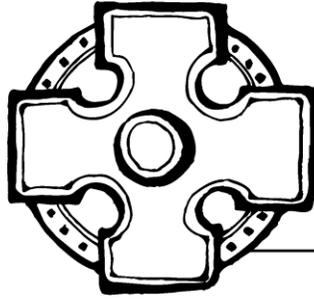


March 8, 2026



The Third Sunday In Lent

March 8, 2026

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: Pastor Kieth Kuschel

We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

The small choir will sign: "Wondrous Love"

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP - Lord, You are the Light of the world. Thank You for leading me to see that You are my Savior. So many things around me try to drag me back into spiritual darkness. Keep me coming back to the light of Your Word so that I don't get enveloped by the darkness.

OPENING HYMN: 221, Blessed Jesus at Your Word

(reference in Verses 2 & 3 to darkness & light)



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word We are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed Till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



Now to seek and love and fear you, By your teach - ings,
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
Help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.
peo - ple rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, Till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84, st. 1-3; *Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; unknown, st. 4, alt.

Tune: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER (78 78 88) Johann R. Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

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 in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Almighty God,/ look with favor on Your humble servants/ & stretch out the right hand of Your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,/ who lives & reigns with You & the Holy Spirit,/ one God, now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 42:14-21

God admonishes Israel for her self-worked spiritual blindness. But the promise is - the Lord will lead the blind & turn the darkness into light.

- ¹⁴ “For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
- ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
- ¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.
These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.
- ¹⁷ But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’
will be turned back in utter shame.
- ¹⁸ “Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!
- ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the Lord?
- ²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen.”
- ²¹ It pleased the Lord
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

PSALM 143

Refrain



Lord, let your mer-cy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Psalm tone



O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,*
for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me;*
my heart within me is dismayed.

Refrain

Answer me quickly, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, www.giamusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

God's grace changes people from spiritually darkened to spiritually enlightened. So, Paul urges: Live as children of light.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Stand

GOSPEL LESSON

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Jesus healed a blind man. He corrected His disciples. The Pharisees blindly rejected the miracle & Jesus. The ex-blind man gets to see Jesus is His Savior. The rejecters stay in spiritual blindness.

⁹ “As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ...

... ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

(Continued on Next Page)

16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

17 Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet." ...

...³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

36 "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

37 Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

38 Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

39 Jesus said,^[a] "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Be Seated

HYMN 343, Christ is the World's Light

(References Light)



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;
4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
Who else u - nites us, one with God the
He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
Give God the glo - ry, God with us, my



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. © 1969 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: CHRISTE SANCTORUM (10 11 11 6) *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681.

SERMON

TEXT: Psalm 143

O LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;

in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

Do not bring your servant into judgment,

for no one living is righteous before you.

My spirit grows faint within me;

my heart within me is dismayed.

(Continued on Next Page)

Answer me quickly, O LORD;*
do not hide your face from me.

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,*
for I have put my trust in you.

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;*
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Theme: Are we in the dark about?
1 Being righteous

Prayer: **LORD thanks for getting me out of the dark when it comes to being righteous**
2 Taking care of ourselves

Prayer: **LORD, thanks for getting me out of the dark when it comes to taking care of myself.**
3 What's good for us

Prayer: **LORD, thanks for getting me out of the dark when it comes to knowing what is good for me.**

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.

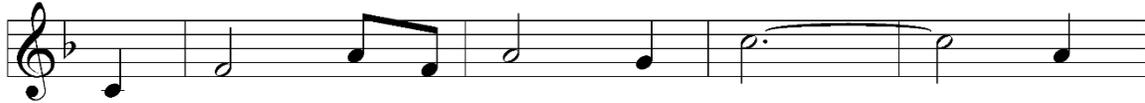
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN: 379, AMAZING GRACE - HOW SWEET THE SOUND

(References Blind and See)



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound—
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me;
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,



That saved a wretch like me! I
His Word my hope se - cures. He
I have al - read - y come; 'Tis
Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,
will my shield and por - tion be
grace has brought me to safe thus far,
no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.
As long as life en - dures.
And grace will lead me home.
Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.
Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

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.

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.

Special prayers

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.

Be Seated

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, 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 : 367, Christ Be My Leader

(Darkness and Light



1 Christ be my lead - er by night as by day,
2 Christ be my teach - er in age as in youth,
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife;



Safe through the dark - ness, for he is the way.
Drift - ing or doubt - ing, for he is the truth.
Death can - not hold me, for he is the life. Nor



Glad - ly I fol - low, my fu - ture his care;
Grant me to trust him, though shift - ing as sand.
dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor sin and its stain Can



Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
Doubt can - not daunt me— in Je - sus I stand!
touch my sal - va - tion— with Je - sus I reign!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926. © 1964. Renewed 1992 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Tune: SLANE (Irregular) Irish folk tune.

Trinity Lutheran Church

12345 Cotton Mill Drive, Woodbridge, VA

Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Pastor Kieth Kuschel 262-765-2328

k1bernard2k@hotmail.com

All youth are invited to a Spring Friendsgiving at Church on Saturday, March 21st, from 4 to 8 p.m. There will be time for reflection, prayers, planning, and fun activities, including laser tag at the end. As a special guest, we'll have a WELS member, who is a Licensed Professional Counselor who will talk about youth mental health. There will be time for reflection, prayers, planning, and fun activities, including laser tag at the end. Attendees are asked to bring a potluck dish. Contact Emily at 703-951-6120 to sign up for the 'What to Bring' list.

YOUTH PARENTS: This year, the WELS Youth Rally will be in **Ohio, July 14-17**, and registrations will open soon. We are partnering with Grace Lutheran Church to see if we can lower costs, but now we need to know how many teens (8th-12th grade) may be interested in this event so we can transmit a group pre-registration. If you would like your child/children to attend, have any comments, questions or concerns, please contact Hilda Naranjo by sending an email to arghilda@yahoo.com **as soon as possible**. Group Leaders must work on the pre-registration that opens March 9. Thank you!

The Trinity Book Club invites you to join them on **May 23 at 9:30 am** at Cuppi Coffee in Dumfries to discuss the Biblical fiction novel *On Living Stone* by Heather Kaufman.

Save the date! Trinity's annual church-wide yard sale will be held on **Saturday, May 2** this year! More info to come this spring about when and where to bring your donations, what we need volunteers to help with, and so on.

Lenten Suppers

Each Wednesdays of Lent, potluck suppers will start in the Fellowship Hall at 6, followed by short devotions around 6:30. Everyone is welcome!

Volunteers Needed to provide snacks for our Sunday School and Fellowship Hour!

If you're able to bless our community with simple treats, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Sunday School bulletin board located in the large fellowship and adult Sunday School room. Your contributions help make our time together even more welcoming and enjoyable—thank you for supporting our fellowship!

Sunday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:45am Are Lutherans just another branch of Protestantism. The next series is: A review as adults what the Catechism students are studying. When was the last time you reviewed parts of Luther's Small Catechism?

Wine and Word Bible Study – March 19th

The Wine and Word Bible Study is **studying the book of EXODUS** and 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 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine (or other drink of choice) 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 to RSVP.

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 Steven Douglas. If you have any questions or are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email worship@trinityofwoodbridge.org. You can also scan this code to sign up:



Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the Fellowship Hall beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's 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 Bev Ohlendorf know.

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 k1bernard2k@hotmail.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work.



What a Mess

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20260218/>

The LORD looked and was displeased that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak. Isaiah 59:15b-17

Have your parents ever walked into your room, looked around, and said, “What a mess! Who is going to clean this up?” Uh-oh—that’s never a good sign. Maybe toys are everywhere and clothes are on the floor. It’s as if everything just exploded!

Or think about this: you worked really hard on something—maybe you cleaned your room or finished a school project—and then later it’s messy again. That can feel really frustrating. You might think, “Hey! I already fixed this! How did it get messed up again?”

God knows what that feels like.

God created the world perfectly. When he finished, the Bible says God looked at everything he made and said, “It is very good.” The project was done. No mess at all! But then sin entered the world. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Their relationship with him was broken. The world itself became broken too—people got sick, argued, and died. This was not how God wanted things to be. The perfect world he loved was now a mess.

So God asked the big question: Who is going to clean this up? The Bible says in Isaiah, “He was appalled that there was no one to help . . . so his own arm achieved salvation.” That means God saw that no person could fix the mess of sin. People tried—but failed. Kings made bad choices. Prophets were ignored. God’s people kept turning away from him.

So God did something amazing. He cleaned up the mess himself. God sent his own Son, Jesus, to rescue the world.

On Ash Wednesday, we start the season of Lent. Lent helps us to remember how serious sin is—but also how great Jesus’ love is. During Lent, we think about how Jesus suffered, died, and rose again to forgive our sins. Sin made a huge mess—but Jesus didn’t walk away from it. He stepped right into it to save us.

Questions to Consider

- How do you feel when you clean something up and it gets messy again right away?
- Jesus fixed the biggest mess—sin. What is one thing you can thank Jesus for today?
- Why couldn't people fix the sin problem by themselves?
- What does Lent help us remember about Jesus and what he did for us?
- Why is it important to know that only God—not people—could save us from sin?
- During Lent, what is one way you can remember Jesus' love in your everyday life (at school, at home, or with friends)?

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.