

First Sunday in Lent February 22, 2026

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

Praise Songs

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker,
Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

There is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus:

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

Repeat Chorus

When I stand in glory I will see His face,
And there I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place.

Repeat Chorus

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray together. **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

First Reading *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

Please be seated

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

...*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰**Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— for sin was indeed in

the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification.

If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

....*The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

(sung) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel *Matthew 4:1-11*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

....*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(sung) Praise to you, O Christ.

Youth Time

Please be seated

Choir Anthem *Open My Eyes, Spirit Divine*

Message

Hymn of the Day *(next page)*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

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

A brief silence.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Bless the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd and Pr. Sohail's South Asian Ministry, as we serve our neighbors in love.

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

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness.

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

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression.

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

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated.

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

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda, Ralph, and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word.

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

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you.

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

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

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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

{Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.}

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

Please stand as you are able

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

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation

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Music Minister: Don Grabau

Media Minister: Jeff Ward

Today's Worship Assistant: Sharon Wall

Today's Prayer Partner: Lanny Repman

Today's Ushers: Nancy Jackson and Nancy Repman

Prayers and Announcements

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshipping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

Prayer Partner Ministry: Today's prayer partner is Lanny Repman. If you are in need of additional prayer, please see Lanny following worship. Prayers are confidential.

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only—please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through [tithely](http://tithely.com), which can be accessed through TOL's website ([www.trinityoldlutheran](http://www.trinityoldlutheran.com)) or on your smartphone.

February Mission: TOL is part of the community helping to support the ministry of Hearts & Hands-Faith in Action, which is a local interfaith coalition providing services to individuals. Please use the marked envelopes in the narthex, or contribute through [tithely](http://tithely.com), indicating that it is designated for Hearts & Hands. Thank you.

Mid-week Lenten Services and Soup Suppers: Here is this year's schedule of Wednesday Lenten soup suppers (6 pm) and worship services (6:30 pm):

February 25	Abiding Savior, 1534 Ruie Rd., North Tonawanda
March 4	Good Shepherd, 2669 Sheridan Dr., Tonawanda
March 11	Augustana, 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
March 18	St. Martin's, 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda
March 25	TOL

Lenten Collection: Pastor Jeremiah Smith, our Conference Dean, announced that we're not having a competition this Lenten season, but invites all the local ELCA churches to join together and collect healthy cereals to support local food pantries. TOL's donations will go to the Good Shepherd LC pantry. Please place your cereal (and all other shelf staple foods) in the narthex shopping cart. Thank you!

Adult Education: The next two classes are listed below. Classes start at **1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. **Please contact Charlie Schmidtke if you need a Zoom invite.**

March 2	Corinth – Letters
March 16	Ephesus - Paul

Grief Support Meeting at TOL: For those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, next on **Tuesday, March 3**. The meetings begin at 10 am until 11:30.

Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch: If you have not already done so, please submit your team's 2025 report to the church office as soon as possible for inclusion in the printed booklet. Our annual meeting/congregation potluck is scheduled for **Sunday, March 8** following worship. Please use the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board to let us know what dish you'll bring and how many will be attending. Copies of the Report will be available on Sunday, Mar. 1 or we can email one to you.

Women's Lunch Group: You are invited to join the group for lunch on **Thursday, March 12** at 12:30 pm, at Joey's Place Restaurant, 83 Niagara Street, Tonawanda. Please contact Judy Menz or Barb Maugans if you have any questions.

Book Club at Augustana: March's book is Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini. Book club will meet **Thursday, March 26** at 6:30 pm at Augustana.

Curtains Up: On **Saturday, May 2**, please join us at Ellicott Creek Playhouse for a live performance of "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board. We have 30 seats available.

Friends of Night People: Thanks to our volunteer teams who continue to prepare and deliver 100 sandwiches each week! We also collect warm clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, boots, hand & foot warmers, gloves, hats, hygiene items, lip balm & mugs. Please place donations in the blue barrel in the hallway. Thanks!

Operation Christmas Child: The suggested donations for February are reusable plastic cups or plastic water bottles. Thank you.

Book and Puzzle Sale: Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library down the hall. Books and puzzles are always being added for a fraction of the cost at retail. No cost for the greeting cards available. Proceeds are used for church building interior improvements, such as carpeting, door mats, etc.

Thank You for your Continuing Support of these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – bin in hallway.
- Dash's Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – bin in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Warm clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
- Items for Operation Christmas Child boxes – bin in hallway.
- Calendars for 2026 for Veterans Hospital – bin in hallway.

This week's calendar

<p><i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly. Office hours are <u>Tuesday, 9 am – 1 pm, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon.</u></i></p> <p><i>For a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Fred. For office related matters, please leave a voice mail message or send an email.</i></p>	Sun	2/22	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting
	Mon	2/23	10 am 5:45 pm 6 pm	OA Meeting Yoga Sandwich Team #3
	Tues	2/24	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	Chair Yoga CoDA
	Wed	2/25	5:45 pm 6 pm	Yoga Lenten Soup Supper & Worship – at Abiding Savior
	Thurs	2/26	9:30 am 5:45 pm 7 pm	Yoga Yoga GA Meeting
	Fri	2/27	11 am	Pr. Sohail's South Asian Community
	Sat	2/28	4 pm	South Asian Worship Service
	Sun	3/1	9:30 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship Service at Augustana Worship Service at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

Announcements: *If you'd like to submit a bulletin or Tidings announcement, please send to trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com or call 716-836-4868 by Wednesday morning.*

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

