committee can make the sheets for them and get them ready for the day.
- **THE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA AREA LUTHERAN CHORALE**: For 40 years this Choir has brought singers together from many area congregations. We have the privilege of hosting their choir on Sunday, **April 6**th at 2 pm. Afterwards, we would like to have a light supper before they go to their evening destination. Watch for more about hosting this group.
- **CHOIR OPPORTUNITY:** A few songs have been picked out for Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Easter, and we would like to practice on Tuesday, **April 8**th and **15**th at 6:30 pm for any of those that would like to sing. We hope to see you!
- **EASTER FOR FAMILIES 2025** will take place on *Friday*, *April 11 at 5:00 PM*. Bring the whole family and join us for a meal, a retelling of the Easter story, and Easter crafts and activities. RSVP to Sarah Enter at 507-232-3396, or ask how you can help!
- **CHURCH SPRING CLEANING** will be held on Saturday, *April* 12th starting at 9 am. If we have enough people to help we will be done by noon. A listing of places that need to be cleaned will be put up on the bulletin board by April 1.
- **GROUNDSKEEPING:** Spring is almost here, and we would like to invite anyone interested in helping to beautify our grounds to sign up. We get together one evening a month around 5 pm to pull weeds around our church & school property, water trees and flowers as needed. The more people we have the less time it takes. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help!
- **GAMES & GOSPEL PROGRESSIVE DINNER:** Would you like an opportunity to gather in groups of 8 or less to travel between a few homes for a 3-course meal? Now is your chance! We are planning a Progressive Dinner for *April 11th*. Sign up to host or to attend this event. For more information, please talk to JoElyn Krohn (612-384-4581) or Nicole Lehman (507-766-4772). Hope you can join us!

AREA NEWS

- **ST. PETER FOOD SHELF:** March is the big month for the area food shelves! They get double the support during this month, for the year, so bring all your food shelf items in this next week!
- WELS 175TH ANNIVERSARY JOINT CHOIR CONCERTS: The Seminary Chorus of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and the College Choir of Martin Luther College invite you to a special joint concert to celebrate the synod's 175th anniversary. The concert will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, *March 29*, at the Chapel of the Christ on Martin Luther College's campus in New Ulm.
- **TIME OF GRACE WOMEN'S EVENT:** Join us on *March 28-29*, at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot for the "Unbreakable and Flourishing" Women's event. Our first event was held in Pewaukee, WI in April 2024 and hosted 450 women! **The registration link is** time of grace-women's-event-2025.eventbrite.com. See the bulletin board for a QR code and information.
 - MLC WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT: The annual women's volleyball tournament hosted by MLC is scheduled for *March 29*. If you're interested in playing, *sign up on the bulletin board*. Whether you can make it for the tournament or not, both men and women are invited to volleyball open gyms *every Sunday in March at 3:00 pm*.
- **MVL BOOSTER CLUB "JEANS & DREAMS" AUCTION:** Please join us on *April 5* for all the fun at 5:30 pm at Turner Hall in New Ulm. Great auction and good food! All donations must be in by March 28.
- **LWMS SPRING RALLY:** It will be on *April 5* at Friedens Lutheran Church, New Prague, MN. The theme is "Immeasurable Love" and our speaker is Pastor Larry Schlomer, WELS World Mission Administrator. Coffee and registration are 8-9 am, and the program begins at 9 12:15, with lunch afterward.
- **LWMS TRIP TO TULSA CONVENTION 2025:** Join us *June 25-30* for the annual LWMS Convention being held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We would love to fill a bus and travel as a group. Thielen bus lines from Redwood Falls will be our coach. Registration packets are on the table in the Narthex. All Registrations are due by *April 25th* so make your plans now. We hope to see you! Convention registration is now online at https://whova.com/portal/registration/EVSZBFt2emX@u-zaJ2g7/
- MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE'S annual Lent Vespers service is on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30pm. The Women's Choir, Männerchor, and Chorale will be presenting Michael John Trotta's beautiful Seven Last Words. We hope you can make this annual service a meaningful part of your Holy Week.

March 2025

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN NICOLLET, MN Pastor Micah Plocher

Sat	8 MENS MLC VB Tournament	15 7:00 pm Women, Wine & Word	22	29 WOMENS MLC VB Tournament	5 11 am CEA Camival
Fri	7 8 am NO TLS/Luther Prep BB Tournament	14 8 am TLS Chapel	21 8 am TLS Chapel	28	4 8 am TLS Chapel 1 pm Early Dismissal- NO Buses
Thurs	6 7.00 pm Board of Ed	13 1:30 pm Ladies Guild 7:00 pm Mens Fellowship/The Crooked Pint	20	27	3 1:30 pm Ladies Guild 7:00 pm Board of Ed
Wed	5 3:30 pm NPS Catechism 5:00 pm Lenten supper Games & Gospel serves 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday	12 3:30 pm NPS Catechism 5:00 pm Lenten supper 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	19 3:30 pm NPS Catechism 5:00 pm Lenten supper 6:30 pm Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Council	26 3:30 pm NPS Catechism 5:00 pm Lenten supper? 6:30 pm Lenten Worship	April 2 3:30 pm NPS Catechism 5:00 pm Lenten supper 6:30 pm Lenten Worship
Tues	4 3:15 pm Faculty 6:00 pm Literacy Night 7:00 pm Elders	11	18 3:15 pm Faculty	25 7:00 pm Men's Bible Study	April 1 3:15 pm Faculty 7:00 pm Elders
Mon	3 6:00 pm Worship 7 pm Bible Study	10 7 pm Bible Study	17 7 pm Bible Study	24 TLS SPRING BREAK THROUGH THE 28TH 7 pm Bible Study	31 12:50- pm Early TLS Dismissal 7 pm Bible Study
Sun	March 2 9 am Worship /Comm 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study/Kin C 3:00 pm Adult VB Open Gym	9 9 am Worship/ TLS sings 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study/Kin C 3:00 pm Adult VB Open Gym	16 9 am Worship / MVI. Sunday 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 K in C 3:00 pm Adult VB Open Gym	23 9 am Worship/Comm. 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Bibe Study/K in C 1:00 pm TNT Bowling 3:00 pm Adult VB Open Gym	30 9 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 10:45 Bible Study/K in C