



Lutheran Church & Christian School



## **Lenten Midweek VI**

March 20, 2024

***Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!***

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## Mission Statement

[Who We Are]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School strive to:

**HUMBLY AND KNOWINGLY FOLLOW JESUS,  
SEEKING JOY THROUGH HIM IN WORSHIP,  
TEACHING, AND PRAYER.**



## Vision Statement

[Who We Endeavor to Be]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School endeavor to:

**LIVE [up] BY FAITH, BE KNOWN [out] BY  
CHRIST'S LOVE, and REJOICE [in] HIS  
FORGIVENESS.**

*"Redeemed and restored, we are rejoicing in Jesus!"*

## AS WE GATHER

By way of God's grace and the Holy Spirit, the Lord equipped His people for a vibrant life with Him and lived out in the world. One of the ways He did this was through various spiritual practices, or disciplines. Each drawn from God's Word, these faith strengthening practices, governed by the movement of the Holy Spirit, accompanied the 1st Century Christians, propelling them into a life of witness and service.

Tonight's worship centers on the spiritual practice of service, a way of offering resources, time, treasure, influence and expertise for the care, protection, just treatment and nurture of others. In God's economy of grace, an act of service is the living out of the second greatest commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." For the Christian, it is an outflow of thanksgiving for the cross-shaped service our Lord and Savior has rendered to us. Welcome to this evening's service: Jesus' to us, and ours to others in His name.

## PRELUDE

**HOW GREAT THOU ART** *(Traditional; sung by Stacy Corban)*

## INTRODUCTION

## OPENING PRAYER

*Father in heaven, we stand in awe of your unfathomable extravagance of generosity through your Son Jesus, who bought our salvation. Thank you for uncountable gifts of grace, talents and treasures. We pray for receptive, generous hearts as you invite us to share what you so lavishly loan us for the furthering of your kingdom. And for this we give thanks in your Holy Name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

Pastor: Now is the time of God's favor;

**Congregation: now is the day of salvation.**

Pastor: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

**Congregation: that the light of Your face may shine on us.**

Pastor: May Your justice shine like the sun;

**Congregation: and may the poor be lifted up.**

*For this and all subsequent hymns, please see PowerPoint slides or the hymnal.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

**VARIOUS READINGS ON SERVICE**

**\*Isaiah 58:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> "Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of wickedness,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover him,  
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

<sup>8</sup> Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up speedily;  
your righteousness shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

**\*Acts 9:36-42**

<sup>36</sup> Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. ***She was full of good works and acts of charity.*** <sup>37</sup> In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. <sup>38</sup> Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay."

<sup>39</sup> ***So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.*** <sup>40</sup> But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. <sup>42</sup> And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> ***and there are varieties of service but the same Lord.*** <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> ***To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***

Ephesians 4:11-12

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, ***for building up the body of Christ,***

Ephesians 6:5-8

<sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> ***rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,*** <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

1 Timothy 2: 8-10

<sup>8</sup> I desire then that in every place the ***men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrel;*** <sup>9</sup> likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, <sup>10</sup> but with what is proper for women who profess ***godliness--with good works.***

## Titus 3:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, ***to be ready for every good work***, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> ***The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.***

## Matthew 5:13-16

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. <sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so ***that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.***

## Matthew 12:35

The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

## \*Luke 12:35-37

<sup>35</sup> "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, ***I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.***

**MEDITATION**

**Notes:**

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

Do you like to serve or be served?

When is it most important to serve: When you have plenty, or when you are in want? Why?

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICES:**

Every morning for the next two weeks ask your spouse, relative or colleague, “What can I do for you today?” Then, do it. Talk to God about what this is like for you. What do you see about yourself as you serve in this fashion?

Volunteer to serve in an invisible type of service at Trinity. Perhaps with the altar guild or the screen/slide team, or maybe the Sunday coffee setup/clean-up team. What is it like for you to work behind the scenes? Did you enjoy giving yourself to that invisible role that so many are counting on?

Volunteer to serve in a very visible act of service at Trinity. Perhaps as a lector, or a greeter. How does that form of service fit your talents and gifts?

Ask a good friend or loved one to give you their take on what your serving strengths are. Plan a way of using one of those strengths to benefit others in the coming week or month.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we mark the forty days of Lent with repentance and forgiveness, let us pray for the renewal of the Church and the restoration of the world to the life of God in Christ.

*Silence for time of personal reflection.*

*Various petitions and praises may be offered.*

Pastor: Gracious Father, please hear the prayers that flow from our lips, and sustain us with the forgiveness won by Jesus' death and resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

*Sharing of God's peace.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Please see PowerPoint or back of hymnal.*

## BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold to what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering. Honor all people. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be and abide with us all.

**Congregation: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** "Christ, the Life of All the Living"

*LSB 420, St. 6-7*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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