

March 7, 2021  
9:30 Worship  
3rd Sunday of Lent

***“...I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”***

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](mailto:churchadmin@trinitykenosha.org)  
Phone 262-694-5050

*Through the parable of the lost sheep and coin, and the parable of the lost son, Jesus showed how repentance is about returning what was lost and repairing damaged relationships.*

*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. Welcome in the name of the Lord to Trinity Lutheran in Kenosha. 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](http://trinitykenosha.org), or contact Pastor Tom.

## **EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN FLAME**

AM: During the season of Advent, each Sunday we light a new 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 welcomed tax collectors and sinners as beloved children of God who repented of their sin. The Pharisees and scribes only saw them as unclean sinners and judged Jesus for it.

**C: We too label certain persons as 'sinners' not worthy of our grace and mercy. Our hearts become hardened preventing us from experiencing the depth and breadth of Jesus' compassion. The darkness encroaches as we deny one another's humanity and fail to love like Jesus.**

AM: We extinguish the 3rd candle, confessing our own failure to forgive and love others as ourselves.

## **GATHERING SONG**

♪ *Our God Saves*

*Brown/Baloche*

*In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,  
In the name of the Spirit, Lord we come.  
We're gathered together to lift up Your name.  
To call on our Savior, to fall on Your grace.*

*Hear the joyful sound of our offering,  
As Your saints bow down, as your people sing.  
We will rise with You, lifted on Your wings,  
And the world will see that...*

*Our God saves. Our God saves.  
There is hope in Your name.  
Mourning turns to sounds of praise,  
Our God saves. Our God saves.*

*In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,  
In the name of the Spirit, Lord we come.  
We're gathered together to lift up Your name.  
To call on our Savior, to fall on Your grace.  
Hear the joyful sound of our offering,  
As Your saints bow down, as your people sing.*

*In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son,  
In the name of the Spirit, Lord we come.  
We will rise with You, lifted on Your wings,  
And the world will see that...*

*Our God saves. Our God saves.  
There is hope in Your name.  
Mourning turns to sounds of praise,*

*Hear the joyful sound of our offering,  
As Your saints bow down, as your people sing.  
We will rise with You, lifted on Your wings,  
And the world will see that...*

*Our God saves. Our God saves.  
There is hope in Your name.  
Mourning turns to sounds of praise,  
Our God saves. Our God saves.*

P: Creator God, we glimpse your beauty in setting sun, mountain top,  
eagle's wing. We sense your power in thunder crash, lightning flash  
and ocean's roar.

Creator God, we praise you.

Precious Jesus, we see your love stretched out upon a cruel cross.  
We stand in awe at your sacrifice, pure love poured out for  
humankind.

Precious Jesus, we praise you.

Holy Spirit, we see your power in lives transformed, hearts on fire.  
We listen for your still, small voice, comforting, guiding, calling.  
Holy Spirit, we praise you.

## **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. Forgiving God,

**C: ...You long for your lost children to return to you. Lead us homeward on the path of repentance, that we might be restored to you and to your community in Christ our Lord. Amen.**



### **BAPTISM - Ella Jean Clendenning**

AM: Scriptures today will be read by Paula Lattergrass.

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

A reading from the book of Psalms. (Psalm 119:167-176)

<sup>167</sup>My soul keeps your decrees; I love them exceedingly.

<sup>168</sup>I keep your precepts and decrees, for all my ways are before you.

<sup>169</sup>Let my cry come before you, O Lord; give me understanding according to your word.

<sup>170</sup>Let my supplication come before you; deliver me according to your promise.

<sup>171</sup>My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes.

<sup>172</sup>My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right.

<sup>173</sup>Let your hand be ready to help me, for I have chosen your precepts.

<sup>174</sup>I long for your salvation, O Lord, and your law is my delight.

<sup>175</sup>Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

<sup>176</sup>I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek out your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*♪Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.*

A reading from the gospel of Luke.

(Luke 15:1-32)

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. <sup>8</sup>“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

<sup>11</sup>Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I

will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

♪ *Amazing Grace* ..... *Hymn 779*

*Amazing grace! - how sweet the sound - that saved a wretch like me!*

*I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'Til grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

AM: Please text your prayer requests to 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: Merciful God,....**"Hear our prayer"**

AM: We are sorry for all the things which we allow to come between ourselves and others, and between ourselves and you, O Lord. Give us a clean slate and another chance to build our relationships and renew our souls. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: Be with all the children around the world who are lost to their families and whose fate is unknown. Protect the innocent, comfort the bereaved, bring loved ones back together, and bring perpetrators to justice for their unspeakable deeds. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: Forgive us for all the species which have gone extinct on our watch, blessed creator. Make us diligent workers to guard the precious life upon this planet, with whom we are so closely bound. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**



P: Hearts need healing as much as bodies. Bring us to a state of repentance which opens us to your Spirit's renewal and restores lost connections. Heal all those who ask for your help, especially...  
Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

AM: We remember Perpetua and Felicity, and all those who gave themselves as martyrs for the sake of your gospel. Give us faith as solid in your promises of redemption and eternal life. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: *(Here other petitions may be offered.)* Merciful God,

**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.

## **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](http://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.**

## **SENDING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS** - Pastor Tom

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Pr. Tom will be available until 11:15 this morning for persons to drive to church to receive individually packaged communion kits. If transportation is not possible, you may use bread and wine or juice that you have available in your home during this time of physical distancing.*

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new  
covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **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**

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **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**

♪ *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* ..... *Hymn 807*

*Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

## **DISMISSAL**

AM: Go. Walk in the light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**