



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who saves; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus the Christ; and, to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle our Lord knew. It is a struggle our Lord shares. The nearness of the Christ, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. J. William Greene

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

(The confession is led from the baptismal font as a reminder that repentance is a return to baptism.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

silence for reflection

P: God of steadfast love,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from your ways. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to forgive those who have sinned against us. Have mercy on us, create in us new hearts, and restore to us the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE RITE

Hymn

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930
Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

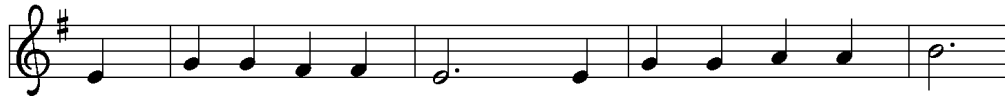
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Apostolic Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie



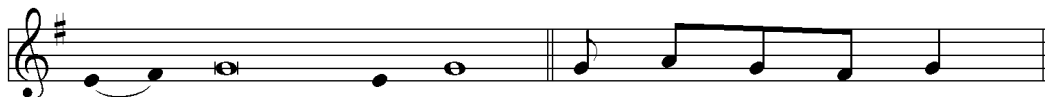
- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent because of the penitential nature of the season.)

Salutation and Prayer of the Day



☩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray.

ALL: **O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson - Deuteronomy 26:1–11

The annual harvest festival, called the feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and

honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

(sung in unison)

This is a hymn of trust in the Lord. The Lord will guard and deliver the one who loves and seeks refuge with God.

He who dwells in the shelter of | the Most High,*
abides under the shadow of | the Almighty.
²He shall say to the LORD, "You are my refuge | and my stronghold,*
my God in whom I | put my trust."
⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,*
and the Most High your | habitation,
¹⁰there shall no evil hap- | pen to you,*
neither shall any plague come | near your dwelling.
¹¹For he shall give his angels charge | over you,*
to keep you in | all your ways.
¹²They shall bear you | in their hands,*
lest you dash your foot a- | gainst a stone.
¹³You shall tread upon the li- | on and adder;*
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent un- | der your feet.
¹⁴Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I de- | liver him;*
I will protect him, because he | knows my name.
¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will | answer him;*
I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring | him to honor.
¹⁶With long life will I sat- | isfy him,*
and show him | my salvation.

Second Lesson - Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christ-followers at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Verse



*One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (R)*

Holy Gospel - Luke 4:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus of Nazareth is led into the wilderness. Through his responses to temptation, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."



Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" ⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

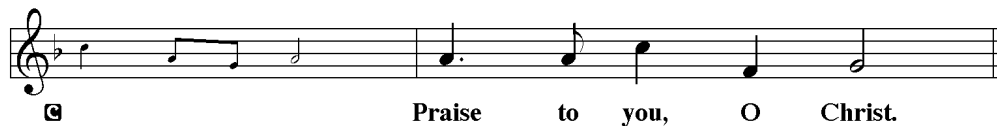
⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,
 food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
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The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

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 into hell.

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**

The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your Church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus the Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the forces of evil. God, in your mercy,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Help us protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless all who minister to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that the forgotten may find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Anthem

O Lord, Increase My Faith

Orlando Gibbons
(1583-1625)

*O Lord, increase my faith, strengthen me and confirm me in Thy true faith:
Endue me with wisdom, charity, and patience in all my adversity.
Sweet Jesu, say amen.*

Offertory

Unison

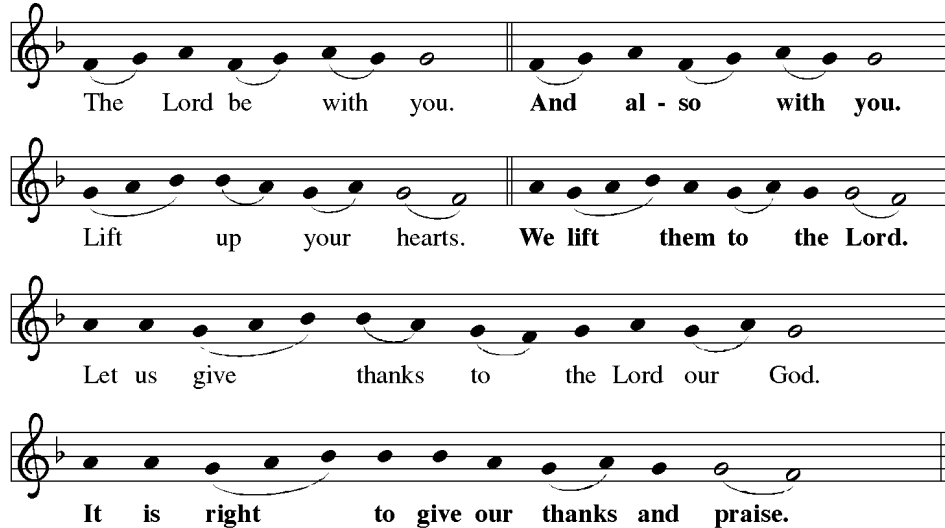
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence: and take not your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of all creation,

C: **all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

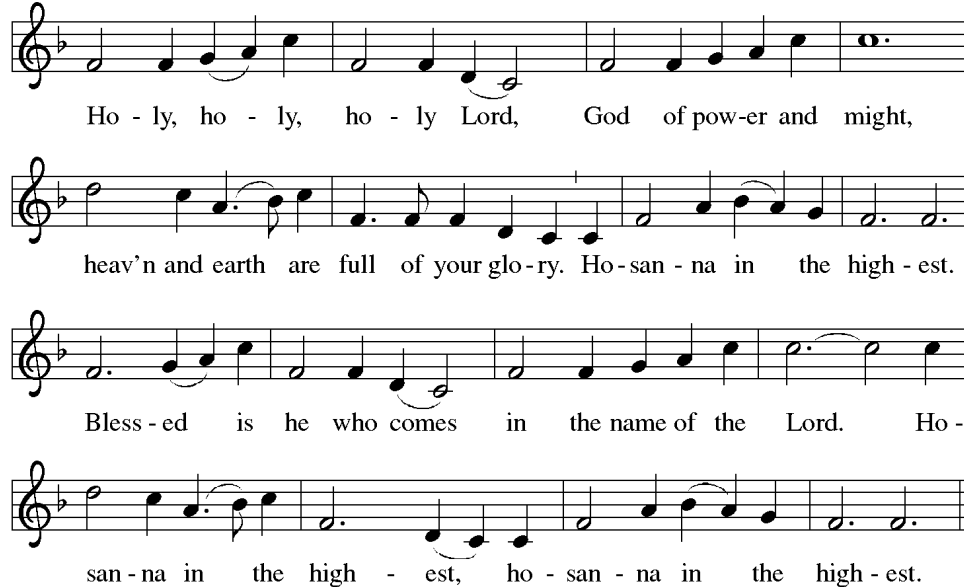
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are
yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men

Communion with our Risen Lord

Agnus Dei



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

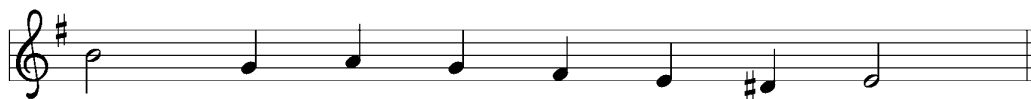
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and



by de-ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
 u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

O Jesus, I Have Promised



1 O Je-sus, I have prom-ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev-er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak-ing in ac-cents clear and still
 4 O Je-sus, you have prom-ised to all who fol-low you



re-main for-ev-er near me, my mas-ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz-zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
 a-bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self-will.
 that where you are in glo-ry your ser-vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat-tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev-er near me, a-round me and with-in;
 Now speak to re-as-sure me, to has-ten or con-trol;
 And Je-sus, I have prom-ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan-der from the path-way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je-sus, then draw near-er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis-ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol-low, my mas-ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

Post-Communion Blessing

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

C: Amen

Post-Communion Hymn

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

***On my heart imprint your image,
Blessed Jesus, king of grace,
That life's troubles nor its pleasures
Ever may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
All my glory and salvation!***

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

Benediction



Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. A - men

Hymn

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
your 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

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

arr. David Schelat
(b. 1955)



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Wilma and Les Beebe
in memory of their parents.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Wilma and Les Beebe
in memory and in honor of those who have served and those who are serving in the Armed Forces.

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, March 9	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion and Home Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube and Home Communion
	11:30 a.m.	Soup Luncheon
	2:00 p.m.	Pastor's Information Class
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)
Monday, March 10	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	7:00 p.m.	Connecting with God (via Zoom) - <i>An Enneagram Study</i>
Tuesday, March 11	5:40 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday, March 12	9:00 a.m.	Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.)
	10:00 a.m.	Women's Sewing Group
	12:10 p.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Vespers
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 13	11:00 a.m.	Discussion Group - <i>Living the Questions</i>
Friday, March 14	9:00 a.m.	Strength and Balance Exercise Class
	9:30 a.m.	Chair Yoga Class
	11:00 a.m.	Book Discussion Group - <i>Deliver Us From Evil</i>
Sunday, March 16	8:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Church School
	10:30 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube
	1:00 p.m.	Junior & Senior Youth (grades six - twelve; AMF Lynchburg Lanes)
	5:00 p.m.	Thomas Mass
	6:00 p.m.	Third Sunday Program

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Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1000 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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Organist-Choirmaster: J. William Greene
Parish Administrator: Carol Dee Robertson
Parish Nurse: Gail Midkiff

Pastor: Dennis S. Roberts
Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:
Susan H. Williams
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