Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024



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TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 2024



Rethinking Religion Rethinking Suffering Under the Cross

We know that the cross was an instrument of torture and execution. However, Scripture also uses the term "cross" to refer to any suffering that one endures because he is believer: the painful denial of the desires of the flesh; ridicule and persecution from unbelievers; etc. This is one reason people reject religion. They see Christians struggling in life with these crosses, while non-Christians often seem perfectly happy. Even the prophet Jeremiah asked, "Why do all the faithless live at ease?" (12:1).

Today, Jesus asks us to rethink suffering under the cross. It is not pointless pain. Our crosses are not how we pay for sin. Jesus already did that on his cross. Our crosses are not redemptive, but they are constructive. Any suffering unbelievers face is only bad, a foretaste of worse to come. But the suffering believers face under the cross is only good, a way Christ connects us tightly to himself with fire-tested faith.

To God alone be the glory!

Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Welcome to all—both guest and member alike! May our gracious God fill your heart with joy, peace, and hope through the message of forgiveness in our living Savior, Jesus Christ!

- If you are in need of restrooms, they are located on the left as you leave church.
- Parents please use the welcome center or church fellowship hall to quiet an upset child.
- Please silence all cell phones and devices before worship.
- Please limit your conversations in the sanctuary and narthex.
- Please do use the welcome center to greet one another.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP: SETTING ONE

OPENING HYMN: 867 "Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near"

Sunday: Trinity School students will sing verses 1 and 2.

The congregation will join for verses 3 & 4.

Monday: The congregation will sing entire hymn.



Text (sts. 1–4): John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960 Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

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Please stand.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Tune: Kevin Becker. Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712324

THE WORD

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

FIRST LESSON Job 1:13-22 (EHV)

> *Job is given a heavy cross, but it does not crush his faith. Instead, God uses Job's cross to move Job to worship and praise the LORD.*

¹³ One day when Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother, ¹⁴ a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the female donkeys were grazing nearby, 15 when the Sabeans swooped down and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the flocks and the servants and consumed them, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell

you!"

17 While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said," The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said," The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said," The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said," The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said," The Chaldeans formed three raiding the servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding three servant came and said," The Servant came are servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three servant came are servant came and said," The Chaldeans formed three servant came are servant came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three servant came are servant c parties and plundered the camels and took them away. They put the servants to death with the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell vou!"

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another servant came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and were drinking wine in the house of their oldest brother. ¹⁹ Suddenly a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it collapsed on the young people, and they died, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshipped. ²¹ Then he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will return. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. May the name of the LORD be blessed."

²² In all this, Job did not sin or blame God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-11 (EHV)

St. Paul teaches that God works through our suffering to shape our Christian character and to lead us to cling to Christ's gracious promises.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

³ Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴ and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵ And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

⁶ For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸ But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰ For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹ And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mark 8:34

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory. Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

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Please stand.

Jesus teaches of the absolute necessity of the cross, both his and ours.

³¹ Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³² He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."

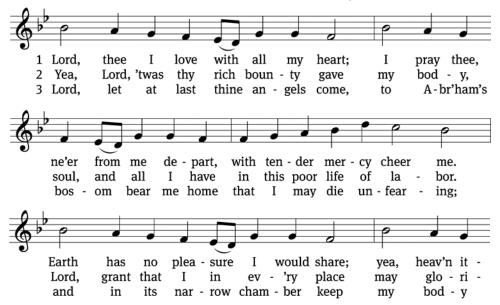
³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷ Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸ In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY: 817 "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"





Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Martin M. Schalling, 1532–1608 Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tablatur, Strassburg, 1577

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON Romans 5:1-11

We Now Stand in Grace

Please stand.

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.

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTERS

Please sign the friendship registers at the ends of the pews during the musical selection.

HYMN: 844 "What God Ordains Is Always Good"



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708, abr.

Tune: Severus Gastorius, 1646-1682

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

PRAYER

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.

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 + give you peace.
Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN: 842 "Jesus Still Lead On"



Text: tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.; Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760, adapt.

Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701 Text and tune: Public domain



Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Organist: Hymnsoft

Choir: Trinity School Children

Last Weekend's Worship Attendance

• 178 (Sunday—143; Monday—35)

Stewardship Encouragement from Scripture

"But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings...Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" (Malachi 3:9-10).

Lessons for Next Sunday (Third Sunday in Lent)

"Rethinking Religion: Rethinking the Worth of Worship"

- Exodus 20:1-17
- Psalm 19C
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
- John 2:13-22

Prayers: If you would like your name on the prayer list, or you have a friend you would like to add, please call or e-mail the church office.

Offerings: You may leave your offering in the basket as you walk out today. You may continue to mail in your offering, give online at www.trinityminocqua.org, or on the Vanco Mobile app. On the app, search for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran or search for Minocqua.

Flowers: The flowers this weekend are given by Paul & Sara Geiszler.

Meditations: Copies of the newest edition of *Meditations* are available on the table in the fellowship hall and in the rack in the welcome center. This copy begins March 3 and goes through June 1. Each booklet is \$3.00.

Fellowship Friends: Have you ever met a hawk face to face? Meet one of Wisconsin's common, but rarely encountered raptors by attending a presentation by the Northwoods Wildlife Center on Tuesday, February 27 from 1:00-3:00 pm in the fellowship hall. A Wildlife Educator and a Wildlife Rehabilitator will discuss what to do if you find injured wildlife, the rescue and rehabilitation of countless species, and their programs to educate the public. Cash and in-kind donations previously announced and a snack to share are encouraged. Everyone is welcome to attend! Hoping to see you there!!

Flower Chart: There are still dates available for 2024. If you would like to sponsor a bouquet during the year, please sign up in the flower chart binder to the right of the window in the Welcome Center. Bouquets are \$30.

Trinity Seedlings: Trinity Seedlings is a program for children ages 1-3 to come and learn about Jesus. We meet in the school library on the first Friday of the month during the school year. We invite any family who has a 1-3 year old to join us. Invite a friend! Our next meeting will be this Friday, March 1 from 8:30-9:30 am. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Ziebart.

Easter for Kids Volunteers Needed: On Saturday, March 23 from 9:00-11:45 am, Trinity Lutheran Church will be hosting an Easter for Kids VBS for children ages 3-10. To ensure its success, many volunteers will be needed in the following areas: Teachers/Group Leaders (3), Craft Coordinator, Snack Coordinator, Game Coordinator, and Music Coordinator. If you have the gifts to serve in this way, please contact Jake or Kristen Smith, Pastor Luchterhand, or the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve, and God's richest blessings to you all!

Book Club: Trinity Book Club will have their next meeting Tuesday, March 19, from 12:00-1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We'll be discussing the book, "Warrior Monk" by Ray Keating. This novel features a former CIA operative turned Lutheran minister.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society: We encourage you to check out the table in the fellowship hall that has information on the upcoming LWMS Convention being held in Sioux Falls, SD at the end of June. Registration information is available.

Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars: If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, don't forget to direct your Choice Dollars! Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice program can benefit our church and school. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2024 to direct any remaining 2023 funds. Help Trinity and don't let those dollars expire. To direct your Choice Dollars, go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or you can call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

| Opportunities to Grow & Serve at Trinity This Week | | |
|--|--------------|--|
| Sunday | 9:00 am | Worship |
| · | 10:30 am | Bible Class & Sunday School |
| Monday | 6:30 pm | Worship |
| Tuesday | 1:00-3:00 pm | Fellowship Friends |
| Wednesday | 8:15 am | Midweek Chapel |
| | 9:30 am | Quilters |
| | 4:00 pm | Lent Worship |
| | 5:00-6:00 pm | Public School Confirmation & Bible History |
| Friday | 8:30-9:30 pm | Trinity Seedlings |
| Sunday | 9:00 am | Worship w/Holy Communion |
| | 10:30 am | Bible Class & Sunday School |
| Monday | 6:30 pm | Worship w/Holy Communion |

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Mid-week Lenten services continue on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Series theme: "God on Trial."

- February 28 = Luke 22:47-53 "Restraint"
- March 6 = Luke 23:26-34 "Sympathy"
- March 13 = Luke 23:1-12 "Misconceptions"
- March 20 = Matthew 26:57-75 "Testimony"

Lenten season Sunday worship continues to explore the theme, "Rethinking Religion."

- March 3/4 = **Rethinking Religion: Rethinking the Worth of Worship** Sermon Text: John 2:13-22 Sermon Theme: "Zeal Revealed"
- March 10/11 = **Rethinking Religion: Rethinking the Solution to Sin**Sermon Text: Numbers 21:4-9 "The Utter Foolishness Of Faith: Look Up And Live!"
- March 17/18 = **Rethinking Religion: Rethinking Devoted Commitment** Sermon Text: Hebrews 5:7-9 "Saving Us Cost Christ Everything!"

Bible study opportunities:

- Wednesday "Lunch Break" Bible study (Wed., 12-15 1:15 p.m.) On break until after Easter.
- Pastor's "Wednesday Encouragement" blog, continues to be found on Trinity's Facebook page and on our church website. You can also have this devotion sent to your email each Wednesday.
- Sunday Bible Study (and Sunday School) Sunday School is for children PreK3 through 4th grade. Adult Bible Study is working through the book of Exodus under the theme, "Deliver Us!"

Ministry Updates...

- Fellowship Friends Gathering will take place on Tuesday, February 27th at 1-3 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We'll enjoy a presentation by a Wildlife Educator from The Northwoods Wildlife Center, a non-profit wildlife hospital in Minocqua.
- Easter for Kids, Saturday, March 23 (9-11:30 a.m.) for children ages 3-10. Interested in serving? Please speak with Jake or Kristen Smith or Pastor Luchterhand.

Let's talk about Easter! It's just five weeks away – on March 31st. Whom will you invite? Seriously. Who needs to hear the message of a risen Savior who gives us life now and forever as a gift?!

- **Easter Dawn** (6:30 a.m.) = Sermon Text: Isaiah 25:6-9 Sermon Theme: "He Wipes Away Tears"
- Easter Festival w/ Holy Communion (9:00 a.m.) = Sermon Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Sermon Theme: "The King Still Has One More Move"

God keep you and yours in his gracious care,

Pastor Stephen Luchterhand

Hele W Little

"We Now Stand in Grace" Sermon Notes on Romans 5:1-11

Series: Rethinking Religion

Circumstances...

| God's | S Plan of Salvation | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| • | Timing: | _ we were | | |
| • | Grace: | | | |
| • | Forgiveness become | mes personal by | | |
| • | Done! Amen?? | | | |
| There | e's more to God's | Plan | | |
| • | We | _ in our sufferings | | |
| | 1) We | _!! | | |
| | 2) Suffering produces, | | | |
| | | painful situations help us u change the script? | | |
| | | at work producing the circumstances I even in bad circumstances to produce the me he | | |
| A con | versation about cir | cumstances | | |
| \Rightarrow | How are you? | ,the circumstances | | |
| \Rightarrow | What are you doing, the circumstances | | | |
| \Rightarrow | Live under | | | |



REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE TABLE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Join us for Worship during Lent



WEDNESDAYS at 4:00 pm

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Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

www.wels.net

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Rev. Glenn Schwanke Cell: (906) 869-6101

Email: yooperrev@gmail.com

Worship Schedule Sundays at 9:00 am Mondays at 6:30 pm



Welcome to Trinity

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. If you have any questions during your time with us today, please ask an usher for assistance. If you would like to know more about our church, our teachings, our Christian school (grades K-8), our preschool (3-4 year old) or the studies and programs offered at Trinity, please introduce yourself to our pastor. He would be delighted to speak with you and serve you in whatever way he can.

"Our mission at Trinity Lutheran Church is to teach the Word of God, to train believers for lives of Christian service, and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the Northwoods community and to the world."

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