

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The order of worship for the First Sunday in Lent follows below with links for music and the sermon within the service.

During Lent look for a YouTube message each midweek on one of the names or titles of Jesus. Questions to consider will be included as well.



Information about upcoming activities and the parish prayer list may be found after the service.

Please see the information after the service related to our **pause of in-person worship**.

I hope Lent will be a time for reflection and growth in the awareness of Christ's presence in your life.

Pastor John

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

5800 Long Beach Blvd.

Brant Beach, NJ 08008

Fifth Sunday in Lent

February 17, 2021

### **Introduction to the Day**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us.**

**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**

**Rebuild what we have ruined**

**and mend what we have torn.**

**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**

**Make us alive in the Spirit**

**to follow in the way of Jesus,**

**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**

**Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails.

The promise rests on grace:

by the saving love of Jesus Christ,

the wisdom and power of God,

your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn** *Change My Heart O God*

"Change My Heart, Oh God," written by Eddie Espinosa in 1982, is a prayer asking God to change us, to make us "true," and to transform us into the Divine image. It was written at a time in Eddie Espinosa's life when he felt complacent and prayed that God would change his heart. Believe it or not, the melody and words began to flood his mind while sitting at a stop sign on his way to work near Disneyland, CA! Espinosa stopped, grabbed a small piece of yellow paper, and began to write as rapidly as he could. The melody took hold, too, and the lyrics were born!

"Change my heart, Oh God!  
Make it ever true!  
Change my heart, oh God!  
May it be like you!"

P.S. Eddie Espinosa still has that yellow piece of paper!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISmG-eJTU>

## **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Word**

**First Reading: Genesis 9: 8-17**

**Psalms 25: 1-10**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-22**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 9-15**

## **Sermon**

<https://youtu.be/OhTdVz4UIRA>

## **Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction (*especially . . . here local environmental concerns may be named*). Empower the work of biologists, conservationists, and science educators. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer including all with Covid 19, those on our parish prayer list and (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

#### **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **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.

### **Sending**

#### **Benediction**

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

**Hymn** *A Tribute to All Nations*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCmdhQLtwag>

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Announcements

**In-person worship is currently paused** – At the January 14, 2021 meeting of the church council, the council made the difficult decision that in-person worship would continue to be paused due to the ongoing high number of COVID 19 cases. Our pause will continue until tentatively the beginning of March. In-person worship will resume when conditions will be more conducive to worship in the sanctuary. Remote services will continue to be sent by email and Facebook in the weeks ahead. The council will keep you updated about when specifically we will resume in-person worship. Be safe and well.

Thank you for your financial generosity to Holy Trinity. You are encouraged to keep your offering envelopes current by mailing them to the church. This assists greatly in the smooth functioning of our mission and ministry.

The study on Women of the Bible\_- meets next on **Tuesday, February 23rd at 10AM** in Zoom format. Contact Kathy Leifeste if interested.

The book study on *Walking With The Wind* by John Lewis will meet for discussion next on **Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10AM** in Zoom format. Contact Marty Chaffee if interested.

We are praying for the following:

Dawne	Bobby	Kelli
Jean	Carol	Deb
John Jr.	Judi	Meredith
Tim	Diane	George
Michelle	Alex S.	Lorraine and Wayne
John	Bruce	Connie
Mary Ellen	Mike and Janet	Katie G.
Dick	Gladys	

