

+ Gretchen Grau Marz +

Born into our midst
August 9, 1937

Baptized
October 13, 1937



Born into Eternal Life
November 28, 2021

Presentation of Our Lord
Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

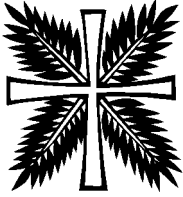
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Rev. Tim Bernard, Pastor Brian Larson, Cantor

Raeann Purcell, Assisting Minister

Nancy Hopkins and Rusty Norris, Lectors



*This service was prepared primarily to worship our Almighty God - Father, Son, Spirit.
Secondly, to give hope and assurance to family and friends gathered.
And finally, to reflect the faith of the deceased.
Peace be with you. Gretchen*

GATHERING

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Prelude on "Rhosymedre"
Andy Larson, tuba

Timothy Albrecht
Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chanson

Kenneth Lowenberg

Welcome

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrow with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

Remembrance of Baptism

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life:

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life:

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope:

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn sung by Erma Gilliam

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!*

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Gretchen. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

WORD

First Readings: Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 61:1-3

A reading from Proverbs. ⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

A reading from Isaiah. ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 sung by Grace and Joe Kellermeier

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The 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.

⁴Though 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.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Readings: Romans 14:7-9, 8:37-39; I John 4:16b-19

A reading from Romans. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ³⁷In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

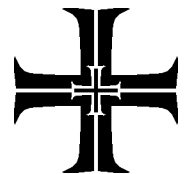
A reading from First John. ^{16b}God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation sung by Grace and Joe Kellermeier

Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.



Gospel: Luke 2:25-38

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

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

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

Sit
Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day sung by Brian Larson

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed

*What God ordains is good indeed, for all life well providing.
The will of God is best for me, the ground of my confiding.
My faithful God, on ev'ry road you know the way unfolding and my hand you are holding.*

*What God ordains is good indeed: my light, my life, my Savior!
No ill can get the best of me; God's care will never waver.
Through joy and pain I shall attain the dawn disclosing clearly that God has loved me dearly.*

*What God ordains is good indeed. When hope seems like delusion,
I taste the bitter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, confusion."
God ends the night, restores delight; by faith I face tomorrow and yield to God all sorrow.*

*What God ordains is good indeed. My Lord will never fail me
on danger's path, in deepest need, when death in grief shall veil me.
My God so dear will draw me near, in loving arms will hold me, at last in light enfold me.*

Stand

Apostles' Creed

In remembrance of our baptism and with the whole church on earth, 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.

Prayers of Intercession *Sit or kneel.*

A: Let us pray. Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Stand

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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MEAL

Sit

Setting the Table

Hymn sung by Norris Williams

This Is My Father's World

*This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!*

Stand

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of all creation, 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 Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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, who rose from the dead, and in whom our hope of resurrection dawns. The sting of death has been removed by the glorious promise of his risen life. 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.**

You are holy, O God of majesty. Holy is your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived as one of us, and knew our joy, our pain and sorrow, and our death. By Christ's death on the cross, God revealed that love has no limits. By raising Christ from death, God conquered the last enemy, crushed all evil powers, and gave new life to the world.

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 your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and wine and joyfully celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, as we await Christ's coming again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with the living Christ and with all the saints who have gone before us. Remember our sister, Gretchen, whose baptism is now complete in death.

Bring her into your eternal joy and light, together with all who have died in the peace of Christ; through whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

This is the Lord's Supper. It is by the Lord's invitation that all are invited to the meal where our Lord meets us in the bread and the wine - the means of grace.



SENDING

Commendation

Let us commend Gretchen to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. *Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Gretchen Grau. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn sung by Tori Rathbun

What Wondrous Love Is This

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

*What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.*

*And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.*

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Pachelbel, Walther

Communion

Gretchen Grau Marz was born August 9, 1937 in Greensburg, PA. She died November 28, 2021 in Port Orange, FL. Her parents, Walter and Patsy and her siblings Johanna, Bill, and Nancy all preceded her in death. She is succeeded by her son David Michael, his wife, Charlotte, and daughter, Hana; her son, Jonathan Martin, his wife, Stacey; and by niece Patsy-Jo and nephews Michael, Walter, and Thomas.



Memorial gifts may be given to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Gretchen was the youngest of four children in her family. Raised in the Carolinas, she began her music career at the age of five, being the youngest singer in the church choir. In school she sang and was a student conductor in the chorus, played clarinet in the orchestra, and was drum major of the band. She earned three degrees from Stetson University in education and music. She taught for 22 years in Volusia County schools, including 14 years at Spruce Creek High. She loved her work. Gretchen was also very active in local, state, and international church life, including serving as the national president of the Lutheran Church Women.

Gretchen wrote: Music is a living art - the only art that occurs in time rather than taking up space; and because of that phenomena, a single musical phrase can be different, have a different life every time it is sung or played. I am very grateful to have experienced this life of music with hundreds of fellow singers and under many teachers/directors. I have enjoyed learning from and working with many skilled accompanists. And, most importantly, I have lived many special “music moments” with hundreds of my own students. Each student, teacher, director, and accompanist is a part of the music that is my life. I’m grateful to God for every one of them and celebrate the music we have made together.

*If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby. If you would win my heart, sing me a love song.
If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to heaven.* Text by Jane Griner

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.