

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



*FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT*

**March 15, 2026**

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**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.

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

In His Word, God makes it clear that the Lord's Supper is to be shared by people of a common proclamation of faith (1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Without judging anyone's hearts, we invite those who share in our confession by their membership in our congregation or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and who are properly prepared (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) to receive the Sacrament. Page 156 in the front of Christian Worship provides a guide for preparation.

**Trinity Lutheran Church follows the historic Christian practice of *close communion*. We ask that only members of Trinity or one of our sister congregations partake of the sacrament.**

**Guests, we would love to have you join us in communion fellowship in the future, and for that to be possible, we ask that you meet the pastor so that we may speak with you on how that would be possible. We thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our congregations.**

# SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

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## 576 Amazing Grace

CW 576



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



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman

Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand if you are able*

## INVOCATION

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

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

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: 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.

**C: 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.**

M: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

### LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**C: Lord, have mer - cy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



**C: Christ, have mer - cy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: A - men.

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in

all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,

you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;

you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



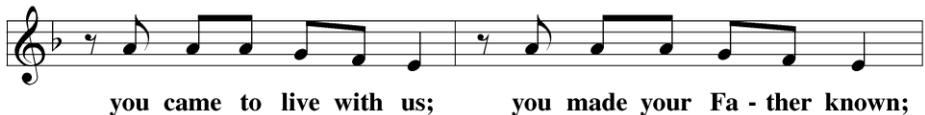
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

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## The Word

### First Reading

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>I have been silent for a long time.  
I have kept still. I have restrained myself.  
But now, like a woman giving birth, I will scream.  
I will gasp and pant.

<sup>15</sup>I will dry up mountains and hills.  
I will make all their grass wither.  
I will turn rivers into islands.  
I will dry up pools.

<sup>16</sup>I will lead the blind on a way they do not know.  
Along paths they do not know I will direct them.  
Ahead of them I will turn darkness into light  
and rough places into level ground.  
These are the things I will accomplish for them.  
I will not abandon them.

<sup>17</sup>They will be turned back and completely disgraced—  
those who trust in an idol,  
those who say to molten images, “You are our gods.”

<sup>18</sup>You deaf ones, listen!

You blind ones, watch carefully so that you can see!

<sup>19</sup>Who is as blind as my servant?

Who is as deaf as my messenger whom I sent?

Who is as blind as my associate,  
as blind as the servant of the LORD?

<sup>20</sup>You, Israel, see many things, but you do not observe.

Israel opens his ears, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>Because of his own righteousness,  
the LORD was pleased to make his law great and glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. <sup>10</sup>Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord, <sup>11</sup>and do not participate in fruitless deeds of darkness. Instead, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention the things that are done by people in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes things visible. <sup>14</sup>Therefore it is said, “Awake, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand if you are able*

## Verse of the Day

*Hebrews 12:2*

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

## Gospel

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

<sup>1</sup>As Jesus was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that God’s works might be revealed in connection with him. <sup>4</sup>I must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the World.”

<sup>6</sup>After saying this, Jesus spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and spread the mud on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup>“Go,” Jesus told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

<sup>13</sup>They brought this man who had been blind to the Pharisees. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees also asked him how he received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” the man told them. “I washed, and now I see.”

<sup>16</sup>Then some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God because he does not keep the Sabbath.” Others were saying, “How can a sinful man work such miraculous signs?”

There was division among them, <sup>17</sup>so they said to the blind man again, “What do you say about him, because he opened your eyes?”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were entirely born in sinfulness! Yet you presume to teach us?” And they threw him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had thrown him out. When he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

<sup>36</sup>“Who is he, sir,” the man replied, “that I may believe in him?”

<sup>37</sup>Jesus answered, “You have seen him, and he is the very one who is speaking with you.”

<sup>38</sup>Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” and he knelt down and worshipped him.

<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, in order that those who do not see will see, and those who do see will become blind.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated*

# 515 Christ Is the World's Light

CW 515



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, our



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.

Tune: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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## SERMON

Romans 8:1-10

<sup>1</sup>So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For in Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

<sup>5</sup>To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. <sup>6</sup>Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

### ***"Set Free by the Spirit"***

*Please stand if you are able*

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated as we prepare the altar for Holy Communion*

*Please stand if you are able*

## *The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

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**Guests, we would love to have you join us in communion fellowship in the future, and for that to be possible, we ask that you meet the pastor so that we may speak with you on how that would be possible. We thank you for respecting the way we celebrate the Lord's Supper in our congregations.**

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be-come my sal-

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ✚ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ✚ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: A - men.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

*Please be seated*

# 537 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

CW 537



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that caused blind eyes to see, speak and heal our  
4 Word that speaks your Fa - ther's love, one with him be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
mor - tal blind - ness; deaf we are: our heal - er be;  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove,



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
loose our tongues to tell your kind - ness. Be our Word in  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
pit - y spo - ken, heal the world, by sin now bro - ken.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

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Tune: Public domain

# 595 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

CW 595



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en  
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er  
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern  
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,  
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,  
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,  
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.  
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.  
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.  
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

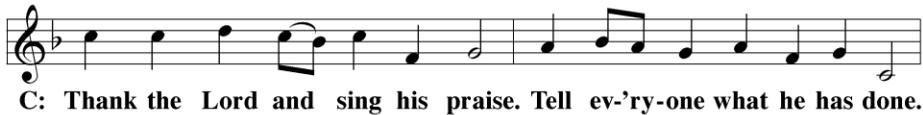
Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Ralph C. Schultz, b. 1932

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*Please stand if you are able*



**C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

**M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C:** A - men.

## **BENEDICTION**

**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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Please be seated*

## 931 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

CW 931

- 1 Sav - ior, a - gain to thy dear name we raise
- 2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
- 3 Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
- 4 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise.  
 with thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day.  
 turn thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.  
 our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife.

Once more we bless thee ere our wor - ship cease,  
 Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 From harm and dan - ger keep thy chil - dren free,  
 Then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, low - ly bend - ing, wait thy word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on thy name.  
 for dark and light are both a - like to thee.  
 call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, abr.

Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Officiant**.....Pastor Ralph Stuebs  
**Organist**..... Marcia Marion Ackling  
**Deacons**..... Dave Frey and Gary Knowlton  
**Ushers** ..... Dale Finkbeiner and Mark Finkbeiner  
**Altar Guild** ..... Jean Fiegel and Ann Latowski  
**Videographer** ..... Jake Vershum

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