

God Loved the World  
Like This



**March 10, 2024**



# The Fourth Sunday In Lent

**March 10, 2024**

**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:** Jesus brings God's grace into reality. Our worship follows *Service of the Word*.

# 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: 399 To God Be the Glory

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!  
2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,  
3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,  
To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;  
And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin  
The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,  
But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.  
That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.  
Our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

*Refrain*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!  
Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son  
And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.  
Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY (11 11 11 11 with Refrain) William H. Doane, 1832–1915.

*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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

## OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; 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

#### Numbers 21:4-9

*Moses lifts up the snake; all who look in faith are healed.*

They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!"

<sup>6</sup>The LORD sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. <sup>7</sup>The people went to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD to take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live." <sup>9</sup>Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

**PSALM OF THE DAY: 38**

*Read Responsively*

M: O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger

**C: or discipline me in your wrath.**

M: For your arrows have pierced me,

**C: and your hand has come down upon me.**

M: My guilt has overwhelmed me

**C: like a burden too heavy to bear.**

M: All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;

**C: my sighing is not hidden from you.**

*(continued on next page)*

M: I wait for you, O LORD;

C: **you will answer, O Lord my God.**

M: Come quickly to help me,

C: **O Lord my Savior.**

## SECOND LESSON

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

*Salvation is by God's grace and comes to each believer through faith in Jesus. Saving faith then produces the good works God desires and prepares in advance.*

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

<sup>3</sup>Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

<sup>4</sup>But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! <sup>6</sup>He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.

<sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Alleluia! (*John 3:16*)

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT**

### **John 3:14-21**

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup>The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. <sup>19</sup>This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

*BE SEATED*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON: “Love in Action”**



**HYMN OF THE DAY: 384 By Grace I'm Saved**



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound - less;  
 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior,  
 3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom - ise  
 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble,  
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing;



My soul, be - lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver  
 Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be -  
 When you are by your sins op - pressed, When Sa - tan  
 In trib - u - la - tion's fur - nace tried— By grace, de -  
 In Je - sus' prom - ise I re - joice. For though I



at this word of prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er  
 cause of your own mer - it That Je - sus died your  
 plagues your trou - bled con - science, And when your heart is  
 spite all fear and trou - ble, The Fa - ther's heart is  
 know my heart's con - di - tion, I al - so know my



false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -  
 soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -  
 seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -  
 o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -  
 Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.  
 lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.  
 hend God by his grace to you did send.  
 cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?  
 flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

**SERMON**

**TEXT:** John 3:14-21

**THEME:** "God Loved the World Like This"

*Stand*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be Seated*

**OFFERING**

*Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your 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 God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. 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.**

M: Almighty God, thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

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: 749 The Love of Christ, Who Died for Me

1 The love of Christ, who died for me Is  
2 My sins I on - ly see in part, My  
3 O liv - ing Lord of life, for whom The

more than mind can know, His  
self - re - gard - ing ways; The  
heav - ens held their breath, To

mer - cy mea - sure - less and free To  
se - cret pla - ces of my heart Lie  
see, tri - um - phant from the tomb, A

meet the debt I owe. He  
bare be - fore his gaze. For  
love that con - quers death, Pos -

came my sin - ful cause to plead; He  
me the price of sin he paid; My  
sess my heart that it may be Your

*(Continued on Next Page)*

laid his glories by, For  
sins beyond reach, Are  
kingdom without end, O

me a homeless life to lead, A  
all alike on Jesus laid, He  
Christ who died for love of me And

shameful death to die.  
died to bear them all.  
lives to be my friend.

*This hymn examines the true nature of God's grace. While human love is directed toward people and things that bring pleasure, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).*

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 © 1991 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.  
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Tune: RESIGNATION (CM D) *A Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, Winchester, VA, 1832

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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

### Lenten Suppers

Through the remaining Wednesdays of Lent (March 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!

### March Worship Notes

There is a full and wonderful worship schedule coming this March. On Sunday the 24th, five young members of Trinity will be confirmed in the late service, with a reception afterward; the Sunday School will also sing in both services, because it's also Palm Sunday. On Maundy Thursday, March 28, worship with Communion will be at 7. Good Friday worship the following evening will also be at 7. On Easter Sunday, worship will be at the usual times of 8:30 and 11:00. Between services there will be a potluck breakfast and Easter egg hunt for kids; there will be no Bible class or Sunday School on Easter.

### February Attendance

4<sup>th</sup>: Worship 41+42=83; Bible class =23

11<sup>th</sup>: 35+35=70; 20

14<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday): 46

18<sup>th</sup>: 39+39=78; 29

25<sup>th</sup>: 35+40=75; 27

### Vacation Bible School Registration OPEN!

Registration is now open for this year's VBS, which will be held July 15-19 from 9:00-11:30 am. Come join us for Scuba VBS where we will dive into an amazing undersea adventure and experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. We look forward to sharing God's Word, singing songs, making crafts, playing games, and of course, having some awesome snacks together! VBS is for kids ages 3 (and potty trained) to those entering 6th grade in the fall. Kids entering 7th grade and older may volunteer as helpers. Please register here: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/trinity24> or scan this QR Code!



### Wine and Word Bible Study – April 4

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.

### Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt – March 23

Trinity's next neighborhood outreach event will our Fourth Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, at 2pm. This event allows us to show kindness while also extending Easter worship invitations to our neighbors. It does not require a lot of volunteers, but four or five would be nice, to supervise the hunt and to staff a welcome table. If you would like to help, please let pastor know. Also, this year pre-filled eggs will be ordered in bulk for the hunt. If, however, you are someone who enjoys assembling and donating eggs, you are of course welcome to add your own.

### Women's Bible Study on Esther

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

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





## God So Loved You

One Sunday, a pastor had a special announcement after church.

“We have a guest today who would like to say a few words to you,” he told the congregation mysteriously.

All eyes turned to an old man who slowly made his way up to the front of the church with a walker.

“Many years ago,” the old man began, “I went sailing with my twelve-year-old son and his friend on the ocean. A terrible storm suddenly came up and the boat capsized. I was able to grab on the overturned boat, but my son and his friend were quickly being dragged away by the current. Within my reach was a life-preserver tied to a rope. I could only throw it to one of the boys and I only had seconds to decide who I would throw it to.”

The eyes of the congregation grew wide as they waited to hear what the man decided.

An audible gasp went out from the congregation when he said, “In the end, I threw the life-preserver to my son’s friend.”

“I loved my son more than life itself and would have gladly given my life for him, but I knew that he believed in Jesus. We had taken him to church since he was little. I knew where he would be if he died.”

“But I also knew that his friend’s parents never took him to church. I didn’t know if he believed in Jesus. I couldn’t take the chance. So I threw him the life-preserver.”

The pastor went and put his hand on the old man’s shoulder. “That is a true story,” the pastor said. “I know, because I was his son’s friend.”

Today’s Bible passage is John 3:16. It’s one of the most well-known verses in all of the Bible. It contains all of the love in the story you just heard.

God loved you so much, he gave up what was most precious to him. God loved you so much, he sacrificed his one and only Son to save you.

That’s how much God loves you. That’s what he gave up to save you. Be amazed by his sacrifice to save you. Cling to that life-preserver every day of your life.

### Questions to Consider:

- What did God the Father give up for you?
- What did Jesus, God the Son, sacrifice for you?
- Why did the old man from the story throw the life-preserver to his son’s friend instead of his son?
- Why does God love you?
- Martin Luther once said that John 3:16 gave him more comfort by saying, “For God so loved the *world*” than if it would have said, “For God so loved *Martin Luther*.” What do you think he meant by that?
- Knowing that those who don’t believe in Jesus will be condemned to hell, list at least one way in which you can throw a life-preserver to others.

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**It is the mission of**

**trinity**



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.