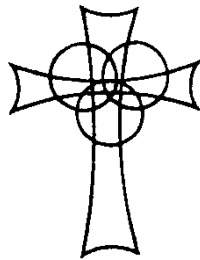
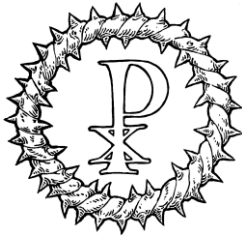


Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor
Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org



A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod





Lenten Midweek Vespers 2026
Returning to the Waters

The Fifth Wednesday of Lent
March 18, 2026



**The Office of Evening Prayer
in the Season of Lent**

Lutheran Service Book Page 243ff

✠ *Jesus, Mercy!* ✠

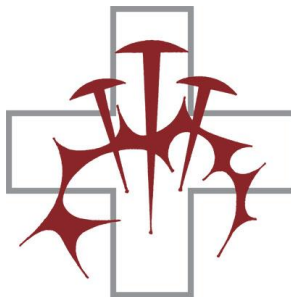


A Silent Prayer as we gather for worship:

Open, Lord, my mouth to bless Your holy Name; cleanse my heart of any worthless, evil, or distracting thoughts; enlighten my understanding; give me wisdom and love necessary to pray with attention, reverence, and devotion. Father, let my prayer be heard in Your presence, for it is offered through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Welcome

The Congregation rises.



✠ The Service of Light ✠

A large candle in the midst of the chancel is lighted.

The Opening Versicles:

- P** Now is the time of God’s favor;
C **now is the day of salvation.**
- P** Turn us again, O God of our salvation,
C **that the light of Your face may shine on us.**
- P** May Your justice shine like the sun;
C **and may the poor be lifted up.**

The altar candles are lighted as the hymn is sung.

The Hymn of Light – *O Lux Beata Trinitas* *Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 890*
 “O Blessed Light, O Trinity”

1 O bless - ed Light, O Trin - i - ty, O ev - er -
 2 To You our morn - ing song of praise, To You our
 Δ 3 All glo - ry be to God a - bove And to the

last - ing U - ni - ty: As now the fi - ery
 eve - ning prayer we raise; We praise Your light in
 Son, the Prince of love, And to the Spir - it,

sun de - parts, Send forth Your light in - to our hearts.
 ev - 'ry age, The glo - ry of our pil - grim - age.
 One in Three! We praise You, bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; (st. 1): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 2–3): tr. Gracia Grindal, 1943

Tune: O HEILIGE DREIFALTIGKEIT, Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text (st. 1): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 2–3): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002353

Tune: Public domain

The Thanksgiving for Light:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are You, Lord God of our salvation, to You be glory and praise forever. In the darkness of our sin You have shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to acknowledge Your presence, that freed from the misery of our sin and shame we may grow into Your likeness from glory to glory through Christ, our Lord; through Him be glory, honor, and power to You in the Holy Spirit now and always and forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

The Congregation is seated.

✠ The Psalmody ✠

Incense may be prepared to be burned.

The Evening Psalm

Psalm 141:1-4, 8; antiphon: verse 2

C **Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to You.

C **Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

C **Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

P But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Silence is kept for a time of meditation on the Word

L Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 78:1-8, 11-25; antiphon: verse 16

P ^{Ant}He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

¹Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

C ²**I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

P ³things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.

C ⁴**We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.**

P ⁵He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers
to teach to their children,

C ⁶**that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,**

P ⁷so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

C ⁸**and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.**

- P** ¹¹They forgot his works
and the wonders that he had shown them.
- C** ¹²**In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.**
- P** ¹³He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap.
- C** ¹⁴**In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
and all the night with a fiery light.**
- P** ¹⁵He split rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.
- C** ¹⁶**He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**
- P** ¹⁷Yet they sinned still more against him,
rebellng against the Most High in the desert.
- C** ¹⁸**They tested God in their heart
by demanding the food they craved.**
- P** ¹⁹They spoke against God, saying,
“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”
- C** ²⁰**He struck the rock so that water gushed out
and streams overflowed.
Can he also give bread
or provide meat for his people?”**
- P** ²¹Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath;
a fire was kindled against Jacob;
his anger rose against Israel,
- C** ²²**because they did not believe in God
and did not trust his saving power.**
- P** ²³Yet he commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,
- C** ²⁴**and he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.**

P ²⁵Man ate of the bread of the angels;
he sent them food in abundance.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P *Ant* He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Silence is kept for a time of meditation on the Word

P Let us pray.
Shepherd of Your people, strengthen us on our journey, we pray. Forgive our frequent
rebellng, guide us through the wilderness, and feed us with the bread of angels, that we
may proclaim the mystery of faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

C **Amen.**

The Office Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 423

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.

Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE, Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel

Text and tune: Public domain

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

The First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

P A reading from Exodus, chapter 17.

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

P A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 10.

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Third Reading

John 7:37-39

P A reading from John, chapter 7.

³⁷On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. ³⁸Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

The Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 761

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands Can ful - fill Thy Law's de-mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; Sim - ply to Thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, When mine eye - lids close in death,



Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
 Could my zeal no res - pite know, Could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to Thee for dress; Help - less, look to Thee for grace;
 When I soar to worlds un - known, See Thee on Thy judg - ment throne,



Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 All for sin could not a - tone; Thou must save, and Thou a - lone.
 Foul, I to the foun - tain fly; Wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–78

Tune: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Returning to the Waters

Providing Waters

Text: Exodus 17:1-7

✠ The Canticle ✠

The Congregation rises.

The Canticle at Vespers: *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46b-55; antiphon: Isaiah 55:7, alt.

P Come, let us return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on us,

C and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
C **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
- P** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
C **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**
- P** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
- P** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
C **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**
- P** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Come, let us return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on us,
C **and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.**

✠ The Prayers ✠

The Litany:

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** 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:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Matthew and William, our shepherds and bishops in Christ; for Peter and Gugssa and all pastors in Christ; for all servants of the Church; and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our President and Congress; for all public servants, and for those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For ... *additional bids for prayer may be inserted here* ... let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Thanks be to God.**

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

Silence for individual prayer is kept for a time.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

The Collects:

The Collect for the Fourth Week in Lent:

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Collect for the Lenten Season:

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The Collect of Intercession:

P Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and be present with all, for Your love's sake.

C Amen.

The Collect for Peace:

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



The Lord's Prayer:

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

The *Benedicamus* and Blessing:

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**



The Hymn to Depart

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 883

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
 2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
 3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
 4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
 I this day have done, That with the world, my -
 lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
 sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
 self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
 so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
 vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
 My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
 Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
 No pow'rs of darkness me molest.

△ 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Tune: Thomas Tallis, c. 1505–1585

Text and tune: Public domain

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements



**Lord's Day Worship
during the Lenten Season
at Trinity
2026**



*Sunday Mornings at 9:30 AM
Services can be attended either In-Person at Trinity
or by Livestream on the church's Facebook Page*

Sundays are the Christians' weekly observance of Easter, and so they are always celebrations of the Resurrection. This is why we refer to the Sundays during Lent as being "in" Lent; a time for a glimpse of Easter's joy even in the midst of this penitential season. Especially this year, the Sunday Gospel readings point us to the waters of Baptism, helping us as the people of God to remember the call to life given in Baptism which has made us His own forever.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2026
Divine Service of Word and Sacrament
Dead, Alive, and Alive Forevermore – John 11:1-53





The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026 – 9:30 AM

The Liturgy of Palm Sunday with the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, Solemn Reading of the Passion according to Saint Matthew, and the celebration of Holy Communion

A Strange Baptism – Luke 12:49-50

Holy (Maundy) Thursday
April 2, 2026 – 7:00 PM

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday with Confession and Absolution, the celebration of Holy Communion on the anniversary of its institution, and the Solemn Preparation of the Church for Good Friday

Blood Marked – Hebrews 9:11-22

Good Friday
April 3, 2026 – 7:00 PM

The Liturgy of Good Friday with the Adoration of the Cross, the Solemn Reading of the Passion according to Saint John, and the Solemn Prayers for the Church and the World

Water as Thick as Blood – John 19:31-37

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day
April 5, 2026 – 9:30 AM

The Festival Divine Service with Hymns, Special Music, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the celebration of Holy Communion

Risen with Christ – Colossians 3:1-4



***Celebrating the Gift of Ninety-Five Years of
God's Love and Grace!***

***...as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen!***

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Sunday Mornings:
Worship with Holy Communion – 9:30 AM

Midweeks in Lent:
Lenten Worship
Wednesday Evenings – 7:00 PM

*Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook Live
For more information, please visit the church website.*

Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340
Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org
The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor



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