



Morning Communion

Lent 2026

Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday 8:00am

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

Throughout the bulletin you will note two symbols that denote when the congregation is invited to stand (▲) or be seated (▼) as your body allows.

Gathering

▲ Confession and Forgiveness

Trusting in the Word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the **✚** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

▼ Merciful God, **we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins— those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. We know that before you nothing remains hidden. Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways. We pray for the forgiveness we cannot earn and renewal we do not deserve, but is given only through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **✚** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▲ Prayer of the Day

Word

▼ Scripture Readings

▼ Meditation

▲ Prayers of the Faithful

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

▲ The Peace

Meal

▲Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. You have blessed us with all the gifts of life. As we offer this bread and wine for your use, we offer ourselves to your service for the care and redemption of all you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the waters of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, 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.**

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, Holy Spirit.**

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; he 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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

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.

▲ **Invitation to Communion**

All who hunger and thirst, come be filled with the goodness of God.

Thanks be to God.

(At the invitation of the pastor, please take a host & dip it in the cup.)

▲ **Post-Communion Prayer**

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

Let us pray: God of our pilgrimage, **in this meal you nourish us with the gifts of faith and hope. Sustain us on our journey that, refreshed by your grace, we may reach the promised land, the Easter feast of victory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

▲ **Benediction**

The God of all grace  bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

Sending

▲ **Dismissal**

Go in peace; may the courage of Christ sustain you.

Thanks be to God.

Screwtape Letters: Lent 2026

C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is a witty and penetrating exploration of spiritual warfare and the Christian life, told from an utterly unique perspective. The story unfolds not in a straightforward narrative, but as a series of fictional letters written by an experienced senior devil named Screwtape to his young, inexperienced nephew Wormwood. Screwtape serves as a sort of mentor in the "Lowerarchy of Hell," advising Wormwood on how best to corrupt and lead astray Wormwood's assigned human, who is referred to only as "the Patient." Every letter is packed with twisted advice, cunning manipulation, and clever reversals of Christian truth—what the devils call "the Enemy" is, in fact, God, and what they regard as FAILURE (the Patient growing in faith, hope, and love) is our very hope for victory in Christ.

Through Screwtape's guidance, we glimpse how temptation most often comes not through spectacular evil, but through the slow, subtle drift away from God: distractions, pride, anxiety, church frustrations, self-righteousness, or even good things misused to draw the Patient's heart elsewhere. Along the way, Lewis satirizes both the church's foibles and the everyday realities of spiritual conflict. As the Patient's life progresses—through doubt and faith, love and disappointment, ordinary days and moments of crisis—the demonic plot unravels, exposing both the frailty and resilience of the Christian soul under God's unrelenting grace. Ultimately, the "joke" is on Screwtape, for despite Hell's best efforts, the Patient is finally welcomed home by Christ's outstretched arms. Through humor and inversion, Lewis invites us to look anew at the seriousness of temptation, the mercy of God, and the daily realities of our spiritual journey.

For readers new to The Screwtape Letters, these terms may be helpful

Screwtape: The senior demon and narrator of the book, Screwtape writes letters to his nephew Wormwood, coaching him in the art of temptation. He is cunning, manipulative, and delightfully sarcastic, always seeking ways to thwart the patient's faith.

Wormwood: Screwtape's nephew and the book's unseen junior tempter. Wormwood has been assigned to corrupt a particular human and is anxious for advancement in Hell's hierarchy. He is inexperienced, eager, and sometimes clumsy in his efforts.

The Patient: The human under Wormwood's care and attack. Through the letters, we see the patient's spiritual journey—his struggles, questions, growth in faith, and ultimate victory in Christ.

The Enemy: Screwtape's term for God. Everything the devils seek to undo—the enemy's love, grace, forgiveness—are central to the Christian story.

Our Father Below: A demonic way of referring to Satan himself, who rules over Screwtape and the other devils from the depths of Hell.

The Lowerarchy: Hell's rigid bureaucracy, filled with rival demons jockeying for power and influence.

Temptation: The varied strategies the demons use to turn the Patient's attention away from God or twist his good intentions into something self-serving or empty.

The Church: From the demons' view, both a battleground and an opportunity for mischief—its hypocrisies and failures are weapons, but its forgiveness and worship remain dangerous to their schemes. Understanding these few terms will help you decode the delicious irony and spiritual insight at the heart of Lewis's classic.



Please join us for Lenten Evening Vespers on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm through Lent, beginning February 25th. We will focus on "Making Change," a nod to the changes faced by the disciples, Jesus, and our own lives.