



**For once you were darkness,  
but now in the Lord you are light.  
LIVE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT.**

**Ephesians 5:8, NRSV**



Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

We gather to worship the only God and Savior: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **Lent opposites: dark and light**

**March 15, 2026**

Lent 4

The church season of Lent presents us with opposites that affect our entire existence.

Dark and light are opposites. Sinners doing the deeds of darkness can try to hide in the shadows, but the spotlight of God's truth exposes everything done in the dark. Christ came to shine on sinners with God's grace and forgiveness. The light of his love shows us a new kind of life to live.

Today's 8:00 a.m. worship is broadcast live on YouTube. The YouTube link can be found at the church's website:

- [holytrinity.church](http://holytrinity.church)

After the service, the recording can be accessed at the same YouTube site.

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*Remain seated.*

P: Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

**C: And also to you.**

#### **RESPONSIVE VERSES FOR LENT**

P: In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.

**C: Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope that you have.**

P: Though we do not see Jesus now, we believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy;

**C: we are receiving the goal of faith, the salvation of souls.**

P: We know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that we were redeemed,

**C: but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.**

P: Christ died for sins once for all,

**C: the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.**

P: He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,

**C: that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.**

P: Humble yourselves under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

**C: Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.**

P: The God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory in Christ, will restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast.

**C: To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

God of all grace, you raised Christ from the dead and glorified him. Our faith and hope are in you. Help us, as strangers in this world, to stay away from sinful desires and to be holy as you are holy. Inspire us to love each other deeply. Provide us the strength to use whatever gifts you give us to serve others, so that in all things you may be praised through Jesus Christ.

**C: To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn 713 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of Right - eous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the

Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORD

### First Lesson — Isaiah 42:14-21

“I have kept silent from ages past;  
I have been quiet and restrained myself.  
But now, I will groan like a woman in labor,  
gasping breathlessly.  
I will lay waste mountains and hills  
and dry up all their vegetation.  
I will turn rivers into islands and dry up marshes.  
I will lead the blind by a way they did not know;  
I will guide them on paths they have not known.  
I will turn darkness to light in front of them  
and rough places into level ground.  
This is what I will do for them,  
and I will not abandon them.  
They will be turned back and utterly ashamed —  
those who trust in an idol and say to a cast image,  
‘You are our gods!’

“Listen, you deaf!  
Look, you blind, so that you may see.  
Who is blind but my servant,  
or deaf like my messenger I am sending?  
Who is blind like my dedicated one,  
or blind like the servant of the LORD?  
Though seeing many things, you pay no attention.  
Though his ears are open, he does not listen.”  
Because of his righteousness, the LORD was pleased  
to magnify his instruction and make it glorious.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 27*

*Refrain*



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of



whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

*Tone*



**Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;**

**be merciful to me and / answer me.**

**Do not hide your / face from me,**

**do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.**

**Do not reject me or for- / sake me,**

**God my / Savior. Refrain**

**Though my father and mother for- / sake me,**

**the LORD will re- / ceive me.**

**I remain confi- / dent of this:**

**I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.**

**Wait / for the LORD;**

**be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.**

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

**Second Lesson— Ephesians 5:8-14**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light — for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth — testing what is pleasing to the Lord. Don't participate in the fruitless works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is

shameful even to mention what is done by them in secret. Everything exposed by the light is made visible, for what makes everything visible is light. Therefore it is said:

Get up, sleeper, and rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Refrain*



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.



Glo - ry and praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

*Tone*



Let us fix our eyes on Je - sus, the pioneer and perfect - er of faith.

*Refrain*

### Gospel—John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him. We must do the works of him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

After he said these things he spit on the ground, made some mud from the saliva, and spread the mud on his eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). So he left, washed, and came back seeing.

They brought the man who used to be blind to the Pharisees. The day that Jesus

made the mud and opened his eyes was a Sabbath. Then the Pharisees asked him again how he received his sight.

“He put mud on my eyes,” he told them. “I washed and I can see.”

Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath.” But others were saying, “How can a sinful man perform such signs?” And there was a division among them.

Again they asked the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

“He’s a prophet,” he said.

“You were born entirely in sin,” they replied, “and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown the man out, and when he found him, he asked, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

“Who is he, Sir, that I may believe in him?” he asked.

Jesus answered, “You have seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

“I believe, Lord!” he said, and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, in order that those who do not see will see and those who do see will become blind.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated.*

Hymn 423    *The Power of the Cross*



1 Oh, to see the dawn of the dark - est day: Christ on the  
2 Oh, to see the pain writ - ten on your face, bear - ing the  
3 Now the day - light flees; now the ground be - neath quakes as its



road to Cal - va - ry. Tried by sin - ful men,  
awe - some weight of sin. Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought,  
mak - er bows his head. Cur - tain torn in two,



torn and beat - en, then nailed to a cross of wood.  
 ev - 'ry e - vil deed crown - ing your blood - stained brow.  
 dead are raised to life; "Fin-ished!" the vic - t'ry cry.



*Refrain*

1-3 This the pow'r of the cross: Christ be-



came sin for us. Took the blame,



bore the wrath; we stand for - giv - en at the cross.

4 Oh, to see my name  
 written in the wounds,  
 for through your suff'ring I am free.  
 Death is crushed to death;  
 life is mine to live,  
 won through your selfless love! (*Final Refrain*)

*Final Refrain*  
 This the pow'r of the cross:  
 Son of God—slain for us.  
 What a love, what a cost!  
 We stand forgiven at the cross.

Sermon—Ephesians 5:8-14  
*Lent opposites: dark and light*

**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.**

### **OFFERING**

*We give in deep appreciation for Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. We give our offerings regularly and generously in proportion to what we have to support the work of telling the gospel through our church and school.*

*You may place your offering in the plates or use Online Giving.*

*The QR code at right will also take you to the giving site.*

*Thank you for your offerings.*



### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Please stand.*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Lord God, you give us every good and perfect gift. As your Holy Spirit brings to completion the good work that you have begun in us, help us treasure whatever is true, noble, and right. Preserve us from everything that would provide an occasion for falling into sin. Teach us to live day by day in humble dependence on your promises, in cheerful obedience to your laws, and in sure and certain hope of the resurrection. Strengthen us inwardly with power through your Spirit so that we may abound in love, humility, patience, and prayer until we receive the crown of eternal life.

O God, you work in us to will and to act according to your good purpose. Strengthen us in soul and body so that we may do what is pleasing to you and beneficial to all people. Compel us by the self-sacrificing love of Christ and empower us by the gifts of your Holy Spirit to be witnesses of your gospel in our words and in our actions. We ask this in the name of your Son, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for all (Matthew 20:28).

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private prayers.

*Silent prayer.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Hymn 689    *Renew Me, O Eternal Light*



1 Re - new me, O e - ter - nal Light, and let my  
2 De - stroy in me the lust of sin, from all im -  
3 Cre - ate in me a new heart, Lord, that glad - ly  
4 Grant that I on - ly you may love and seek those



heart and soul be bright, il - lu - mined with the  
pure - ness make me clean. O grant me pow'r and  
I o - bey your Word. O let your will be  
things which are a - bove till I be - hold you



light of grace that is - sues from your ho - ly face.  
strength, my God, to strive a - gainst my flesh and blood.  
my de - sire and with new life my soul in - spire.  
face to face, O Light e - ter - nal, through your grace.

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

Minister: Pastor Bart Brauer

Accompanist: Eva Brauer

Acknowledgements

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**Sunday Education**

Sunday education for all begins at 9:15 a.m.

### **Bake sale—Today**

We will be having a bake sale today in the fellowship hall. Proceeds will be used for Easter breakfast and kitchen items.

### **Call meeting**

There will be a call meeting on March 22 after second service to call a 4th-grade teacher.

### **Easter breakfast**

To make the Easter breakfast possible we need your help with food donations. See the weekly email or the poster on the bulletin board to see what food we need and to sign up.

### **Choir rehearsal**

We are getting a choir together for upcoming Easter/Holy Week services. A series of rehearsals will immediately follow late church service from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the church sanctuary or a classroom. All Holy Trinity members of any age are welcome!

Rehearsals: Sunday, March 15, March 22, March 29

### **Men's Bible study**

The next men's Bible study will be on Saturday, March 21, at 8:00 a.m.

### **Men's retreat**

The men's retreat will be April 24-26 at a new venue in Gig Harbor. See the poster in the entryway near the restrooms for more information.

### **Moving boxes**

A member who is moving could use some medium and large size boxes for packing. Boxes can be broken down flat and left in the church office or given to Cindy Smith for delivery.

### **ELHS annual auction**

The Evergreen Lutheran High School annual auction will be on April 18 at the campus in Tacoma. Please see the weekly email for more information. You may contact Cindy Smith (253-569-1692) regarding donations.

### **This week at Holy Trinity**

Today ..... 9:00 a.m. Bake sale  
Today ..... 11:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
Wednesday..... 9:30 a.m. Ladies Bible study  
Wednesday..... 5:30 p.m. Lent supper  
Wednesday..... 6:30 p.m. Lent service  
Saturday ..... 8:00 a.m. Men’s Bible study  
Sunday ..... 11:30 a.m. Call meeting  
Sunday ..... 11:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal

### **Holy Week and Easter schedule**

- Maundy Thursday (April 2)—7:00 p.m. with communion
  - Good Friday (April 3)—7:00 p.m.
- Easter dawn service (April 5)—6:30 a.m.
- Easter breakfast—7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
  - Easter day service—9:30 a.m.