

**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

8:45 AM

MARCH 1,
2026

Jeffery Gramza

Senior Pastor

Tim Jordan

Intern Pastor

**Jonathan
Lonsway**

Dir. of Music

Trinity Lutheran Church - Second Sunday in Lent

3701 Jefferson Ave Midland, MI 48640

March 1, 2026, 8:45 am

PRELUDE

Rockingham Old

Robert Buckley Farlee

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

stg. David Lasky

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Edward Miller
Charly Sly, organ

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Come, you who seek new birth.

We come, longing to be born from above.

Come out of the shadows of fear and doubt.

We step into the light of God's amazing love.

The wind of the Spirit is blowing—unseen, untamed, unstoppable.

Breathe on us, O Spirit, and make us new.

For God so loved the world...

...that grace has come near, mercy has taken flesh, and hope has a name.

Come, let us worship the God who does not condemn but saves.

We worship with open hearts, ready to be made new.

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"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" by Edward Miller
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"Lift High the Cross" arranged by Jantz A. Black
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"O Love, How Deep" by Kristina Langlois
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Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #322
 (vs. 1,3,5-7)

Oh, Love, How Deep



- 1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be-yond all
- 3 For us bap-tized, for us he bore his ho-ly



thought and fan-ta-sy, that God, the Son of
 fast and hun-gered sore; for us temp-ta-tion



God, should take our mor-tal form for mor-tals' sake!
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt-er o-ver-threw.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 he bore the shameful cross and death;
 for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;
 for us he went on high to reign;
 for us he sent his Spirit here
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

- 7 All glory to our Lord and God
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:
 the Trinity whom we adore
 forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.
 Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.



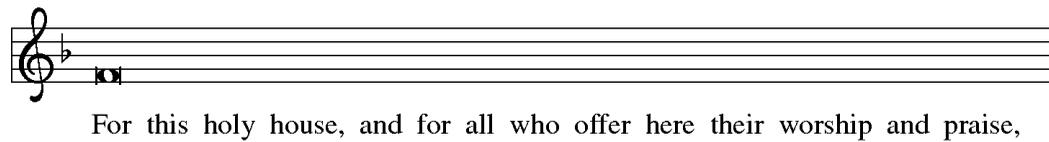
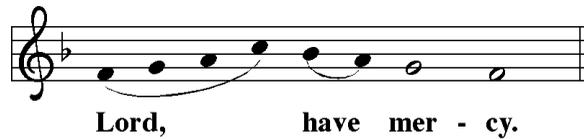
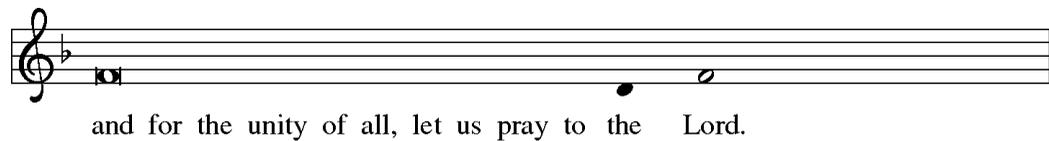
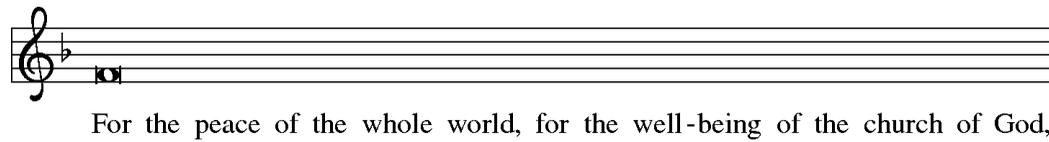
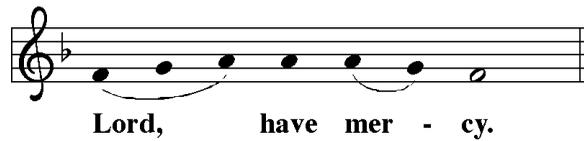
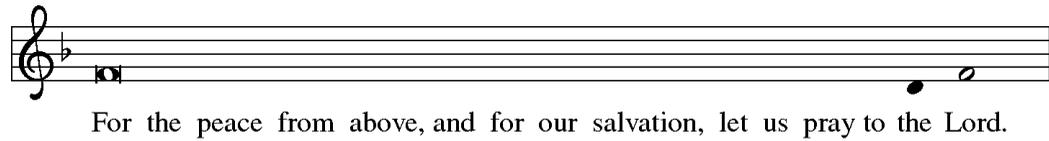
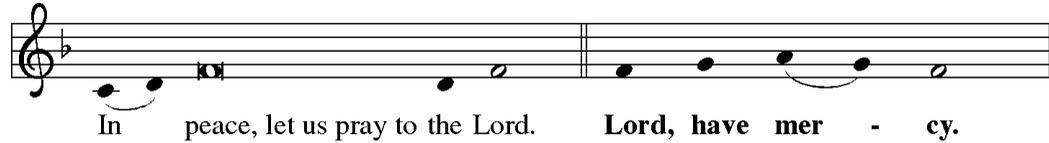
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor: John Burke



BENEDICTION

Go now, born from above, and live as children of the living God.

May the Father who so loved the world steady your steps and enlarge your heart, that you may see others not as problems to solve but as beloved ones to embrace.

May the Son who was lifted up draw you into costly grace, freeing you from condemnation and sending you to love boldly, forgive fiercely, and serve without fear.

May the Holy Spirit, wild as the wind and gentle as breath, unsettle your comfort, ignite your courage, and carry you into places where light is needed most.

Go in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the † Holy Spirit, not condemned, but commissioned; not afraid, but alive.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #638

Blessed Assurance

See next page

DISMISSAL

Go into the wilderness

Strengthened by the Spirit,

Standing firm in faith

And walking the way of the cross.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

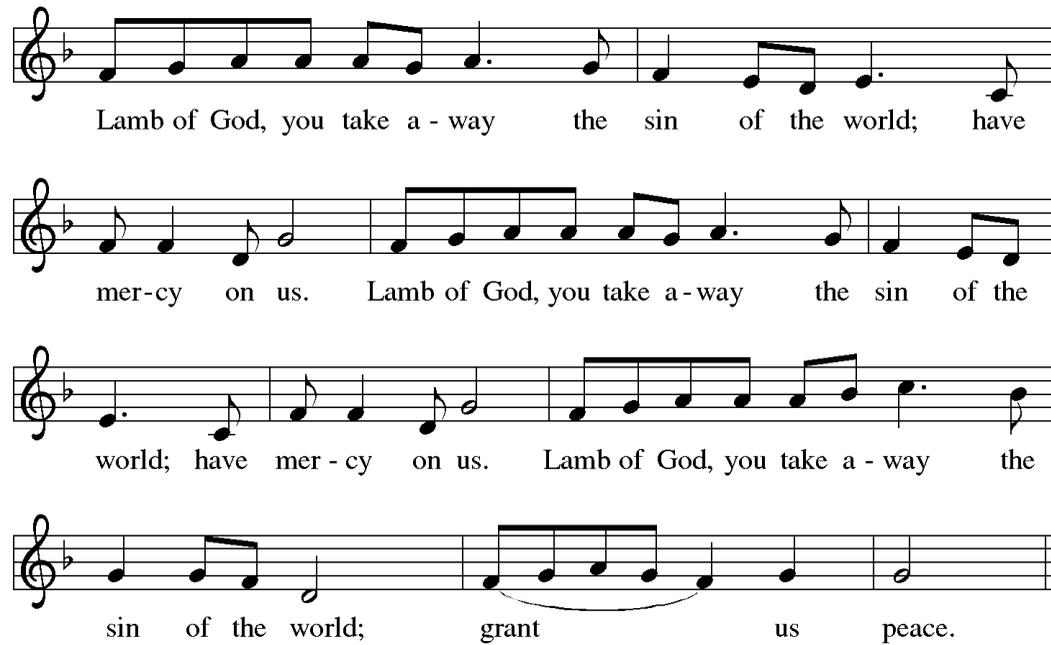
O Love, How Deep

Kristinia Langlois

Charly Sly, organ



LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion will be distributed by coming forward and receiving the bread and wine. The center cups (white) are non-alcoholic grape juice. Upon receiving, please put empty cups in baskets provided. If you prefer gluten free, please ask Pastor who is distributing. Please proceed up the center aisle returning to your seat via the side aisles.

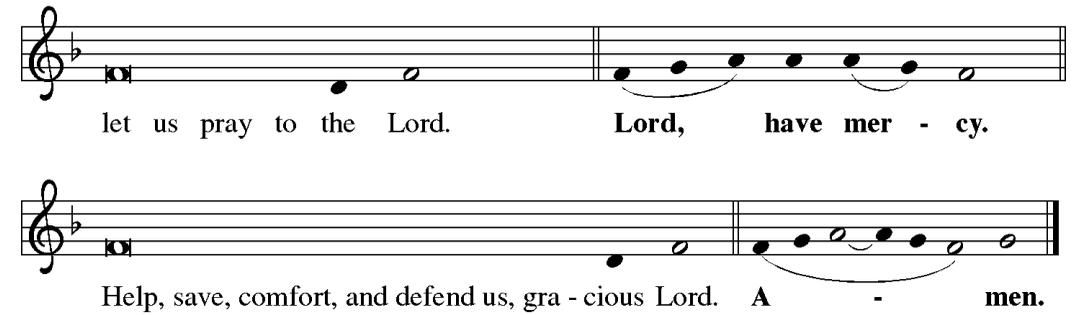
COMMUNION HYMNS

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ELW #735

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW #803



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy and merciful God, you meet us in our questions and restless longing. When we come uncertain and searching, you do not turn us away. Breathe upon us with your Spirit. Blow through the closed rooms of our doubt and awaken in us new birth—not of striving, but of grace; not of fear, but of love. Lift our eyes to the One lifted up for us, that we may trust the wideness of your mercy. You did not send your Son to condemn the world, but to save it—to save us. Root us in that love, that we may shine with hope in a shadowed world, reborn by your Spirit and sent in your peace; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

KIDS' PRAISE

*At this time children age 3 – grade 5 are now dismissed,
at the parent's discretion, to the Chapel.*

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

Beneath the Proud Hills' Shadows



1 Be - neath the proud hills' shad - ows I seek the help I need.
2 "Your foot will nev - er stumb - ble, nor will your Guard - ian sleep;
3 "From ev - ery harm and e - vil your life will be se - cure;



I lift my eyes be - yond them and there this prom - ise read:
the One who cares for Is - rael will ev - er watch - ful keep.
God's strength and love will guard you and keep your foot - ing sure.



"Help comes from God Al - migh - y, who made both heaven and earth,
The Lord will be your shade tree to shield you day and night;
Your com - ings and your go - ings are all with - in God's hand;



the Lord who ban - ished cha - os and brought all things to birth.
the sun's heat can - not hurt you nor can the moon's pale light.
the Lord will bless and keep you till no more proude hills stand."

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
**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.**



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

Offer a sign of peace with those around you

GATHERING OF GIFTS FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY

OFFERTORY

Lift High the Cross

arr. Jantz A. Black
Chancel Choir
Jacob Wiesenbach, trumpet

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious and faithful God, in this season of turning and returning, we give you thanks. You have given us breath for this day, mercy for our failures, and love that does not let us go. As we bring these gifts before you, we remember the greater gift you have given in Christ—self-giving, sacrificial, and full of grace. Receive what we offer, small though it may be, and use it for your healing work in the world. Shape our hearts to reflect your generosity, that our lives may become offerings of gratitude and hope; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

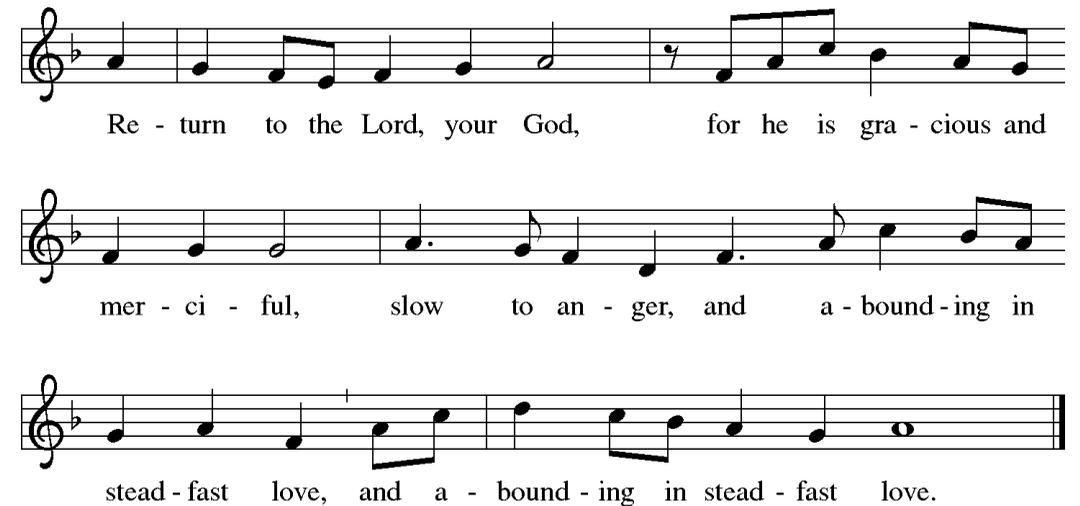
SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Page 118

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

Page 71

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON

Jeff Gramza

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #323

God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the quiet of the night, Nicodemus came searching for truth.

We, too, come with questions, doubts, and places in our lives that long for new birth. Trusting not in our own understanding but in God's mercy, let us confess our sin before the one who came not to condemn the world, but to save it.

Silence for Reflection

Gracious God, we confess that we have loved the shadows more than the light.

We cling to what is familiar instead of being born anew.

We hold tightly to control instead of surrendering to your Spirit.

We judge when we could show mercy.

Forgive us for resisting your transforming love.

Forgive us for doubting that your mercy is truly for us.

**Breathe your Spirit into our weary hearts
and raise us into new life.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world, so loved you, that he gave his Son, not to condemn but to save. In Jesus Christ, your sin is forgiven. In Jesus Christ, you are born from above. In Jesus Christ, you are set free from sin to walk in the light. **Amen.**