

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Little Mountain, South Carolina
3rd Sunday in Lent

We Prepare for Worship

Silence and meditation
Prelude

Welcome and Announcements
(* Please stand as able)

- *Gathering Hymn *Oh, that the Lord Would Guide...* Hymn 480
- *Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56
- *Apostolic Greeting page 57
- *Kyrie page 57
- *Prayer of the Day

P. Let us pray together.

C. Everlasting God, draw us into this season of repentance and create in us lives marked by the abundant fruit of your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**
(We Sit)

God's Word Proclaimed

- The First Lesson Ezekiel 33:7-20
- Psalm 85 see bulletin
- The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- *The Gospel Acclamation *Return to the Lord...* page 63
- *The Holy Gospel Luke 13:1-9
- *The Gospel Response page 63
(We Sit)

The Children's Sermon: *All of God's little Children are asked to come forward for a special message just for them!*

The Congregation is invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

The Sermon "Return to the Lord"

Pastor Randy Drafts

- *The Hymn of the Day *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* WOV Hymn 771
- Rite of Holy Baptism page 121
- Greyson Keiko Kaihara*
- *The Peace
(We Sit)

We Offer Our Thanks and Praise to God

- The Offering
- The Anthem: *Canticle of the Turning* Choir
- *The Offertory Hymn *Create in Me* page 75
- *The Offertory Prayer
- Merciful Father,
We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Sends Us Into The World

- *Blessing page 76
- *Sending Song *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* Hymn 327
- *Sending and Charge
- *Doxology Hymn 564

Before Worship: Speak to the Lord
During Worship: Let the Lord speak to you
After Worship: Speak to each other

Welcome to worship today. We especially extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting with us today. We are strengthened by your presence and hope that you will worship with us again soon. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

No Altar Flowers during Lent.

We give thanks to God and Welcome: Greyson Keiko Kaihara, daughter of Cameron & Morgan Kaihara into the family of faith here at Holy Trinity through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Non-chocolate candy is needed for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 19th. (More info. to come!) Please leave your donations in the Conference Room. Thank you in advance!

The Carolinas Mission Region Convocation will be held Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3, 2025, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stanley, NC. Please let Pastor Randy know if you are interested in serving as a delegate.

Happy Mountaineers will be held Thursday, March 27th @ 10 am., in the TLC. Zoey Fulmer will be our guest speaker with devotions given by Mary Spires. For lunch we will have soup, cornbread, and sandwiches. Desserts will be furnished.

Volunteers Needed at GAAP in March... Holy Trinity has agreed to provide volunteers to work at the GAAP food pantry when a month has 5 Saturdays in it. In 2025, these dates are March 29, May 31, August 30, and November 29th. If you are willing to volunteer **March 29th**, please let Danny Newton know as soon as possible at 843-810-5821 or 438dwnewton@gmail.com.

Prayers: Helen Koon, Mike Brown (Father of Jillian Long), Faye Shealy, Kaye Shealy, Cade Floyd (Nephew of Patsy Frick), Hannah Drafts, Jake Bearden (Grandson of Dot Abrams), Scott & Cheri Bell, Molly Kednocker, Jean Miller (Mother of Pam Bush), Jean Alewine, Bobbie Bickley, Jonell Shealy. *If you would like to include someone on our weekly prayer list, please call Pastor Randy at (803) 537-2303. Unless otherwise notified of a need, members will remain on the list for one month and non-members for two weeks.*

Sunday, March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-20

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. ¹⁰And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ ¹¹Say to them, As I live, declares the LORD God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? ¹²And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. ¹³Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. ¹⁴Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, ¹⁵if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ¹⁶None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live. ¹⁷Yet your people say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. ¹⁸When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. ¹⁹And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. ²⁰Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

Psalm 85 (ESV)

¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
²**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**
³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**
⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
⁶**Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
⁸**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in

our land.

¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²**Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

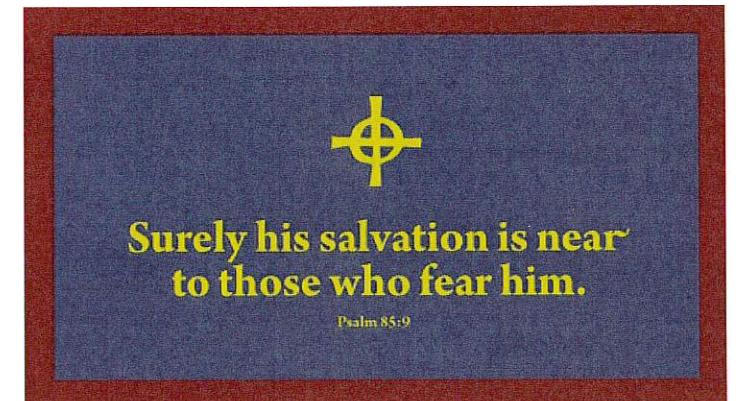
¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

¹There were some present at that very time who told {Jesus} about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” ⁶And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ ⁸And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*“Preaching, Teaching and Serving
in Christ’s Name”*