



BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
LIGHT OF CHRIST * ST. JOHN'S WINDISH * ST. PETER'S



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Saturday, March 25 5PM @ St. Peter's
Sunday, March 26 10AM @ SJW

WELCOME TO BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today! We are a brand-new congregation formed from the merger of three historic Bethlehem congregations. Blessed Trinity is being served by **Pastor Mike Button** in an interim capacity while the congregation prepares to call its own pastor. This week's organist is **Linda Maule**.

We follow an ancient pattern of worship that we call **liturgy**. It sounds fancy, but we're just imitating the first followers of Christ who (1) **gathered** to read the (2) **word of God**, (3) **share a meal**, and encourage one another before (4) **sending** each other out into the world to share God's love.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Be Thou My Vision” – Arranged by Culli

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God’s mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your
holy word; we take for ourselves instead of
giving to others; we spoil rather than steward
your creation; we cause hurt though you call
us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

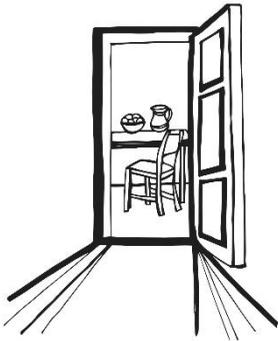
Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only

Son, so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)*

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.



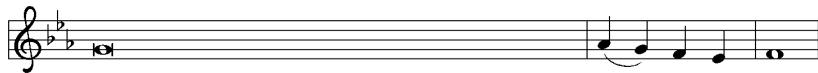
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



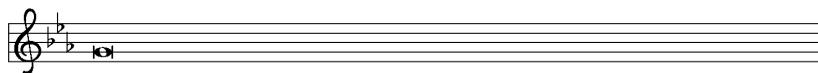
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.”

⁴Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its

bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: *Romans 8:6-11*

A reading from Romans.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

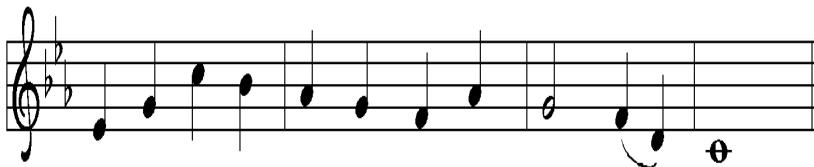
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: *John 11:1-45*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does

not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world.

¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was

coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the

Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land (ELW 333)*

THE BAPTISM OF MELODY GRACE ROBBINS AND LYRIC MAJOR ROBBINS

Date of Birth – September 2, 2022

Mother – Kaitlyn E. Donchez

Father – Jeremiah R. Robbins Jr.

Sponsors – Matthew E. Donchez and Carly R. Winn

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT BAPTISM

After the baptism, the assembly responds with the Celtic Alleluia, ELW 174.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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WELCOME

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and
into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative and redeeming
word to all the world.**

*As the baptismal party returns to their seats, the congregation sings Blessed Be God
Who Chose You, ELW 215.*

Blessed Be God, Who Chose You



Bless - ed be God, who chose you in Christ.



Live in love as Christ loved us.

Text: *Welcome to Christ*, 1997
Music: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You have breathed into us the breath of life.
Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing, especially the Lehigh and Delaware

Rivers. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness, especially those undergoing rehabilitation therapies. You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation, especially our organists, choirs, and soloists and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in

your steadfast love and your promise to renew
your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our
Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM “As the Deer” -- Arranged by Wagner

OFFERTORY: *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)*

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and
springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our
Water, who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat; this is my body,
given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave
thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty
world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this
feast: wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by
the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION SONG



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, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

I Am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)

What Wondrous Love Is This (ELW 666)

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week's flowers, candle and bulletins are in honor of the baptism of Melody Grace Robbins and Lyric Major Robbins

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *You Are the Way (ELW 758)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Coming and Going

There is a lot of coming and going in today’s gospel. Mary and Martha send a messenger to Jesus with news that Lazarus is ill. Jesus and his disciples do not go right away, but eventually they come to Martha after Lazarus has died. We learn that many had come to console the sisters. Martha proclaims Jesus “the Messiah, the Son of God, is the one coming into the world” (John 11:27). She then goes to get Mary, who comes quickly to Jesus. Mary is weeping, and so are those who come with her. When Jesus asks where Lazarus is, they invite him to come and see. They all go to the tomb. With all of this coming and going, it is not surprising that Jesus tells Lazarus to come out and that Jesus commands others to unbind him so he can go.

Lazarus emerging from the tomb is a remarkable moment, but just as remarkable are the connections of all of this story’s coming and going with our daily lives. Our health comes and goes. Jobs come and go. People come into our lives and go. Kids go, and perhaps come back again. Sometimes we are the ones who come and go. The grief of loss and death comes and goes. Tears come and go. Hope can even come and go.

Amid this movement, we come together in worship. We come to gather around the font and the table and hear again the stories of Jesus coming into the world, going to the cross, and coming again in the resurrection. We come together with our griefs and joys, our struggles and celebrations, all that binds us and sets us free. We come to gather, surrounded by God’s grace. Having come, we will go in peace to serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!