

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 ▪ 9:30 am



Welcome to Trinity Church

We are committed to being a loving and welcoming community centred in the good news of Jesus. We invite you to join us for worship and to take up your place with us on our journey. We'd be glad of your presence and grateful for your company!

+ + +

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

23 Church Street ▪ New Hamburg, Ontario ▪ N3A 1J1

Phone (519) 662-1810 ▪ **E-mail** mail@telc.ca ▪ **Web** www.telc.ca

Holy Communion

Gathering

Prelude	<i>Adagio in G Minor – Tomaso Albinoni</i>
Announcements	
Confession & Forgiveness	page 4
Gathering Song	Dearest Jesus, At Your Word , page 5
Greeting	
Kyrie	page 6
Prayer of the Day	

Word

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Gospel Acclamation	Nothing in All Creation , page 8
Gospel	John 9:1-41, page 8
Sermon	
Hymn of the Day	Amazing Grace , page 11
Welcoming New Members	page 12
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Peace	

Meal

Offertory Music	<i>Be Thou My Vision – arr. Marie Pooler</i>
Offertory Song	Create in Me a Clean Heart , page 16
Offertory Prayer	
Great Thanksgiving	The Lord be with you , page 16 Holy, Holy, Holy , page 17
Thanksgiving Prayer	
Lord's Prayer	page 18
Invitation	<i>All are invited. All are welcome.</i> Thanks be to God.
Communion Distribution	with Laying on of Hands
Communion Songs	Lamb of God , page 18

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Prayer after Communion

Sending

Blessing	
Sending Song	What God Ordains is Good Indeed , page 21
Dismissal	<i>Go in peace. Believe the good news.</i>
	Thanks be to God.
Postlude	Fugue in A Minor – <i>Georg Philipp Telemann</i>

Serving Today

Presiding Minister:	Rev. Tanya Varner
Assisting Minister:	Randy Thomson
Greeters:	Dean & Laurie Clarke
Usher:	Ross Eichler
Altar:	Kathy Eichler
Musicians:	Jamie Courtney, Trinity Choir
Technology:	Lisa Hagen
Fellowship:	Melissa Racho

We acknowledge that we gather for worship on the traditional territories of the Neutral, Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Mississauga peoples.

Confession & Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

we are people who hide from your light.

We keep shameful deeds secret,

but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue.

We see ourselves as blameless,

but pass judgment on others.

We do not stand firmly enough

with those who are vulnerable,

but step back, protecting ourselves.

Forgive us, we pray.

Bring us into your light that we may

see ourselves rightly,

know ourselves loved,

and live more fruitful lives.

Keep raising us, from the deadness of sin,

and shine upon us with your grace.

The psalmist assures us

that God's goodness and mercy will follow us,

even pursue us, all the days of our life.

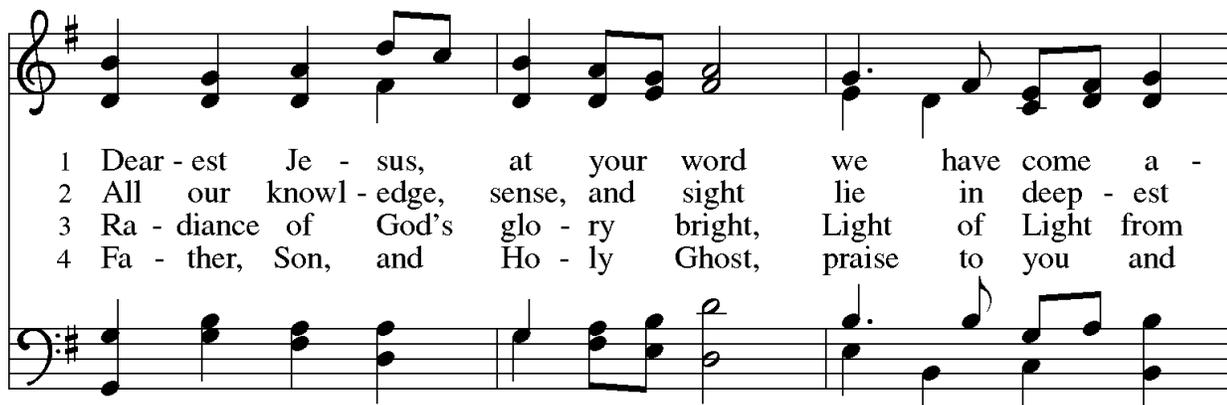
As God's forgiven people,

We receive this goodness and mercy,

and live a new life in the grace of † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

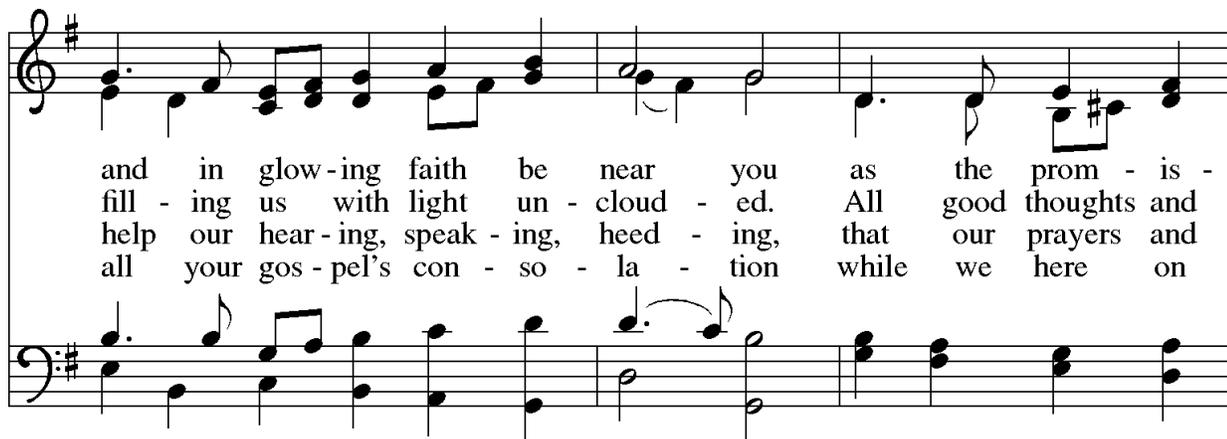
Dearest Jesus, At Your Word



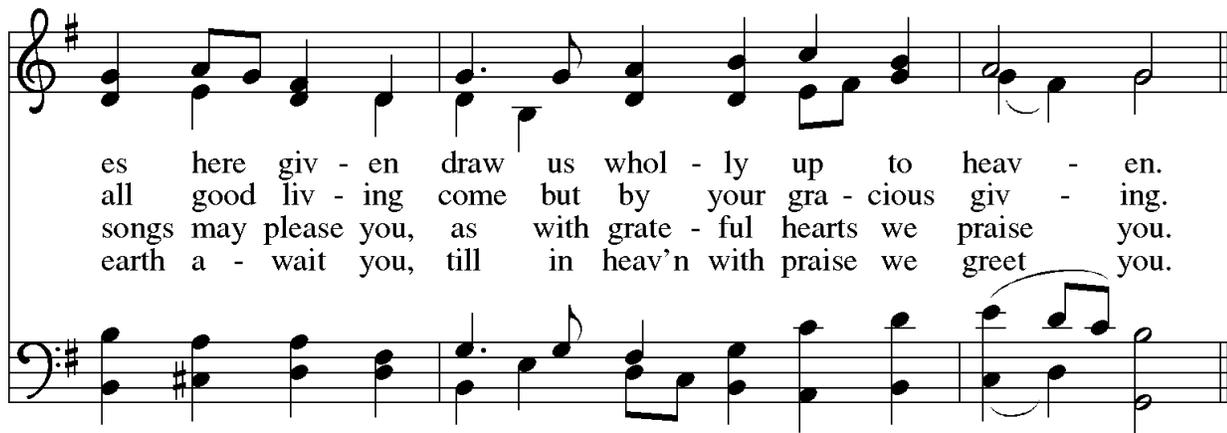
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

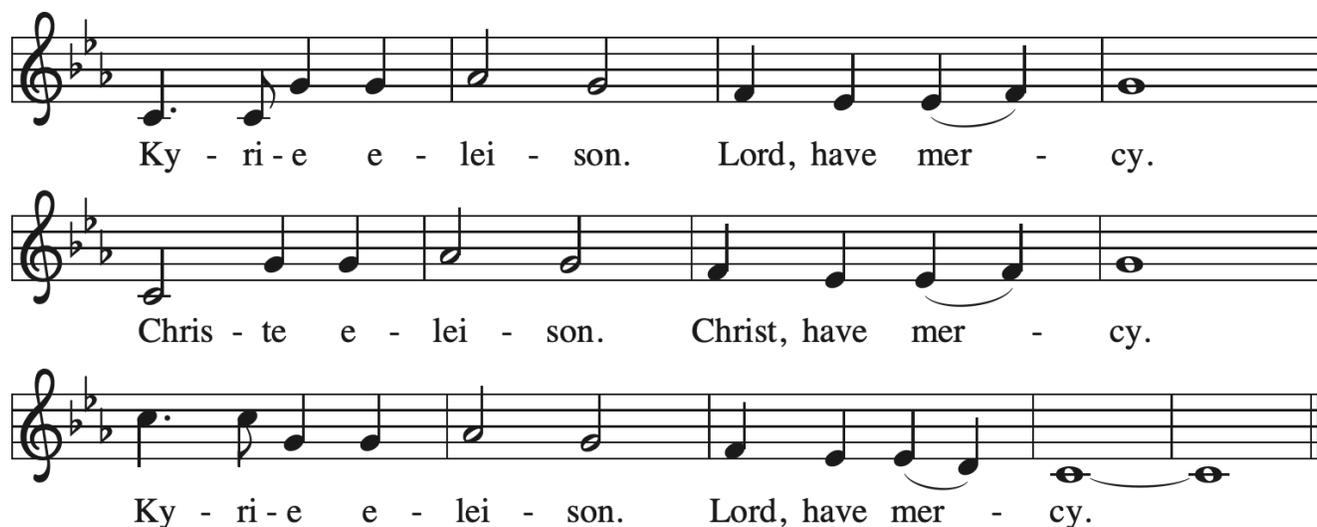


and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD

chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

Psalm Refrain

Psalm 23



Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

Gospel Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.
¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”
¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight
¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”
²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins,

and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Welcoming New Members

Following the hymn of the day, those being welcomed and ministers gather at the font.

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of this congregation.

The assisting minister introduces the new members.

Diane Goring, J.R. Bestvater, and Kim Schmidt have come to our congregation and desire to become members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Hamburg.

APOSTLES' CREED

The presiding minister introduces the Creed.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Siblings in Christ,
do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism
among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond.

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members
in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. The assisting minister addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to this community of faith.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

**Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

The new members and ministers return to their places.

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our and across the in right paths for your name's sake. We pray especially for our siblings in New Hamburg at St. George's Anglican Church and Zion United Church.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, especially in Ukraine, Russia, Gaza, Israel, Sudan, Myanmar, Syria, Cameroon, Thailand, Iran, and the United States. Raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day, especially Stan, Josiah, Mary, Nan, Myles, Amy, Dorothea, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. [a pause]

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we give you thanks for our new members, Dianne, J.R., and Kim whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

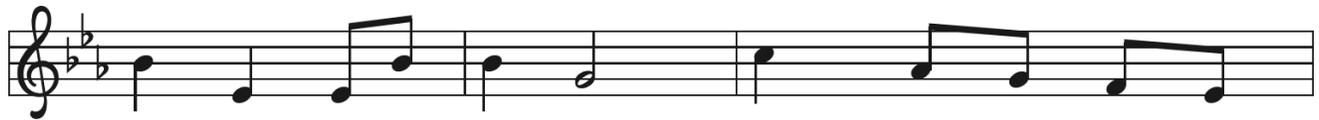
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.
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.

Communion Song

Lamb of God



The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words like 'mer-cy' and 'peace,' split across lines. The first staff ends with a double bar line.

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.

Communion Song

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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.

Communion Song

Lead Guide, Guide Me



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

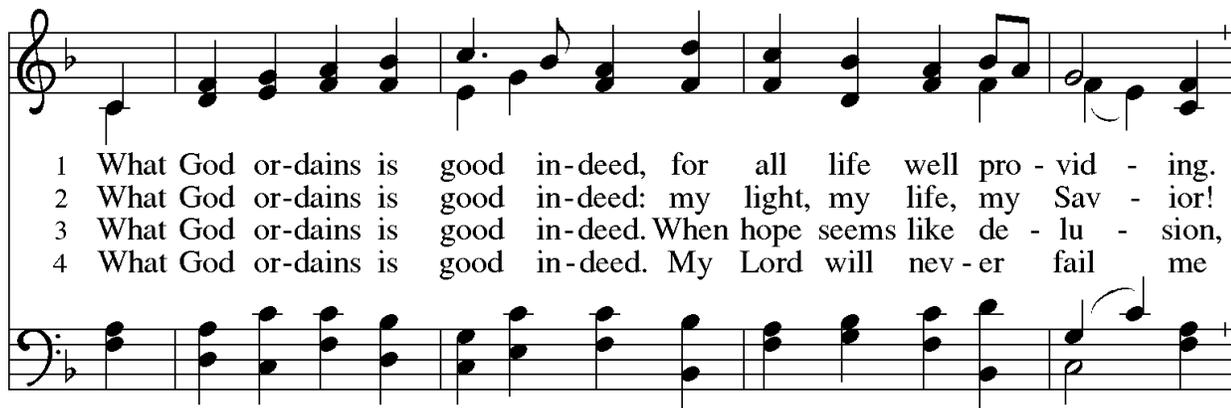


Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

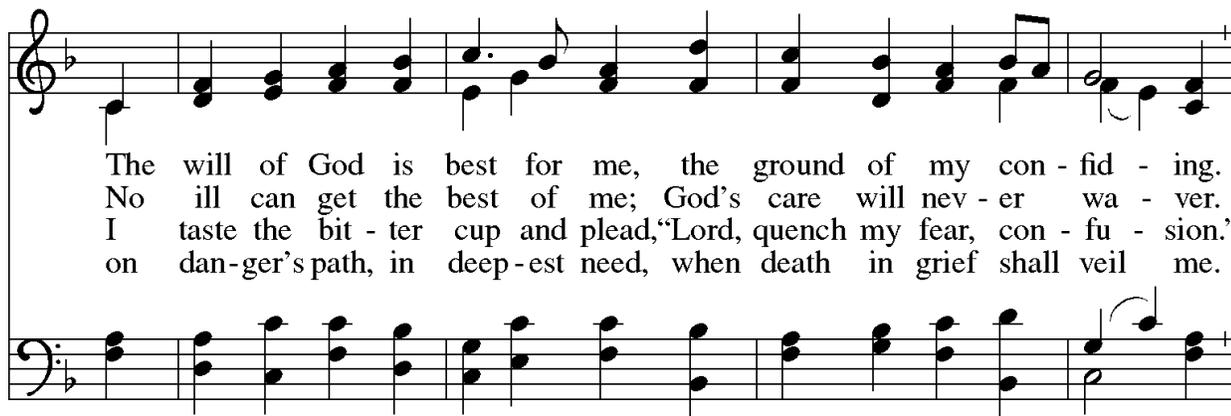


Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Refrain



1 What God or-dains is good in-deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.
 2 What God or-dains is good in-deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!
 3 What God or-dains is good in-deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,
 4 What God or-dains is good in-deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."
 on dan-ger's path, in deep - est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

+ Sunday to Sunday

15 – Sunday	9:30 am	Hybrid Worship + Fourth Sunday in Lent
	10:30 am	Coffee, Juice, and Conversation
	10:45 am	Adult Learning: <i>The Revised Common Lectionary</i>
	2:00 pm	Nithview Worship
16 – Monday	5:00 pm	Karate
	6:30 pm	Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal
17 – Tuesday	10:30 am	Bible Study
	4:15 pm	Karate
	7:00 pm	Trinity Book Club
18 – Wednesday	12:00 pm	Ecumenical Lenten Lunch at New Hamburg Christian Centre
	5:15 pm	Music Together
	7:00 pm	Church Council
19 – Thursday	8:45 am	Music Together
	5:30 pm	Simple Soup Supper
	6:30 pm	Holden Prayer Around the Cross
	7:00 pm	Trinity Choir Rehearsal
20 – Friday	9:00 am	Local Vocals tickets on sale at <i>telc.ca</i>
	4:30 pm	Karate
21 – Saturday	8:45 am	Music Together
	7:30 pm	AA
22 – Sunday	9:30 am	Hybrid Worship + Fifth Sunday in Lent
	10:30 am	Coffee, Juice, and Conversation
	10:45 am	Adult Learning: <i>The Lutheran World Federation</i> with Rev. Katherine Gohm

+ Palm Crosses

Our friends at St. George's Anglican invite members of our Trinity community to make palm crosses ahead of Palm Sunday at an event in their parish hall on Thursday, March 26th at 1:00 pm. All are welcome.

+ Local Vocals' One Stop World Tour

They're back! Enjoy the musical stylings of Wilmot's own a cappella ensemble, *Local Vocals*, in two shows at Trinity: Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th, both at 7:00 pm. Tickets go on sale online at telc.ca on Friday, March 20th. In-person ticket sales available at Trinity on Sunday, March 22nd.

Local Vocals has been celebrated as "One of the Vocal Groups in Canada." You may recognize them from their appearances at esteemed venues such as "Stairs at Castle" or "Parking Lot Christmas Tree Sale." They'll be dusting off oldies like: Dust in the Wind, 9 to 5, Uptown Funk, Both Sides Now, When I'm 64, and with a special tribute to Lady Gaga! You won't want to miss out!

+ Easter Feaster

During the season of Lent, our Trinity community is invited to pause in thanksgiving for the bounty that will be on many of our tables for our Easter dinners. In response, consider sharing with those using the Food Bank at Wilmot Family Resource Centre by donating an item or two to our "Easter Feaster" food campaign. All donations can be left in the baskets at the entrances. Monetary donations are welcomed also; simply mark an offering envelope or e-transfer as "food bank".

+ Prayer Vigil

Our annual Prayer Vigil begins at Trinity following the morning Good Friday service and continues through Holy Saturday. In one-hour shifts, Trinity folks pray, read, or make music in a time of personal devotion. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex at Trinity to book your time.

+ Easter Breakfast

Following Easter Sunday worship we gather for Trinity's Annual Easter Breakfast! Please use the sign-up sheet at Trinity to let us know how many might attend from your household for this potluck celebration.

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Create in Me a Clean Heart

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Lead Me, Guide Me

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What God Ordains is Good Indeed

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Be Thou My Vision

Arranged by Marie Pooler © 1962 Augsburg Fortress



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Jamie Courtney, parish administrator & minister of music
Brian Racho, sexton ▪ **Gywin Murray**, emerita director of music