



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

March 16, 2025
2nd Sunday in Lent

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Coming Up

Mark your calendars for April 12. The second in the Trinity Arts concert series begins at 4 p.m. The concert will feature the Woodward String Quartet from the Detroit Symphony. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Spread the word, invite family and friends. A reception follows the concert. Proceeds support our Music Outreach Program.

Midweek Holden Services will be part of our Lenten Season. The informal services will take place in the Fellowship Hall continue March 19. There will be a simple meal of soup and bread at 5 p.m. and the service will begin at 6 p.m.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Nash, Jeff

Introduction to the day

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Hymns

ACS #1018 Deep Peace

ELW #319 O Lord, throughout these 40 days

ELW #323 God loved the world

ELW #338 Beneath the cross of Jesus

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 Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18

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.”

Psalm: 27

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to de-¹ vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum-¹ ble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart ¹ will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will ¹ not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one ¹ 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 ¹ in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up-¹ on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music ¹ to

the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, ¹ when I call; have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message — ¹ “Seek my face.”**

Your face, O Lord, ¹ I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser-¹ vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my moth-¹ er forsake me, the Lord will ¹ take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your ¹ way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of ¹ my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will ¹ of my foes,**

for they rise up against me, false witnesses ¹ breathing violence.

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness ¹ of the Lord in the land ¹ of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord ¹ and be strong. Take heart and wait ¹ for the Lord!**

Second reading: Philippians 3: 17 – 4.1

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 Saviour, 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: Luke 13: 31-35

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.’”

Sermon

Under God’s wing

Jesus is in the midst of his journey to Jerusalem and the cross this morning.

A few chapters before today’s story, Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem.” Since then, he has travelled from village to village across the Galilee region ... healing and casting out demons.

Jesus has just shared the story of the narrow door and how not everyone will gain entry through the door.

Now, the Pharisees come to him with a warning ... Herod knows Jesus is traveling through the region and wants to kill him. The Pharisees want Jesus to flee for his own safety.

But if Jesus followed their advice ... then the people would suffer. If Jesus places his own safety first and foremost, then the people would not be healed or have unclean spirits removed. They

would remain isolated ... shunned ... pushed off to the margins.

Jesus ... though ... puts his foot down.

He is going to continue ministering and moving toward Jerusalem. He tells the Pharisees to tell Herod that he will spend three days healing and casting out demons. Jesus even insults Herod in the bargain ... calling him a "fox."

Foxes in Jewish and Greek literature were portrayed as crafty and sinister predator that were a nuisance pest.

I'm sure the Pharisees were debating whether or not to share that part of the message.

Jesus offers his lament for the people in Jerusalem ... which by the time Luke's gospel is composed ... had been destroyed by the romans after a Jewish revolt.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that he wanted to gather the city under his protection ... like a mother hen would when her chicks are in danger. But the people ... it seems ... had turned their backs on God.

You can wonder how the Pharisees reacted to Jesus' image of a hen.

They may have left mumbling about giving Jesus' message to Herod and wondering if a hen would offer them much protection.

The oppressed Jewish population was waiting for a mighty king to free them by force ... a chicken is likely not what they expected ... not even a fighting rooster with its spurs sharpened for a battle ... it was a mother hen, no less.

But a mother hen is a more appropriate image to a loving God than a bird of prey.

Some years back, I was told the story of a poultry farmer who ... for a couple of Easters ... would bring live chicks to church for the children.

He would have them in boxes in the Narthex and the children would come by and get one on their way into the service. The children would hold the chicks until it was time for Sunday school.

It was not a good day for the chicks.

Sometimes the children would hold on too tightly and well ... you know. Other children wouldn't hold on tight enough and the birds would escape and scurry around the floor of the sanctuary ... where they were at risk from adults who weren't paying attention to where they were stepping.

Other children realized the humour of chicks running around the church during a service ... just let them loose.

I was told that the noise the chicks created was distracting and for some concerning. Some members of the congregation said they heard the peeps in their dreams for weeks afterward.

I am sure that the lack of a hen being present in the strange and dangerous surroundings made the chicks feel distress all the more. It seems that hens take on the anxiety felt by their chicks and ease their pain and uncertainty.

A little over ten years ago, behavioral scientists in England

conducted a study of mother hens. The scientists wanted to know what causes a hen to react when her chicks are in danger. They wanted to study what determined the birds' level of empathy.

They took the chicks of twelve hens and divided each brood into three groups.

The groups were based on the hens' and chicks' experience with potentially dangerous situations. Disclaimer ... in case anyone is wondering: no chicks were hurt in the experiments. The scientists used little puffs of air to simulate a dangerous situation and upset the chicks.

The scientists compared the hens' vocal responses, heart rate, and surface body temperature during the actual and perceived threat to their chicks.

The scientists found that the hens increased their maternal crowing ... like a mother calling out to her children ... and walking around to gather in the chicks when the hens thought they were being threatened.

Hens showed signs of stress during those moments. They were alert for the danger as the chicks were shielded under their wings.

The hens took it all upon themselves.

In Luke's passage, Jesus says he has invited Jerusalem to take shelter under his wing and be protected from the foxes of the world.

Jesus takes all the people's pain and suffering upon himself.

His ministry is centred on protecting the poor and marginalized ... keeping

them being victimized and exploited by the powerful forces of the world. Jesus shares that God's dream is to gather the children into God's embrace. This ... Jesus makes clear ... is the focus of his ministry and the centre of his work on earth.

Jesus laments his heartbreak that comes as the people in Jerusalem ... the centre of faith ... aren't accepting of his offer of protection and love. Out of fear or self-interest ... they are more aligned with the foxes.

Jesus laments that Jerusalem is a city that kills prophets ... the very people who proclaim God's love and law.

When it comes to hens and foxes, hens usually don't fare well in a confrontation. But her sacrifice provides a means for the chicks to live.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross gives us new life and we, in turn, become the means for others to find shelter and life. Those who do find shelter in God's love become a means to bring others under the protective hope-filled wing.

In this morning's letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul reminds the congregation members that they are called to imitate Jesus ... and by doing so ... learning to live a life of faith grounded through the cross.

God ... explains Paul ... transforms our offering ... our sacrifices

By showing grace in the moment ... protecting one another and raising others up ... we are living into the life of discipleship. And through such a life we provide an image of faith that others can recognize and imitate.

This is the transformative power of God's gift of grace ... a gift that comes through the cross that stands at the end of the Lenten journey. It is a gift that transforms us ... and through us ... transforms the lives of others by gathering them and welcoming them in a loving embrace. Jesus' invitation is the beginning of a chain reaction ... a reaction marked by ever-present love that changes the world.

Rev. Chelsea Simon offers a reflection on this passage from Luke. In it, she writes:

"This is who we have in Jesus. A presence who will not leave us, no matter how threatening the situation. No matter how real the threat. We have a God who loves us enough to stay in the fight with us."

As we stand with ... advocate for ... and help spread God's loving care ... we share our faith that we are not alone under the expansive spread of God's wings ... and in that faith ... there is hope.

AMEN

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

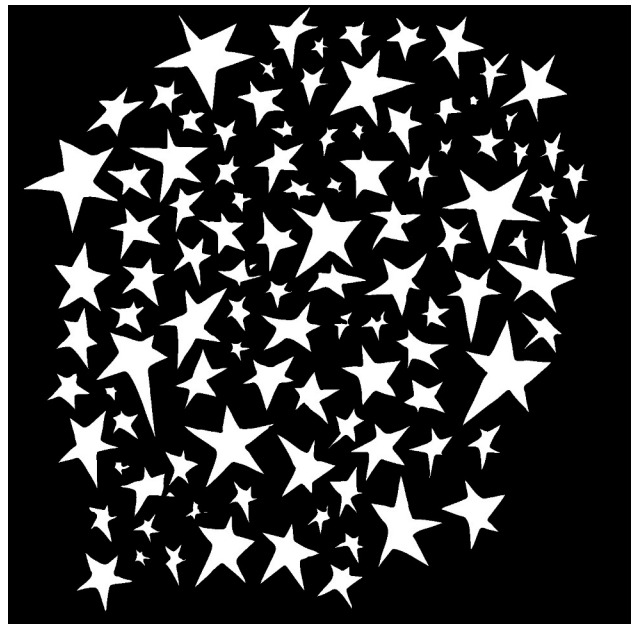
the power and the glory, forever and ever.

AMEN

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

AMEN



**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PRE-AUTHORIZED REMITTANCE PROGRAM**

AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize *Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church*, 1215 Parent Avenue, Windsor, ON N8X 4J1, to cause a cheque to be drawn on my account, each month as a contribution by me to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as follows:

Total *monthly* contributions to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of:

_____ (\$ _____ .00) per month
Distributed as follows:

Current Giving/Benevolence	\$ _____	per month
Global Hunger and Development Agency (GHDA)	\$ _____	per month
Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	\$ _____	per month
ELCIC World Missions/Volunteers in Mission	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Specify _____	\$ _____	per month
Total Monthly Giving:	\$ _____	per month

Contributor's name _____ Envelope # _____

Bank/Trust/Credit Union Name _____

Branch Address: _____

Account Number _____ Type of Account _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

This authority may be changed or cancelled by the contributor at any time.

To ensure accuracy, a sample cheque marked "VOID" must accompany this form.

The transfer of contributions to the ministry of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church will begin in the month *following* receipt of this authorization.