

... ONE MAN'S ACT OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
LEADS TO
JUSTIFICATION
AND LIFE FOR ALL.

ROMANS 5:18, NRSV



MEMBER OF THE CHURCH



OF THE LUTHERAN
CONFESSION



Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

February 18th, 2024

Organist: Kathy Conway

Video: Stan White, Ben Reim, Ariel Smith

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Bible Class: 9:15am
Worship: 10:30am

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Service of the Word

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

TLH 377 Salvation Unto Us Has Come (vv. 1-2, 6)

Confession and Absolution

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C (spoken) Amen.

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

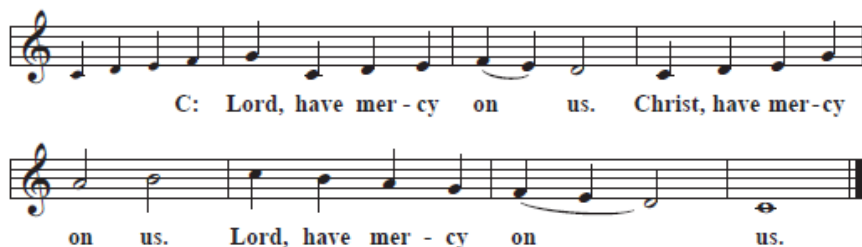
C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C (spoken) Amen.

P In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *Gloria in Excelsis*

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,
Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:
We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,
Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C (spoken) And also with you.

P Let us pray. . .

C (spoken) Amen

First Reading

Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of

the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" 12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 119:123-125

P My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation

C And Your righteous word.

P Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy,

C And teach me Your statutes.

P I am Your servant; give me understanding,

C That I may know Your testimonies.

Second Reading

John 15:9-15

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

11 “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends. 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it!

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, using eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits 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.

Hymn of the Day

TLH 370 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Sermon Text

Romans 3:27-31

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. 29 Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. 31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

Justification for All

I: Boasting is excluded

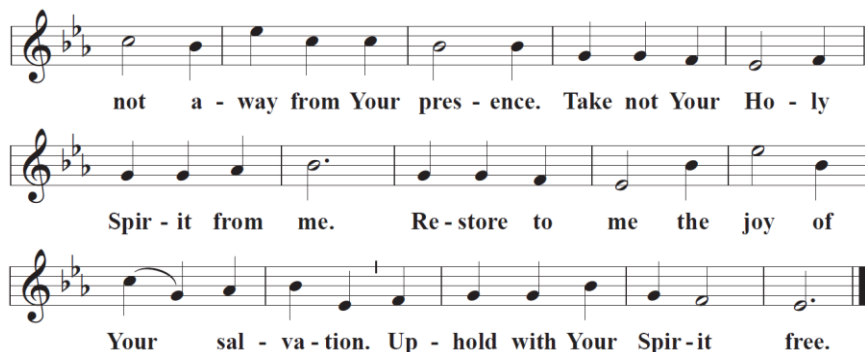
II: Everyone is included

III: Redemption is concluded

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

OFFERTORY





Hymn

TLH 388 Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Offering

General Prayer + The Lord's Prayer

P . . . in whose Name we also pray together:

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

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

TLH 377 Salvation Unto Us Has Come (vv. 7, 9-10)

Silent Prayer

Acknowledgments

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Welcome to Worship at Trinity!

Please wait to be ushered out of the sanctuary. Please do not leave any bulletins or other materials behind. **Offerings** may be left in the offering plate in the rear of the sanctuary or mailed to the church.

Guest and Visitors, we are delighted to have you here for worship with us this morning and are grateful for the opportunity to share the saving gospel message of Jesus Christ with you! Because He lives, we shall live also! We invite you to sign our guest book in the entryway. Please speak to the members and pastor if you wish to learn more about the Gospel ministry here at *Trinity*, and we hope to see you again!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Worship – Our midweek Lenten worship series continues this Wednesday evening at 6:30pm. Our second stop on the Landmarks of the Passion is *The Hall of Caiaphas where the Savior was Condemned*. Pastor Dave Naumann will be bringing us the Word then. We hope you will join us in meditating on our Lord's Passion!

Church Council and Women's Circle – Church council and Women's Circle will meet after worship today.

No Midweek Bible Class – We have decided to recess our Tuesday afternoon Bible class during Lent. That will resume the first Tuesday after Easter, God-willing.

Ministry by Mail – For 65 years, the CLC's "Ministry by Mail" has been producing print sermons for distribution. Originally this was done by postal mail, especially for members living at a distance from their home church or serving in the military. With the arrival of the internet, sermons began being sent by email and posted online (www.lutheransermons.org). Ministry by Mail now offers audio versions of their sermons through weekly Podcast services. You can find these sermons on most major podcast platforms such as Google, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify by searching "CLC Ministry by Mail." Hit "subscribe" or "follow" to receive notifications of weekly uploads. Contact Ministry by Mail editor, Nathan Pfeiffer, for more information – editor@lutheransermons.org

PRAYERS REQUESTED

- **Donna Zarling** continues to recover at home from the minor stroke she suffered. May the Lord be with her and grant her strength and healing according to His will!
- **Lorraine Poetter** has returned home to Fairwinds Assisted Living this week, for which we thank God! However, there are some questions about how best to meet her needs going forward. Please keep Lorraine and her family in your prayers for patience and wisdom in this matter.
- Please keep **Pastor John Hein and his family** in your prayers as he continues treatment for his thymic carcinoma. For updates on his care, visit: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/pastorjohnhein>. Additionally, a GoFundMe has been set up to help offset medical and travel expenses: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/john-and-janelle-hein-family>.
- **Kate Sauers**, wife of Pastor Rob Sauers who serves Immanuel Lutheran Church in Winter Haven, FL, is now in full remission from the lymphoma she was diagnosed with last year. Praise the Lord for His grace and healing!

CALL NEWS

- Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Mankato, MN has called Pastor Michael Gurath of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church and School, Phoenix, AZ.
- Pastor Paul Krause of Zion Lutheran in Hidewood and Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, SD has returned the calls from Calvary Lutheran of Marquette, MI and St. Peter's Lutheran of Iron River, MI.
- Teacher Amy Osborne of Holy Trinity Lutheran School, West Columbia, SC, is still considering the call to Faith Lutheran School, Markesan, WI.
- Teacher Kendra Rodebaugh of Gethsemane Lutheran School, Spokane, WA, is still considering the call to Messiah Lutheran School, Hales Corners, WI.
- Teacher Matthew Kranz, Immanuel Lutheran in Mankato, MN, is still considering the call to Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI to be their 5th- 6th grade teacher and assistant principal.
- Teacher Matthew Thurow of Berea Lutheran in Inver Grove Heights, MN is still considering the call to be a professor at Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI. This is to fill the position currently held by Professor Mark Kranz who is retiring at the end of this school year.

FRUITS OF FAITH AT TRINITY		
Date	Attendance	Offering
1/28/24	23	\$990
2/4/24	24	\$3,390
2/11/24	TBD	TBD
2/14/24	16	\$330

GREETER SCHEDULE	
Next Sunday	Randy & Lynne Estes
3/3	Travis Maguire
3/10	Ben Reim

FEBRUARY CLEANING SCHEDULE	
North Entry	White
Sanctuary	Estes
Basement	Naumann

Midweek Lenten Sermon 2/14/24

In the Name of Jesus, who is the greatest expression of God's infinite love for us, dear fellow redeemed:

I imagine it's shaping up to be a pretty busy day for many of you. Not only is today Ash Wednesday, which has Christians scrambling to get back in the swing of worship services on weekday evenings, but today also happens to be Valentine's Day. It doesn't happen that often, though it did happen in 2018. But before 2018, the last time it happened was 1945.

Many of you, then, if you have a valentine, likely spent much of the last week or more asking yourself the same question you did last year: what is the best way to express your love to your special person? Roses and chocolate seem to be a timeless classic. A fancy dinner and a movie, maybe. But since Valentine's day also happens to be Ash Wednesday, we have the special privilege of considering what the best way is to express our love for our Savior, Jesus. To do so, we will visit our first Landmark of the Passion, "A House in Bethany where Mary Showed Her Love." We read from John 12:1-8.

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the

money box; and he used to take what was put in it. 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

So what is the best way to show our love for our Lord? The answer varies across the many different branches of Christianity. Many Christians give up certain things during the Lenten season - alcohol, red meat, even chocolate (which might complicate Valentine's Day festivities). This can be a good thing, as foregoing normal activities during the season can help to remind us of the season and all that Jesus sacrificed for us. Other branches of Christianity focus on showing their love for their Savior by work in their community. And this is also a good thing. After all, Jesus preached in Matthew 25 that when we clothe the naked, feed the hungry, and provide shelter for the homeless that we do so for Him.

But are these the best ways to show our love for our Savior? Apparently not. Judas, upon seeing the spectacle of our text, had a bone to pick with Mary and with Jesus for allowing it to happen. Spikenard oil came from the Spikenard plant, native to northern India. And we're told that this was such an exceptional quality that Judas estimates its value as 300 denarii, which would have been almost a year's salary. Where Mary got that kind of money, we aren't told. But it does seem like something of a waste, doesn't it?

As perhaps a more relatable hypothetical situation: imagine that one of our members donated a bottle of Screaming Eagle Cabernet (1992 vintage) to the church. That particular wine is valued at a whopping \$500,000. The only stipulation was that we must use this wine for the Lord's Supper tonight. That means that each member would drink about \$20,000 worth of wine during the Sacrament. How would you feel about that? It's tough not to see Judas's point when you put it in that light, isn't it? Think of all that we would do with that much money! We could donate a hefty share to charity. We could undertake aggressive outreach measures. We could address all of the repairs that our property needs. Wouldn't that be a better way to show our love for Jesus than just to use it in the Sacrament?

Now, we're told that Judas raised this complaint because he handled the finances for Jesus and the disciples and could easily skim a few denarii off the top of such a hefty sum. But Jesus doesn't address that. He instead rebukes Judas for his suggestion on its face, saying in verses 7-8, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Mary gives us a terrific example of what it means to truly show love. Not in a Valentine's Day sort of way, as though she were trying to show Jesus that she enjoyed Him being a part of her life. But in an Ash Wednesday sort of way, showing that Jesus is her life. Oil was traditionally anointed upon the head. But Mary humbly anointed Jesus' feet. Feet were traditionally washed with a towel, but Mary selflessly used the hair of her head. She could have easily used water, as was typical, and it would have been a praiseworthy display of Mary's devotion to her Lord. Instead, she used a pound of obscenely expensive spikenard oil. But I don't want you to think that the takeaway from tonight's sermon is to imitate Mary. She was right to do this, but she was simply imitating another's love and devotion. As Jesus said, "she has kept this for the day of My burial." This event took place on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, when Jesus would enter into

Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey to the loving cries of, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” But by week’s end, those would turn to bloodthirsty cries of, “Crucify Him!”

Mary did this not for a pat on the back. She did not do this to earn Jesus’ favor. She anointed Jesus’ feet with the spikenard and wiped his feet with her hair in loving recognition of what He was about to do for her and for all people. All of the prophets and Jesus’ own preaching pointed to the fact that the Son of Man had come into the world to redeem lost and condemned sinners by His own suffering and death. In this we see true love. Not in mere words but in actions. Not love exemplified in a fragrant bouquet of flowers, but love exemplified in pierced flesh and wounded side. Not love shared over a nice bottle of Cabernet, but love shared in the partaking of the body and blood of our Savior, given and shed for you for the remission of sins.

Mary’s actions then were not a way that she could prove her love to Jesus or earn His love, but served as evidence of faith and love that only one who once sat in the darkness of sin and condemnation could show to a Savior who called her out of darkness into His marvelous light of forgiveness and eternal life. It showed the world what was most important to her. It certainly wasn’t money. It certainly wasn’t pride. It was the redemption that she knew was hers in Him. The same redemption that is yours in Him.

So what is the best way for us to show our love for Jesus on this Ash Wednesday and every day? That’s a bit of a trick question, actually, because it comes at it from the wrong direction. I would not be doing my job this Lent if we simply considered the love we are supposed to feel and show our Savior. That’s like trying to manufacture smoke without fire. Rather, our focus this Lent, as every Lent and as every day, is the love that Christ has shown to us. 1 John 4:19, we love because He first loved us.

When we turn to focus on that - the undeserved love and grace that Christ has shown us by going willingly to the cross, that is how we learn to love. That is how our love grows. And that is where loving action is produced from. Don’t think, “what must I do?” Think, “what has He done?” And you will find that these fruits of faith flow freely and naturally in great ways and small. In simple day-to-day interactions to great personal sacrifices. With both friends and strangers. In not only our words and actions but in our thoughts and prayers. Love comes from Christ because Christ Himself is love.

On Valentine’s Day, and really every day, some of the most powerful words in the human language are “I love you”. But they are dwarfed in comparison to the truth that Christ has so clearly revealed to us through His Passion and death. This truth is: “God loves you.” God loves you, a sinner. He loves you, a failure. He loves you who so often balk at the opportunity to love Him back. He did not love you by pouring out expensive oil, He loved you by pouring out His priceless blood. He did not wash your feet with his hair, He washed your soul of all uncleanness through the waters of baptism. The question then, once more, is not “what is the best way to show my love for Christ.” The real question is, “how can I not show my love for my Lord and Redeemer in my every thought, word, and action?” And so we pray: Precious Savior, help us to treasure your love as our most prized possession. Thank you for going the way of the cross for our sins. Send us your Holy Spirit so that we, in faith, may reflect the all-surpassing love you have shown us by your death on the cross to those around us. May our work as your beloved children serve only to bring you glory and to make your Name and your love known to the world. In Your saving Name we ask this, Amen.