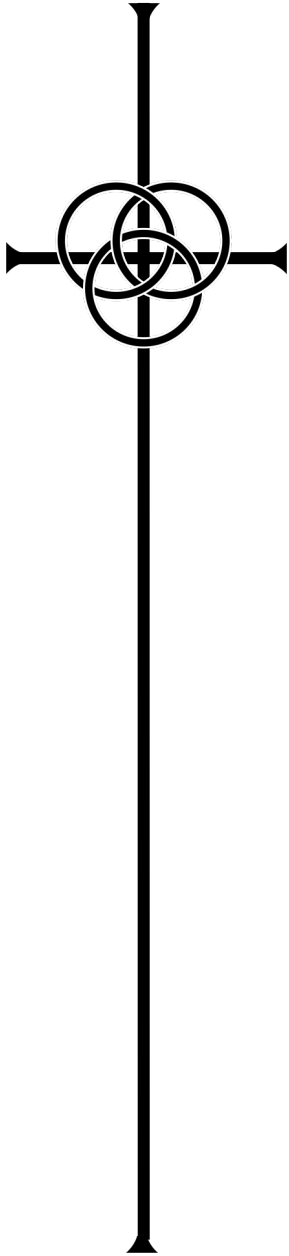


# LIFE TOGETHER

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS ✝ SHARING GOD'S GIFTS



Dearest Saints of Holy Trinity,

Welcome to the Great Fast. This is a somber time of penitence, self-examination, and reflection upon the gravity of our Lord's holy Passion. Let's be sure to give the season the reverence it deserves. After all, Mother never asks you to do anything that is not for your own good. Neither does your Father—that is, me: Pastor.

Give up, take up. That is the rhythm of Christianity. That is the heartbeat and the inhale-exhale of your life. It happens in many ways different and unique to the day, the time, and the season. These days, this time, this season demand that we die with Jesus. That means we put to death—we give up, and we rise to deeper faith and love—we take up.

Forty days of cross-bearing are good for you. You will not be the same person on the other side that you once were—or, at least you shouldn't be.

And, at the end of it all, Jesus is waiting for you, cooking supper.

Keep travelling, my pilgrim children. We walk the way Jesus has trod even as we walk the Way that is Jesus himself.

Everything is about love. Everything is worth it.

In Christ,

*Pastor Ferguson*

# On the Approach to Lent

## Excerpt from Sermon 198

### St. Caesarius of Arles

**I**f we notice carefully, dearest brethren, the holy days of Lent signify the life of the present world, just as Easter prefigures eternal bliss. Now just as we have a kind of sadness in Lent in order that we may rightly rejoice at Easter, so as long as we live in this world we ought to do penance in order that we may be able to receive pardon for our sins in the future and arrive at eternal joy. Each one ought to sigh over his own sins, shed tears, and give alms in such a way that with God's help he may always try to avoid the same faults as long as he lives. Just as there never has been, is not now, and never will be a soul without slight sins, so with the help and assistance of God we ought to be altogether without serious sins.

Now in order that we may obtain this, if burdens of the world keep us occupied at other times, at least during the holy days of Lent let us reflect on the law of the Lord, as it is written, by day and by night (Psalm 1:2). Let us so fill our hearts with the sweetness of the divine law that we leave no place within us devoid of virtues so that vices could occupy it. Just as at the time of the harvest or vintage, brethren, enough is gathered so that the body may be fed, so during the days of Lent as at a time of spiritual harvest or vintage we ought to gather the means whereby our soul may live for ever. Whenever a careless person fails to gather anything at the time of vintage or the harvest, he will be distressed by hunger throughout the entire space of the year. In the same way if anyone at this season neglects to provide and gather spiritual wheat and heavenly wine in the storehouse of his soul by fasting, reading, and prayer, he will suffer forever the most severe thirst and cruel want. Know for sure, dearest brethren, that the soul which is not fed continuously

by the word of God is like a body which receives food only after many days. Just as the body becomes thin and dehydrated, almost like a shadow, through hunger and want, so the soul which is not fed on the food of God's word is found to be parched and useless, fit for no good work. Consider, brethren, if every year we fill the barn and wine cellar and storehouse in order that our body may have food for one year, how much do you think we ought to store up so that our soul may be nourished for ever?



For this reason, brethren, at least during these few days let the 'burdens of the world' which, according to Scripture, make many careless souls miserable, disappear. Let carnal pleasure depart, as also the allurements of this world, which are full of poison. Let bodily joys be lessened, so that spiritual gains may be provided for the soul, because of what is written: "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall weep in your grief" (Luke 6:25) and further: "Blest are the sorrowing, for they shall be consoled" (Matt.

5:4). Let spiritual reading begin to occupy the time which frenzied addiction to the playing-table formerly took away from you; let discourses on Sacred Scripture take the place of useless stories, biting jokes, and poisonous slander. In the course of the hours when we were wont to be engaged in hunting to the loss of our soul, let the sick be visited, those who are put in prison sought out, travelers received, and the discordant recalled to harmony. If we do these things, brethren, we can provide medicines for ourselves out of the things with which we had inflicted wounds upon ourselves.

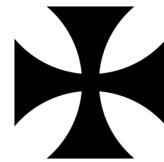
# THIS MONTH AT HOLY TRINITY

## Food Pantry Donations

Please help to provide for our hungry neighbors in need by donating goods to the food pantry. This is an easy addition to your regular monthly alms.

**Food pantry needs for the month of March** include Jell-O, pudding, canned chicken, pork and beans, diced tomatoes and pancake mix.

**For more information** contact Debbie Ohlensehlen



### Anniversaries of Baptism

2	Lindsey Johnson
4	Lela Wright
6	Welton Haer
11	James Lyle Krueger
13	Doug Livengood
13	Bill Thurnau
16	Kevin Wright
19	Holt Ellis
19	Steve Waigand
21	Rhonda Krueger
21	Creed Voltmer
21	Ashlee Voltmer
23	Taylor Cook
24	Dana Scarbrough
27	Hallie Grist
27	Cameron Tally
30	Andrew Peters

### Birthdays

7	Jim Boyles
8	Tiffany Lewis
10	Teagan White
11	Chelsa Altena
11	John Heits
11	Dennis Ohlensehlen
12	Jeffrey Ashworth
13	Emmaline Livengood
14	Heidi Biermann
14	Nathan Livengood
15	Bob Brown
17	Madison Livengood
18	Holt Ellis
19	Andrea Thurnau
22	Larry Wright
23	Joshua Altena
23	Riley Lewis
24	Hannah Nelson
24	Tegon Thurnau
25	Rebecca Geib
26	Tayden Cook
29	Nicole Heits
29	Kipton Waigand

### Anniversaries of Marriage

2	Craig & Louanne Heits
3	Jackson & Aubrey Bowness
12	Doug & Becky Livengood
18	Neal & Karen Voltmer
20	Larry & Maria Wright



### Saints' Days and Commemorations

7	Perpetua and Felicitas, <i>Martyrs</i>
17	Patrick, <i>Missionary to Ireland</i>
19	St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus
25	The Annunciation of Our Lord
31	Joseph, <i>Patriarch</i>

### Serving This Month

**Worship Preparation:** Carolyn Ferguson

**Ushers:** Bill Thurnau, Dennis Thurnau

#### Acolytes:

3	Emma Ohlensehlen
6	Regan Cope
10	Luke Oswald
13	Liam Ellis
17	Lela Wright
20	Emilye Krueger
24	Sadie Biermann
27	Annabelle Ellis
30	Liam Ellis
31	Kipton Waigand (sunrise)
31	Luke Oswald

#### Refreshments:

3	Marla Voltmer
10	Jennifer Biermann
17	Bee Nelson
24	Gail Heitman

# MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Board of Education Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins Driver's License Testing 6:00 p.m.—Midweek 7:00 p.m.—Vespers</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins Council Items due to Secretary's office</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins Pastor Gone to Conception Abbey</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Catechumenate</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 6:00 p.m.—Midweek 7:00 p.m.—Vespers</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 2:00–6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry Open</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Catechumenate</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 1:00 p.m.—Ladies Guild 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins Driver's License Testing 6:00 p.m.—Midweek 7:00 p.m.—Vespers</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins Pastor Gone to Conception Abbey</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 a.m.—Catechumenate</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Board of Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.—Ministerial Alliance Round Table at HTT</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—Vespers</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 6:00 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.—Vespers</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 6:00 p.m.—Midweek 7:00 p.m.—Vespers</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 7:00 p.m.—Holy Thursday Divine Service</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Matsins 7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Tenebrae</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:45 a.m.—Youth Group Meet at Walk with Jesus 5:30 p.m.—Easter Vigil</p>
<p>31</p> <p>7:30 a.m.—Sunrise Divine Service Breakfast 10:30 a.m.—Chief Divine Service</p>						