



**February 18, 2024**

## **An Explanation of Our Communion Practice**

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.





# The First Sunday In Lent

- **Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!
- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

## **Serving the Lord and Serving Us:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Jenkins

**Today's Focus:** God provides the perfect Lamb; his sacrifice makes God's love ours through all time and all trials. Our worship follows *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

# We Come into the Presence of God

## MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

*This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.*

## OPENING HYMN: 714 The Lamb



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal  
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their  
4 He sighs, he dies, He takes my sin and  
5 He rose, he rose, My heart with thanks now

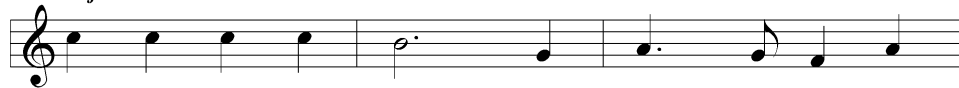


sac - ri - fice? Faith sees, be - lieves God  
of - fer - ing. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let  
shep - herd kill So still, his will, On  
wretch - ed - ness. He lives, for - gives, He  
o - ver - flows. His song pro - long 'Til



will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
earth join heav'n his praise to sing.  
our be - half the law to fill.  
gives me his own right - eous - ness.  
ev - 'ry heart to him be - long.

### *Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me his



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on his throne.

*As the Lord provided for Abraham a sacrifice in place of his son Isaac, so also he lovingly provides for us his own Son, Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the world.*

Tune: WINTER (48 48 and Refrain)  
Text, Tune: Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953 © 1987 Birmamwood Publications (ASCAP),  
a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

STAND

## INVOCATION

Minister: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY - *KYRIE*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

## O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in  
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,  
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;  
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and  
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,  
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,  
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.  
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes). The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat (F).

*(Continued on Next Page)*

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;  
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the  
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,  
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Lord our strength, the battle of good and evil rages within and around us, and our ancient foe tempts us with his deceits and empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your Word, and when we fall, raise us up again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*BE SEATED*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

#### Genesis 22:1-18

*The Lord himself provides the lamb of sacrifice.*

Some time later God tested Abraham. He called to him, "Abraham!"  
 Abraham answered, "I am here."

<sup>2</sup> God said, "Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains there, the one to which I direct you."

<sup>3</sup> Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, along with Isaac his son. Abraham split the wood for the burnt offering. Then he set out to go to the place that God had told him about. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

<sup>5</sup> Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go on over there. We will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and loaded it on Isaac his son. He took the firepot and the knife in his hand. The two of them went on together.

<sup>7</sup> Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father?"

*(Continued on Next Page)*

He said, "I am here, my son."

He said, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

<sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup>They came to the place that God had told him about. Abraham built the altar there. He arranged the wood, tied up Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.

<sup>11</sup>The Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham said, "I am here."

<sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

<sup>13</sup>Abraham looked around and saw that behind him there was a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>Abraham called the name of that place "The LORD Will Provide." So it is said to this day, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

<sup>15</sup>The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

## **PSALM OF THE DAY: 130**

*Read responsively.*

M: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

**C: O Lord, hear my voice.**

M: Let your ears be attentive

**C: to my cry for mercy.**

M: If you, O LORD, kept a record sins,

**C: O LORD, who could stand?**

M: But with you there is forgiveness;

**C: therefore you are feared.**

M: I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.

**C: My soul waits for the LORD more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

M: O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,

**C: for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**



## SECOND LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

### Romans 8:31-39

What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

<sup>33</sup> Who will bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies! <sup>34</sup> Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God's right hand and who is also interceding for us! <sup>35</sup> What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long.  
We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! "It is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only." Alleluia!  
(*Matthew 4:10b*)

STAND

## GOSPEL

### Mark 1:12-15

*Jesus is holy even in the face of the most intense Satanic temptation; the gospel is the good news that his holy life and death, the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, is for us.*

The Spirit immediately sent Jesus out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels were serving him.

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<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel."

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** "Inseparable"

**HYMN OF THE DAY: 200 A Mighty Fortress is Our God**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A trust - y shield  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done; Soon were our loss  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, All ea - ger to  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main, Nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 ef - fect - ed. But for us fights the val - iant one  
 de - vour us, We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 have for it; He's by our side up - on the plain



That has us now o'er - tak - en. The old  
 Whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's  
 With his good gifts and Spir - it. And do



e - vil foe Now means dead - ly woe;  
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,  
 prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,  
 what they will— Hate, steal, hurt, or kill—



Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight;  
 The al - might - y Lord. And there's no oth - er God;  
 He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done!  
 Though all may be gone, Our vic - to - ry is won;



On earth is not his e - qual.  
 He holds the field for - ev - er.  
 One lit - tle word can fell him.  
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.  
 Tune: EIN FESTE BURG (87 87 55 56 7) Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

**SERMON**

**TEXT:** Romans 8:31-39

**Theme:** "Nothing Comes Between Us and this Love"

STAND

## 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 fully 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*

## OFFERING

*Please take a moment to sign the Friendship Register in the pew.*

*The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.*

*STAND*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus, you are the author and perfecter of our faith. Obeying your Father's will, you endured the cross and scorned its shame. Now you sit at the right hand of the throne of God, governing all things.

Lord, we confess that it was for us and for our salvation that you came to this world to suffer and die. You bore our guilt. You endured our punishment. You experienced the wrath of God in our place. For your unselfish sacrifice on our behalf, help us show gratitude to you in everything we think, say, and do.

As we walk through life, keep us from becoming entangled by sin. Remove all obstacles and stumbling blocks, and keep us from falling or going astray. Help us run with perseverance the race that you have marked out for us. When it involves suffering, pain, or persecution, help us view these things as evidence of your loving discipline intended to draw us close to you.

### *Special prayers*

M: Hold before us the example of those who have gone ahead, bearing the cross for you. As you led them, so lead us. As you strengthened them, so strengthen us. Keep our eyes fixed on you, for then we will surely arrive safely at the heavenly home you have prepared for us. Hear us for your mercy's sake. Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

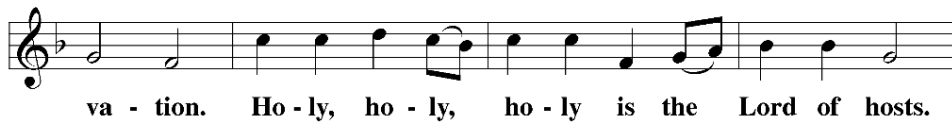
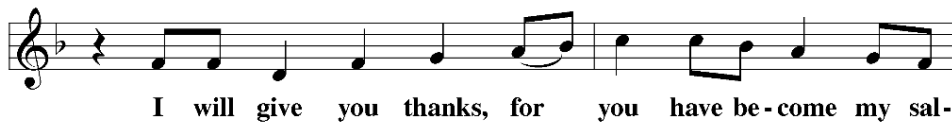
**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- M. Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- M. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

# O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us your peace. A - - men.

*BE SEATED*

**DISTRIBUTION**

**HYMN: 389 "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"**



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, Sim - ply to  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye -



my - self in thee; Let the wa - ter and the blood  
 thy law's de - mands. Could my zeal no res - pite know,  
 thy cross I cling; Na - ked, come to thee for dress,  
 lids close in death, When I soar to worlds un - known,



From thy riv - en side which flowed Be of sin the  
 Could my tears for - ev - er flow, All for sin could  
 Help - less, look to thee for grace. Foul, I to the  
 See thee on thy judg - ment throne, Rock of A - ges,



dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 not a - tone; Thou must save and thou a - lone.  
 foun - tain fly— Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die!  
 cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in thee!

Text: August M. Toplady, 1740-78, alt.  
 Tune: TOPLADY (77 77 77) Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872.

STAND

**THANK THE LORD**



**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.**



**Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.**



**He re - news his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with**



**shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: **Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

### CLOSING HYMN: 103 "Glory Be to Jesus"



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies,  
5 Oft as earth ex - ult - ing Lifts its praise on high,



Poured for me the life - blood From his sa - cred veins.  
Blest be his com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.  
Which from end - less tor - ments Did the world re - deem.  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.  
An - gel hosts re - joic - ing Make their glad re - ply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian hymn, 18th century, abr.: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Tune: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN (65 65) Friedrich Filitz, 1804–76.





## Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

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Find us online at [www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org](http://www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

### Lenten Suppers

Through the remaining five Wednesdays of Lent (February 21 and 28, March 6, 13, and 20), we will have potluck suppers. Doors will open at 5:30, with supper at 6:00 and a brief Lent devotion at 6:30. Beverages, tableware and silverware will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass if you can. But even if you can't, please come anyway!

### VBS Planning Meeting – Saturday, February 24 at 9:30 am

It's time to begin planning for this summer's Vacation Bible School! At this meeting we will set the VBS dates and choose our curriculum. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to learn more, please reach out to Pastor or Erika Ohlendorf at [erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com](mailto:erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com), 617-821-3126.

### Sunday School Spring Service Project – Today through February 28

Through Sunday, February 28, Trinity's Sunday School kids are collecting baby items to donate to Birthright of Woodbridge. These will help new moms facing difficult pregnancies or with little support from their families and friends. Items needed include baby clothing (newborn to 12 mo), toiletries (baby shampoo, lotion, etc), diapers (unopened), baby towels, bibs, and burp cloths. See the bulletin board in the narthex for a more complete list. Please place all donations in the bin provided in the narthex by February 28. Thank you for helping us support moms who choose life for their babies!

### Wine and Word Bible Study – On Break Until March 7th

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or [dawn.f.knox@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### Excess Funds Team Members Wanted

Last year, Trinity was again blessed with extra offerings by the generous hearts God has given our members. Pastor Jenkins and Treasurer Jim Strock are seeking Trinity members to join them on an Excess Funds Team that will work to determine the amount of excess offerings from 2023, and to make a recommendation on how they should be used in God's kingdom.

### Women's Bible Study on Esther

The remaining dates for the Women's Bible Study on Esther are:

March 9 at 9:00 am (Chapter 5)

April 13 at 9:00 am (Chapter 6)

May 11 at 9:00 am (Chapter 7)

The Women's Bible Study meets at Trinity. We are discussing the book "Esther: Providential Persian Queen" by Lou Ann Mokwa. Please join us anytime!

### Save the date!

Trinity's annual church-wide yard sale will be held Saturday, May 4. Start gathering up your clothing, shoes, housewares, books, and other items that you would like to donate! Watch for more details in April. All proceeds go to the Sunday School mission offering.

**Trinity Book Club** will meet again on Saturday, April 27, at 9:30 am at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries to discuss *Up from Dust* by Heather Kaufman. Any questions? Ask Rachel Kovaciny.

## Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during Worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

## Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email [admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org](mailto:admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org)

## Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or [revpauljenkins@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



## Jesus Saved Us

[He Saved Us – Family Devotion – January 14, 2022 – WELS](#)

If you wanted to sum up the whole story of the Bible, those three words do it: God saved us. God doesn't just leave us with a three-word sentence. On every page of Scripture, he explains why he needed to save us. Our problem is sin. It's so serious that we can't save ourselves. Salvation wasn't a team effort with you doing your part and God doing his. Forgiveness of sins isn't if you're sorry enough or say it in just the right way. God didn't choose to save you because you were so bright and shiny and beautiful. He did it because of his great mercy. God wants to show you his genuine kindness. Those three words sum up nicely what he decided to do for us—He saved us.

Where do we see that perfect rescue of God most fully and beautifully? In Jesus our Savior. From his conception to his birth to his baptism by John in the Jordan all the way to the cross and empty tomb, Jesus took our place and our sin. He even died to pay for them all. Because he rose from death to life, he could give us his new life. That's the good news He saved us!

But wait, there's more! God attaches that good news to you in a wonderful way—through the water and Word of your baptism. In Holy Baptism, God doesn't just make a promise, he makes a promise *to you!* He connects you to Jesus and all that Jesus did to win salvation. Now you know how he saved us. Now you can live a new life, because the Holy Spirit gives you the kind of life your mom never could when you were born. That's why you can live as a person made brand new in Christ. Now you live with a righteousness that is not your own, but the perfect righteousness of Jesus covering you from head to toe, body and soul. Even though you may look like any other person, your baptism tells another story about you. "He saved us," Paul said. How do you know? Because God brought you into his family through water and the Word: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

### Questions to think about:

- Who saved us?
- Why did he save us?
- What is the most important message of the Bible?
- How is Jesus able to give us such wonderful gifts in Baptism?
- What does it mean to have "rebirth" and "renewal"?

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LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**to glorify God**

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.