

first sunday in lent

**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | *Saline, Michigan*

***WELCOME TO WORSHIP******February 26, 2023***

**Thank you** for joining us in God’s house today! We cordially ask that our Guests sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a “Let’s Get Acquainted” card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

**THANK OFFERING:**  Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord’s work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

**Restrooms** are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

**Young Families / Toddler Bags** – We are **GLAD YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN** to our worship service. Jesus said: *“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”* We know that having little children in church can be a challenge, but **DO NOT WORRY** about it. Many of your fellow worshippers have been in your shoes and are just happy you brought your children with you. For your convenience, we have reserved the back rows of seating for parents with small children. These areas provide more flexibility for your family, as well as, easy access to move downstairs if necessary. A closed-circuit TV system allows families to continue participating in the service while downstairs. Pre-school **toddler bags** and **children’s bulletins** are available for their enjoyment. Ask an usher for one to use during the service and please return the toddler bag afterwards.

**Welcome to our Favorite Hymns Service!**

Over the past month, members have had a chance to submit their favorite hymns. Over several sections of today’s worship, Pastor Natsis will be randomly selecting some of these hymns to be sung by the congregation. To make sure we sing as many as possible, we normally will sing the first stanza of the hymns selected, unless otherwise stated by Pastor Natsis. Hymns submitted that were chosen and/or not chosen have been recorded for future use. Thank you to all those who provided their input!

**Ringing of Church Bells**

**Bell Choir “In Blessed Communion”**

**Words of Welcome**

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Invocation**

The grace of our Lord 🕇 Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be

with you.

**And also with you.**

**Confession of Sins**

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts.

Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in**

**my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For**

**this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and**

**trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning

sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all

your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son 🕇 and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Mighty God and Father, our Lord Jesus walked into the wilderness to face the devil’s temptations, but he did not succumb to Satan’s lies or falter in his resolve to save the world from the prison of hell. Bolster our faith by his mighty victory that we may battle against the forces of evil with courage and confidence; we ask it through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

**Old Testament Lesson Genesis 3:1-15**

**1**Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

**2**The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, **3**but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”

**4**The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. **5**In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

**6**When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7**The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. **8**They heard the voice of the Lord God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

**9**The Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

**10**The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

**11**God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

**12**The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

**13**The Lord God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

**14**The Lord God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than all the livestock,  
and more than every wild animal.  
You shall crawl on your belly,  
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.  
**15**I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed.  
He will crush your head,  
and you will crush his heel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Lesson Romans 5:12-19**

**12**So then, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned. **13**For even before the law was given, sin was in the world. Now, sin is not charged to one’s account if there is no law, **14**and yet death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those whose sin was not like the transgression of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

**15**But the gracious gift is not like Adam’s trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of this one man, it is even more certain that God’s grace, and the gift given by the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, overflowed to the many!

**16**And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin, for the judgment that followed the one trespass resulted in a verdict of condemnation, but the gracious gift that followed many trespasses resulted in a verdict of justification.

**17**Indeed, if by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, it is even more certain that those who receive the overflowing grace of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ!

**18**So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people. **19**For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Gospel Lesson Matthew 4:1-11**

**1**Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the Devil. **2**After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. **3**The Tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread.”

**4**But Jesus answered, “It is written:

Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.”

**5**Then the Devil took him into the holy city. He placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6**and he said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you. And they will lift you up in their hands,  
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

**7**Jesus said to him, “Again, it is written:

You shall not test the Lord your God.”

**8**Again the Devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9**He said to him, “I will give you all of these things, if you will bow down and worship me.”

**10**Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written:

Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”

**11**Then the Devil left him, and just then angels came and served him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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

*Please be seated*

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

*Please stand, if you are able*

**Confession of Faith** The 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.**

**The Prayer of the Church**

**The 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.**

**The Blessing**

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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**Favorite Hymn Selections** *Please use the blue Christian Worship hymnals*

Serving in Worship

**Officiant** Pastor Natsis

**Organist** Claire Natsis

**Bell Choir Director** Meg Nortley

**Deacons** (8:30) Duane Mason and Dave Stevenson

(11:00) Jeff Neuburger and Robert Niethammer

**Ushers** (8:30) Tim Phelps

(11:00) Ron Zahn

**Altar Guild** Margaret Hoeft and Laura Lindemann

**Videographer** Jake Vershum

