

**ST. TIMOTHY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
GRAND ISLAND, NY**

**March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ☩ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF GATHERING

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word

ELW 673

1 God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, healing and sight: health to the troubled mind, sight where illusions blind; oh, now to humankind let there be light.

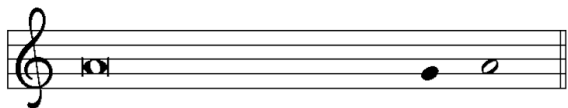
3 Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy dove, speed forth your flight; move on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, Love, Might: boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



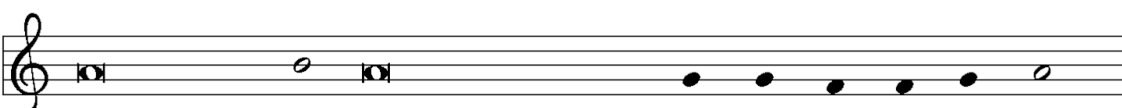
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray. **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERVICE OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The 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." ²Samuel 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.'" ³Invite 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." ⁴Samuel 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?" ⁵He 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.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But 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." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel 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." ¹²He 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." ¹³Then 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.

R. Word of God, word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD,

and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-14

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

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

R. Word of God, word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

R. The holy gospel according to John, the ninth chapter.

C. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed

and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He 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.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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.”

¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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.” ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

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

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

R. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated.

SERMON

Ms. Phyllis Keeler

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace

ELW 779

1 Amazing grace!— how sweet the sound— that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

THE APOSTLE'S 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

After each petition ends with the words, "Merciful God," we respond, "receive our prayer."

PASSING OF THE PEACE

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.
C. And also with you.

Please be seated.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING



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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

Please stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. C. **And also with you.**
P. Lift up your hearts. C. **We lift them to the Lord.**
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of our baptismal relationship with Christ, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

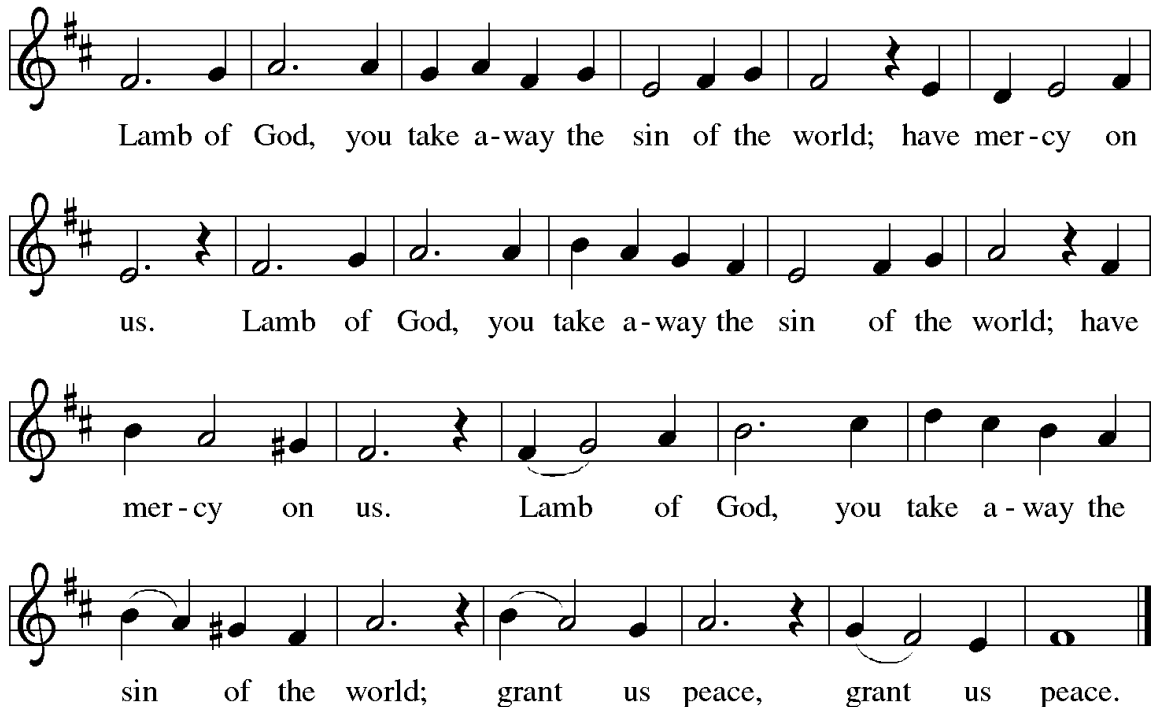
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C. **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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.



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.

You may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all to partake in the Lord's supper by coming forward, picking up a cup, and receiving the elements from the minister; or by using the prepackaged elements at the entrance to the sanctuary and depositing used packaging in the containers at the end of each pew.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SERVICE OF SENDING

Please stand.

BLESSING

P. God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

P. As you leave this place, remember why you are sent into the world.

C. We are sent to serve God by inspiring faith and passion through connections, so that we can nurture and fulfill our community and the world.

CLOSING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'n ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Serve in love.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Welcome to St. Timothy! St. Timothy Lutheran Church opens its doors and its arms in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and we bid you welcome.

The Rev. Adam Arends, Pastor
pastor@sttimothygrandisland.com
608-525-0288

Nick Bai, Minister of Music
Kim Yaeger, Communications Director
Debbie Bastian and Karen Sturniolo, Accountants
Church Office: 773-4400, FAX 773-4413
e-mail: communications@sttimothygrandisland.com
or office@sttimothygrandisland.com

Child Care Center Director: Amanda Weir
St. Timothy Child Care Center Office: 773-9249

www.StTimothyGrandIsland.com
Address: 1453 Staley Road, Grand Island, NY 14072
Office Hours: 10AM-2PM Monday-Friday

Worship Leaders:

Presiding Minister:	9:30	Ms. Phyllis Keeler
Worship Assistant:	9:30	Ms. Donna Yaeger
Usher:		Mr. Carl Remmes
Counters:		Ms. Karen Rose, Ms. Dorine Fabio
Altar Guild:		Ms. Liz Barker

This Week's Calendar:

TODAY 3/19	Holy Communion	9:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:30 AM
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM

Wednesday, 3/22	Lenten Meal	6:00 PM
	Holden Evening Prayers	7:00 PM
Sunday 3/26	Holy Communion	9:30 AM
	Sunday School	9:30 AM
	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM

Today's bulletin was prepared on sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Music is licensed by Augsburg Fortress, License # SBL14233, and by ONE LICENSE, License # 735648-A.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The sanctuary candle burns today in honor of Herb Westfall's birthday, sponsored by Esther Westfall, and in honor of Shirley Yaeger's 99th birthday (Paul's Mom) and Ren Trietley's 90th birthday (Donna's Dad), sponsored by the Yaeger family.
- Come for a shared meal of warm soup at 6 PM this Wednesday, 3/22, before our Holden Evening Prayer service at 7 PM.
- Help us team up with RIP Medical Debt to bring freedom to our neighbors across the country this Lent. RIP has a unique model that combines donor generosity with debt industry experts to produce a high volume of debt relief – every \$100 given leads to about \$10,000 forgiven. With millions of Americans struggling under the weight of medical debt and nearly half of all Americans struggling to afford healthcare costs, this is an invaluable partnership. Checks can be made out to St. Timothy and designated as “RIP” or “debt relief,” and one large check will be sent during Holy Week.
- This is the final Sunday to submit Easter flower orders. Please contact the office with your order no later than noon on Tuesday, 3/21.