



*Luther League, late 1970s*

**March 10th, 2024**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
10 A.M. WORSHIP**



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Lifting Up, Reaching Out**

## **WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY!**

*We are so glad you are joining in our worship. Whether this is your first time or you are a regular participant, we are happy to welcome you today.*

### **Cosmos Sunday**

#### **In, With and Under the Cosmos (Prov. 8. 22-27)**

The cosmos is impossible for us to even imagine; it is so vast in the domains around us and so minute in the domains within us. The cosmos beggars the imagination and the mind.

The theory of Intelligent Design argues that from inexplicable dimensions in the design of the cosmos we can argue for the existence of God as the only possible explanation for such realities. The text of Proverbs suggests just the opposite.

We cannot prove God's existence by intellectual reasoning.

But knowing that God is in, with and under the cosmos we can discover the very clues to the wisdom God employed in the creation of the cosmos. In fact, they are more than clues; they are codes, the very impulses in the design of every component of creation that can excite us as they excite God. And those codes are wisdom working at the core of everything, revealing the God in, with and under everything.

We are invited to be among the wise who discern and delight in these inner mysteries. They do not prove God's existence; they celebrate God's continuing creative hand.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT**

*Please stand as you are able*

P Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,  
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

C **Lent calls us to journey:  
to the place where God covenants with us,  
to receive the new names we are given.**

P Lent calls us to worship together,  
to tell future generations the good news.

C **Lent calls us to practice justice,  
to bring God's hope to all people.**

P Lent calls us to faithful living,  
to trust the One who gives us life.

C **Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,  
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

P Lent calls us to journey with God.

C **Let us worship God, who walks with us,  
this and every day.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

C **Amen.**

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy God,  
C **we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others.  
We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

C **Amen.**

P Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✙ Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*.....ELW 324

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872  
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

## GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Proverbs 8:22-31

<sup>22</sup>The LORD created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of long ago.

<sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

<sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped,  
before the hills, I was brought forth —

<sup>26</sup>when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
or the world's first bits of soil.

<sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,

<sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,

<sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

<sup>30</sup>then I was beside him, like a master worker;

and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup>rejoicing in his inhabited world  
and delighting in the human race.

A Word of God, word of life.  
C **Thanks be to God**

### ANTHEM

*Bridge Over Troubled Water* (released 1970).....Words and Music by Paul Simon  
arr. by Audrey Snyder  
Christus Choir

### SECOND READING: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!  
<sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!  
<sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!  
<sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for he commanded and they were created.  
<sup>6</sup>He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.  
<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,  
<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!  
<sup>9</sup>Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!  
<sup>10</sup>Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!  
<sup>11</sup>Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers of the earth!  
<sup>12</sup>Young men and women alike,  
 old and young together!  
<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 for his name alone is exalted;  
 his glory is above earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup>He has raised up a horn for his people,  
 praise for all his faithful,  
 for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
 Praise the LORD!

A Word of God, word of life.  
 C **Thanks be to God**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE HYMN.....Walk With Me

Walk with me, I will walk with you and build the land that

*Fine*  
 God has planned where love shines through. We come to lis - ten and to learn what

*D.C. al Fine*  
 God wants us to do. To share our love and share our gifts, to be di-sci-ples true.

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE.....Pastor Mike Gutzler



*Please stand as you are able*

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

**GOSPEL READING: John 6:41-51**

- P The Holy Gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the

bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON.....Pastor Mike Gutzler

MESSAGE HYMN

*I Am the Bread of Life*.....ELW 485  
(Verses 1, 2, and 4)

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
 3 "Un - less . . . . . you . . . . . eat of the  
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . . .  
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . . . I be - lieve that . . . .

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -  
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . . . and if you  
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . . . and . . . .  
 I . . . . . am the life. . . . . If you be -  
 you . . . . . are the Christ, . . . . . the . . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
 eat . . . . . of this bread, and you shall . . live for -  
 drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
 lieve . . . . . in . . . . . me, e - ven . . . though you  
 Son . . . . . of . . . . . God, who . . . . . have . . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
 ev - er, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
 die, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
 come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .

*Refrain*  
 All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6  
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM  
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## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war (*areas in crisis may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers (*local water sources may be named*). Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love (*especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today*). Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Watch over our military and members of agencies serving to keep us safe and free. Bless, strengthen, and defend them with your heavenly grace, give them courage in the face of peril, and grant them a sense of your abiding love and presence wherever they may be throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A Watch over all your children, Lord, including any who have not felt welcomed by the members of your church. Help us to truly be a Reconciling in Christ congregation: a welcoming and safe community for all. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

## PEACE

P May the peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated. Please also sign the red Friendship Register and pass it to the next person in your pew.*

## OFFERING HYMN

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*.....W&P 35

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Create in Me a Clean Heart". It is written in 4/4 time and features a treble and bass clef. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve". Above the treble clef, there are chord markings: F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Bb, and Gm. The bass line consists of a simple accompaniment of quarter and eighth notes.

C<sup>7</sup> sus C<sup>7</sup> F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C  
 you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that

Gm F/A F/B♭ C F Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup>  
 I might be re - newed. So fill me and

Am<sup>7</sup> Dm<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> Gm/D C<sup>7</sup> sus C<sup>7</sup>  
 heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre -

F C/E C/D Dm Dm/C Gm F/A F/B♭ C F  
 ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

Your offering can be received in many ways. You may use the offering plate in the Sanctuary, sign-up for online giving at [www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/giving](http://www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/giving), mail your offering to the church, or drop your offering in the mail slot by the office door.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Please stand as you are able*

A Let us pray.  
Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name

C **Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.  
You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.



Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.  
Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**C** **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come, for all things are now ready.  
Come to the table with all your kin  
and share with all in need —  
the gift of healing for those in pain,  
the gift of forgiveness for those in sin,  
the gift of assurance for those in doubt,  
and the gift of hope for those in tears.

C **May we who share these gifts,  
share Christ with one another  
and with all our kin. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD.....ELW S191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

C **Amen.**

P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* (1977).....ELW 484

*Refrain*

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

*Refrain*

so when you call your fam - `ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.  
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav`n - ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreuz, 1922–1996

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## COMMUNION HYMN

*Lord, Be Glorified* (1979).....ELW 744

1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand as you are able*

P Let us pray.  
Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

## BLESSING

P Beloved,  
we are God's own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*.....ELW 759

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

(Continued on next page)

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
 trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Share your bread.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Picardy Variations*.....G. Bloy

### PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Presiding/Preaching Minister	Pastor Mike Gutzler
Tech Team	Ben French and Jeff Taylor
Musicians	Josh Brown, Director of Music & Cantor Greg Bloy, Organ Christus Choir

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Piscataway, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER** - Prayers for strength and comfort for Anne Anderson and family on the passing of her husband, Joe.

Prayers for strength and comfort for Bill, Deb and Sam Haynes on the passing of Bill's father.

Prayers of healing for Lynn Tedesco, recovering from surgery and for Katie Blomquist's mother.

Prayers for strength and comfort for Jean Strandlie and family; Julie Strandlie, Jerry, Carolyn and Nicholas Lemens on the passing of Jean's brother, Clair Thompson in WI., and also for Joanna Forbes and her family during this time after the passing of her father.

Prayers of healing and strength for Kathy Chelsen. (Kathy would appreciate phone calls from HT members. Please contact the HT office for details.).

Prayers also for Joel and Donna Cook (health concerns); Anne Simmons' husband, Rich (liver transplant); and Rita Juhasz (ongoing health concerns).

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**Holy Trinity**  
Lutheran Church

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*Luther League Choir with Dr. Shirley Echard  
Late 1970s*



*Luther League Choir, mid 1970s*