

A man's blindness was punishment for his sin. Another man's sin had yet to be punished. But Jesus welcomed them both with compassion, forgiveness, and a new lease on life.

March 21, 2021
9:30 Worship
5th Sunday of Lent



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
“Participating in God’s mission of life”
7104 - 39th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53142

We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation
(All are welcome here)
Email: churchadmin@trinitykenosha.org
Phone 262-694-5050

The mission of God is life. Hope replaces despair. Faith replaces fear. Life replaces death. How are you participating in God’s mission of life?

WELCOME

AM: Good morning and welcome in the name of the Lord to Trinity Lutheran. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who welcomes and affirms all persons into the life of our faith community.

We extend a special welcome for those watching who are new to our faith community and invite you to explore our ministries by visiting our website at trinitykenosha.org, or contact Pastor Tom.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN FLAME

AM: Each Sunday in Advent, we light a candle on the advent wreath in preparation for the incarnation of the Word of God.

During the season of Lent, each Sunday we extinguish a candle in preparation for the darkness of Jesus' betrayal and death on Good Friday. We recall those who turned away from the light of Jesus and we remember that we, too, turn away. Jesus entered Jerusalem bringing the possibility of peace and life, but their cost to those in power was too great.

C: We too fail to create space in our hearts for repentance, forgiveness and healing to happen. We label ourselves as "good" while others as "bad". We don't give people who we have judged harshly a chance to change. The darkness encroaches when we allow cynicism to blind us to the possibility of our neighbor's redemption and transformation.

AM: We extinguish the 5th candle, confessing our own failure to love others as ourselves.

GATHERING SONG

♪ *I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever*

M. Smith

*Mmm, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh
Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me*

*And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down, yeah*

*I could sing
I could sing of Your love
Forever*

*Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free
I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down, yeah*

*I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
(I could sing of Your love forever)
(I could sing of Your love forever)
(I could sing of Your love forever) Forever
(I could sing of Your love forever)*

*Oh I feel like dancing
It's foolishness I know
But when the world has seen the light
They will dance with joy like we're dancing now, yeah
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever*

(I could sing of Your love forever)
(I could sing of Your love forever)

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FORGIVENESS AND CONFESSION

P: We gather in the name of Holy Triune God-Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. Amen.

Trusting in the abundant mercy and everlasting love of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: Jesus was faithful even in the face of death, yet we so often fail you in day to day living. Our commitment is shaky, our promises are unreliable, and our actions are questionable. We quit when discipleship becomes difficult and complain that we don't get enough credit. Forgive us our neglect of your mission and our lukewarm devotion and wake us up to the urgency of your gospel.

P: God is gracious and pardons all our shortcomings. May the giver of life forgive us our sins and restore us to the joy of discipleship and service, for the sake of Jesus our faithful Lord.

All: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day. Compassionate God,

C: You welcomed all people and did not hold their misfortunes against them. Encourage us also to set aside our prejudice and show the same unbiased mercy you demonstrated, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

WORD

AM: Let us pray. Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Bless Kathy Baas, who will read to us the scripture. Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: Through the proclaimed word of God, the Holy Spirit moves to instill and deepen faith.

A reading from the book of Psalms. (Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12)

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

L: We sing the Gospel Acclamation to welcome the Gospel and prepare our hearts to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

♪ *We are turning, Lord to hear you: you are merciful and kind -
Slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.*

A reading from the gospel of Luke. (Luke 18:31-19:10)

³¹Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. ³²For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. ³³After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” ³⁴But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹“What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” ⁴²Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” ⁴³Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Tom

A moment of silence follows the sermon for the movement of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

♪ **Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus** Hymn #802

*Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Savior's bidding.*

*Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy:
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.*

*Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death he conquered death
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heaven.*

*Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That life we may awaken. Jesus, you are now our head,
We are your own living members; where you live, there we shall be
In your presence constantly, living there with you forever.*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

AM: Please take a moment to test prayer concerns to 262-287-8098

AM: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each portion of the prayers ends with these words: God of love....**"Hear our prayer"**

AM: Restorer of sight to the blind, sharpen our own eyes to see the places where we are needed, and to see ourselves as you see us: gifted servants and beloved children. God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: Forgiver of sin, you didn't judge a man for his past offenses, but rather saw the true heart within, enabling him to become the person he was truly created to be. May we, like Zacchaeus, be open to the transforming power of your forgiveness. God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: We repent of the ways we have abused and destroyed this earth, O Lord, and ask for strength and wisdom to work toward preserving what remains, for the sake of all living things. God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Cure us of our own blindness to love and release us from the temptation to serve ourselves alone. Grant healing and mercy to all those who need it... God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: We remember Thomas Cranmer, martyr and reformer of your Church, and pray for the strength to stand by our witness to your gospel, even in the face of opposition. God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: *(Here other petitions are offered)* God of love,

C: Hear our prayer.

AM: You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

C: Amen.

PEACE

AM: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

AM: If you are gathered with friends or family, share a word of peace with one another.

OFFERING

AM: During this season of “together while apart” your financial gifts given to the glory of God are especially precious and needed.

There are three ways to give:

1. Mail a check to Trinity, 7104 - 39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53142
2. Text a dollar amount with dollar sign (i.e. \$20) to: 262-429-9785
3. Select the “Giving” button on our homepage,
www.trinitykenosha.org

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

AM: Let us pray:

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

C: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

AM: As we pray together the Lord’s Prayer, please use the version that best nurtures your faith.

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.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS - Pastor Tom

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father +Son and Holy Spirit bless us and keep us,
guiding our thoughts and our actions in the grace of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN

♪ *I Will Sing The Wondrous Story*

Rawley, Prichard

I will sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,

How he left his home in glory for the cross of Calvary.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,

Sing it with the saints in glory gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost but Jesus found me, found the sheep that went astray,

Threw his loving arms around me, drew me back into His way.

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,

Sing it with the saints in glory gathered by the crystal sea.

I was bruised but Jesus healed me, faint was I from many a fall.

Sight was gone and fears possessed me, but he freed me from them all.

Days of darkness still come o'er me, sorrow's path I often tread.

But the Savior still is with me, by his hand I'm safely led.

*He will keep me till the river rolls its waters at my feet.
Then he'll bear me safely over, where the loved ones I shall meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory gathered by the crystal sea.*

DISMISSAL

AM: Go. Forgive others as you have been forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God.