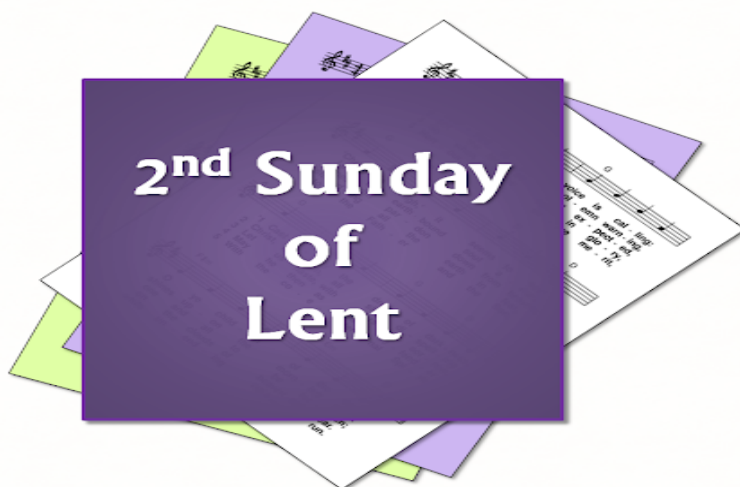


CONNECTED TO CHRIST, CONNECTED TO EACH OTHER, CONNECTED TO
COMMUNITY

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 16, 2025 ~ 11:00 AM



Trinity Lutheran Church



195 Claremont Avenue | P.O. Box 15303

Jersey City, New Jersey 07305

201-435-9807

www.trinityjerseycity.com

The Rev. Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

Order of Service

~ Gathering ~

† Welcome

*† Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection, and self-examination.)

P: Holy God,

C: You search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin – our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

*† Entrance Hymn: "Savior, Like a Shepherd" TFBF 254

*1 Savior like a shepherd lead us;
much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us,
for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.*

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

*Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have bought us; we are yours.*

*3 You have promised to receive us,
poor and sinful though we be;
you have mercy to relieve us,
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
early let us turn to you.*

*4 Early let us seek your favor,
early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior,
with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
you have loved us, love us still.*

***† Greeting**

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

C: **And also with you.**

***† Kyrie**

A: *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: *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.*

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: *For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

C: **Lord, have mercy,**

A: *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

C: **Amen**

***† Hymn of Praise** (*Suspended during Lent*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

***† Prayer of the Day**

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~God's Word~

† First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

*Congregation Standing

Bold Font: Congregation Response

† Psalm: Psalm 27; refrain, Ps. 27:5

Refrain: In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter.

- ¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**
- ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart I will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.
- ⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple. R**
- ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.
- ⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing
and make music to the Lord.**
- ⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.
- ⁸ **My heart speaks your message – “Seek my face.”
Your face, O Lord, I will seek. R**
- ⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away – you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my
salvation.
- ¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me in.**
- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.
- ¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**
- ¹³ This I believe – that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!
- ¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the Lord! R**

† Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

*† Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13^h Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

*† Holy Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise be to you, O Christ

† Choir Anthem: "It's Good To Know Jesus"

† Sermon: The Reverend Dianne L. Lewis, Pastor

† Sermon Hymn: "I Will Trust in the Lord" TFBF 256

*1 I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord till I die.
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord,
I will trust in the Lord till I die.*

*2 Sister, will you trust in the Lord,
sister, will you trust in the Lord,
sister, will you trust in the Lord till you die?
Sister, will you trust in the Lord,
sister, will you trust in the Lord,
sister, will you trust in the Lord till you die?*

*3 Brother, will you trust in the Lord,
brother, will you trust in the Lord,
brother, will you trust in the Lord till you die?
Brother, will you trust in the Lord,
brother, will you trust in the Lord,
brother, will you trust in the Lord till you die?*

4 Mother, will you trust in the Lord.....

5 Pastor, will you trust in the Lord.....

~ Prayer ~

*† The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

***† Prayers of the People**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need (*especially*). May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

***† Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

***† Offering Canticle**

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence.
Give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

***† Offertory Prayer**

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

~ Meal ~

***† The Great Thanksgiving**

P: *The Lord be with you.*

C: ***And also with you.***

P: *Lift up your hearts.*

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

A: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

P: *It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***† Words of Institution**

***† Lord's Prayer**

**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**

† Holy Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

† Communion Hymn: "Open Our Eyes, Lord" TFBF 98

*Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus,
to reach out and touch him,
and say that we love him.*

*Open our ears, Lord,
and help us to listen.*

*Open our eyes, Lord,
we want to see Jesus.*

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

***† Post Communion Blessing**

(After all have returned to their places:)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

***† Post Communion Canticle**

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people. A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory 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.

***† Post Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray.

Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **C: Amen.**

***† Benediction**

† Welcome, Acknowledgment of Visitors, and Announcements

***† Sending Hymn: "I Know It Was the Blood" TFBF 75**

*1 I know it was the blood,
I know it was the blood,
I know it was the blood for me.
One day when I was lost
he died upon the cross.
I know it was the blood for me.*

*2 It was my Savior's blood,
it was my Savior's blood,
it was my Savior's blood for me.
One day when I was lost*

*Congregation Standing
Bold Font: Congregation Response

*he died upon the cross.
It was my Savior's blood for me.*

*4 He's coming back again,
he's coming back again,
he's coming back again for me.
One day when I was lost
he died upon the cross.
He's coming back again for me.*

***† Dismissal**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Congregation Standing

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Announcements

- ◆ Trinity's **Weekly Bible Study** meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7PM via Zoom. Next session will resume Wednesday, April 23rd at 7:30PM - **Meeting ID: 822 8031 9117 Passcode: 709073**
- ◆ Trinity's **Adult Sunday School** meets every first and third Sunday at 9:45 AM. Next session will be Sunday, April 6th
- ◆ Trinity's **Children Sunday School** meets every Sunday at 11AM. Contact Valerie Slack or Pastor Dianne if you like to volunteer.
- ◆ Trinity's **Food Pantry** will be Friday, April 11th from 2PM - 3:30PM
- ◆ Trinity & Grace **Women of the ELCA** meets monthly. Next meeting will be Saturday, April 5th at 10AM
- ◆ Trinity's **Church Council Meeting** will be Thursday, April 10th at 7:30PM
- ◆ **Free Tax Preparers** will be at Trinity on Saturday, April 5th 9AM to 12PM; call 201-435-9807 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are not permitted.
- ◆ Join NJ ADLA for Women's History celebration on Thursday, March 27th at 7PM. Zoom meeting info will be provided.
- ◆ Join NJ ADLA for a **Paint & Unwind** on Saturday, April 26th 2PM-5PM here at Trinity. Tickets \$35 per person. Contact Valerie Slack for more info.
- ◆ **The Season of Lent:**
 - ◆ **2nd Week of Lent** - Wednesday, Mar 19th at 7PM; Soup at 6PM
 - ◆ **3rd Week of Lent** - Wednesday, Mar 26th at 7PM; Soup at 6PM
 - ◆ **4th Week of Lent** - Wednesday, Apr 2nd at 7PM; Soup at 6PM
 - ◆ **5th Week of Lent** - Wednesday, Apr 9th at 7PM; Soup at 6PM
 - ◆ **Maundy Thursday** - Thursday, Apr 17th at 7PM
 - ◆ **Good Friday** - Friday, Apr 18th at 7PM
 - ◆ **Easter Sunday** - Sunday, Apr 20th at 11AM
- ◆ Trinity is sponsoring a Senior Luncheon Bus Trip to King's Family Restaurant, Thursday, May 1st at 11:30 AM. More info to come.
- ◆ WELCA's Women's Day celebration will be Sunday, May 18th at 3PM.
- ◆ **NJ Synod Assembly** will take place in person on June 5th - 7th at the Hilton East Brunswick Hotel. Registration deadline is 4/21/2025. www.njsynod.org/assembly

*Congregation Standing

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- ◆ *Save the Date!* **Dinner Dance** celebrating the Ministry of Bishop Tracie Bartholomew Sunday, June 29th 5PM – 10PM at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. Tickets are \$50/pp
- ◆ Trinity's **Pew Rededication** fundraiser... Join in the Anniversary Celebration. Your donation supports the pew restoration labor and the installation of a personalized legacy name plate on your selected pew. \$500 for center aisle; \$300 for window aisle. Contact Tina Richardson at 201-435-9807 for more info.
- ◆ **Join in our Fundraisers:**
 - ◆ **Walk in Faith - Donation:** Pledge a multiple of your shoe size (i.e. if your shoe size is a size 9, pledge \$9, or \$18, or \$90, or \$900, etc.)
 - ◆ **Operational Expenses Fund - Donation:** any amount
- ◆ You may pay your Tithes & Offerings online at <http://www.trinityjerseycity.com>
OR text **GIVE** to 844-930-5787 from your mobile phone
- ◆ **For pastoral care call Pastor Dianne Lewis at 201.435.9807**