

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
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Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, pastor; Carol Johnson-Hohol, organist

Fourth Sunday of Lent + Virtual Worship + March 22, 2020

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your
Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and
grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we
have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and,
for his sake God forgives 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. Amen.

GREETING

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

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Children's Message and the hymn for today, "Bind Us Together," may be found on our YouTube channel. Go to youtube.com and search there for "Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Marshall WI" to view those video.

WORD

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

²He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.

³He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
For You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup runs over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD
Forever.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—
⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Pastor Nancy Raabe

Silence for reflection

Prayers of the People

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power in this difficult time. Raise up voices in your church that will shine through the darkness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for all people in the midst of this crisis. Nurture all things that dwell on the earth and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring wise, forceful leadership to people of all nations to restore health, peace, and prosperity to our world. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to do harm in this time. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. Be with those who are ill with the virus or dealing with any kind of illness or affliction, *especially*:

Barb Anderson Michael Kowski Jerry Usgaard Sharon Stensven Barb Ledbury
Chuck Baldrige Katrina Millner Richard Goss Kayla German
Gladys Woelffer Joyce Kosbau Kathy Deneen Barb Paffenroth
Andrea Knowles and her family

Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, help this assembly remain connected through the means that modern technology makes available as well as old-fashioned means like phone calls and writing letters. Lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in these challenging times. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

We ask that you remember your church in this time of need.

Holy and generous host,
everything we have and everything we are comes from you.
Keep us as faithful witnesses to your goodness
through every gift you have given us to share,
in various ways in our lives,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

Greeting of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

Hymn: Bind Us Together

Refrain

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together in love.

There is only one God, there is only one King,
There is only one Body, that is why we sing:

Refrain

Though there are many branches, there is only one vine,
We are one in Christ Jesus, that is why we sing:

Refrain

One with Christ in his death that, as one, we might rise.
So we are but one people, that is why we sing:

Refrain

There is only one table, Christ alone is our host.
He invites us together, that is why we sing:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together in love.

Blessing

Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ to the world.

Thanks be to God.