

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025 5:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
FARIBAULT, MN 55021



THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO FREELY GIVES

The Christmas trees we decorated with careful hands just a few months ago have come and gone. The account of our salvation in Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, has progressed from the manger through the Epiphany light of our Lord's proclamation of "liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind" (Luke 4:18; see Isaiah 61:1). The palm fronds we held and waved with our hands with cheers and hosannas a year ago have since withered and turned to the ashes we bless this night in hope. Lent returns, reminding us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the "not yet" of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God's mercy, grace, and deliverance. We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own bloody, substitutionary sacrifice in our own human flesh for us and for our salvation. With the pastor's hands the ashes of our failings and sin are placed over the sign we received at our Baptism, and we are welcomed to repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.

PRELUDE MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

P. Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

P. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

(Silence for reflection)

HYMN “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” LSB 733, sts. 1-4

(Please stand)

LITANY

P. O Lord,

C. have mercy.

P. O Christ,

C. have mercy.

P. O Lord,

C. have mercy.

P. O Christ,

C. hear us.

P. God the Father in heaven,

C. have mercy.

P. God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C. have mercy.

P. God the Holy Spirit,

C. have mercy.

P. Be gracious to us.

C. Spare us, good Lord.

P. Be gracious to us.

C. Help us, good Lord.

P. By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C. Help us, good Lord.

P. In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C. Help us, good Lord.

P. To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C. We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P. Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C. grant us Your peace.

P. O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

HYMN “Savior, When in Dust to Thee” LSB 419, sts. 1-4

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

P. In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C. Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1–4, 10–12

P. Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C. according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
C. so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

P. Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C. and renew a right spirit within me.

P. Cast me not away from Your presence,

C. and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

P. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C. and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray. Dear heavenly Father, we are reminded of our dependence upon You as the giver of life and salvation through Christ's cross and resurrection. Keep us ever mindful that You have filled our empty hands with Your blessing. Guard us from seeking the earthly reward of human praise only, to the neglect of the reward that You give us by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12–19

P. The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to Me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God,
 for He is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
 and He relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether He will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind Him,
 a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
 call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.

(continued...)

Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the elders;
 gather the children,
 even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
 and say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,
 and make not Your heritage a reproach,
 a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
 "Where is their God?"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for His land
 and had pity on His people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to His people,
 "Behold, I am sending to you
 grain, wine, and oil,
 and you will be satisfied;
 and I will no more make you
 a reproach among the nations."

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

P. O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
 who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,
 and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

P. The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ,
 be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He
 made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so
 that in Him we might become the
 righteousness of God.

^{6:1}Working together with Him, then, we
 appeal to you not to receive the grace of
 God in vain. ²For He says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,
 and in a day of salvation I have helped
 you."

Behold, now is the favorable time;
 behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We
 put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that
 no fault may be found with our ministry,
⁴but as servants of God we commend
 ourselves in every way: *(continued...)*

by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are

treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P P. This is the Word of the Lord.
C **C. Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

VERSE FOR LENT

C. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they

may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

(continued...)

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys

and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P. This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C. Praise to You, O Christ.

(Please sit)

SERMON HYMN “Draw Us to Thee” LSB 701, sts. 1-5

SERMON “THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO FREELY GIVES”
The Rev. Peter Gueldner

(Please stand)

NICENE CREED

**C. I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.**

(continued...)

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who enter this holy season of Lent in true repentance and faith—that God guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh; cleanse our hearts; and renew a right spirit within us—let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For all who do not know the gracious invitation of God through His Son to return to Him—that many may hear and be drawn to the Lord’s merciful and saving hands—let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For those who have wandered from the faith—that the Holy Spirit restore them to the only hope of salvation—let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For the government and those placed in positions of authority—that they perform their duties with honor for the good of all people—let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For all who suffer from sickness, injury, or any need—that the Lord’s healing hand rest upon them, giving them strength to bear their infirmities with patience—let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

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

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

OFFERING “Who Is the Lamb” *Trinity Choir*

(Please stand)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

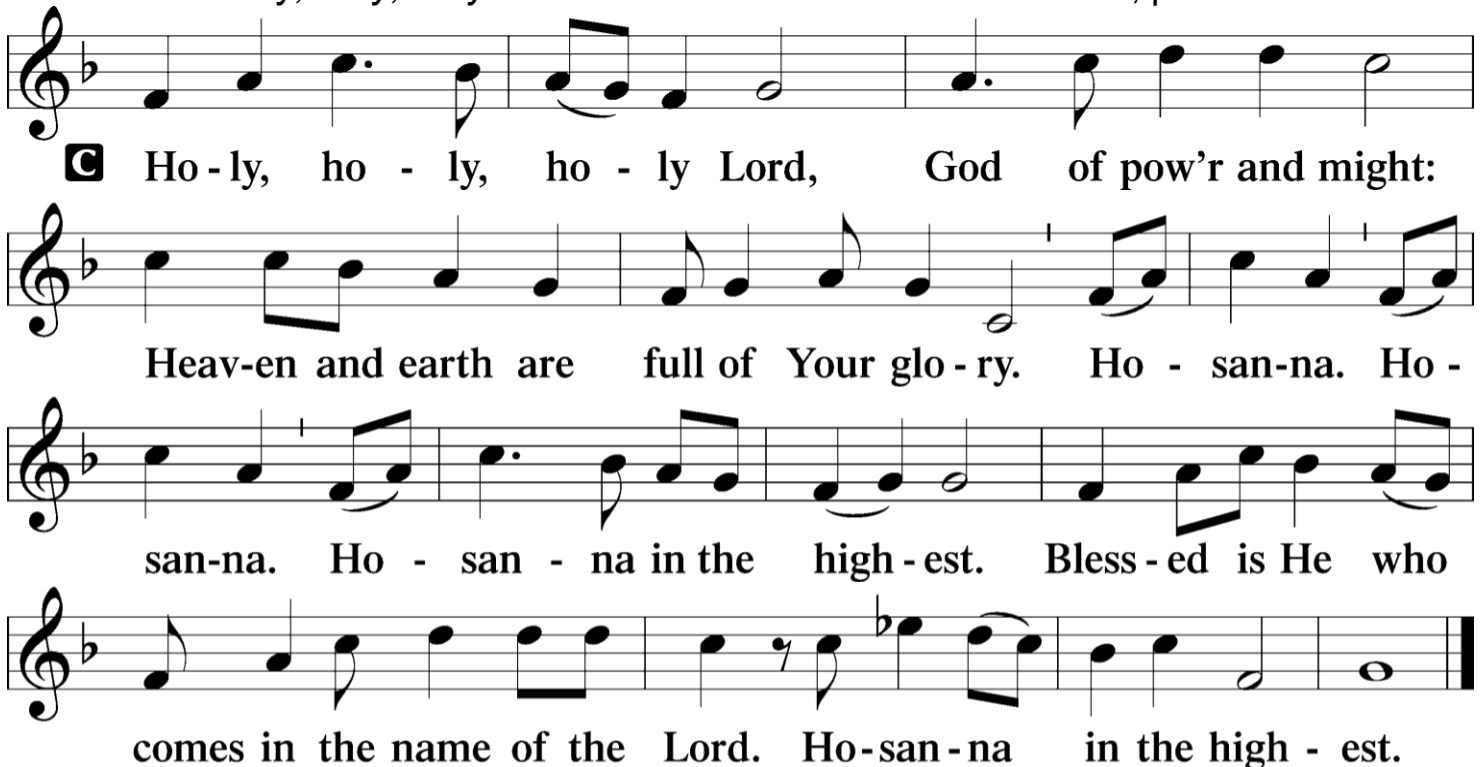
C. It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P. It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, into whose hands You gave the awesome task of perfectly fulfilling Your holy Law, and yet offering Himself as the one and only sacrifice sufficient to redeem mankind. Into Your hands He commended His life so that from His hands we might receive eternal life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *“Holy, Holy, Holy”*

LSB, p. 161



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P. Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C. 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P. Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

+ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES +

(The congregation, including children, is invited forward to receive the imposition of ashes. Following the imposition of ashes, communicants will receive communion.)

P. In the ancient church, ashes were traced on the foreheads of the believers on Ash Wednesday as a sign of penitence and the promise of God's sure forgiveness. Tonight, as you wait in line to receive Holy Communion, the Worship Assistant will trace the sign of the cross on your forehead if you wish, and say the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"When in the Hour of Deepest Need" LSB 615, sts. 1-6

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" LSB 843, sts. 1-4

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE “Nunc Dimittis” *(Song of Simeon)*

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P. Let us pray. The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We give thanks to You, O God, that by Your hand this day You have satisfied our deepest desire, the renewal of our hearts and spirits by the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life. Help us to have generous and thankful hearts and hands to share Your mercy and grace as we forgive our neighbors as we ourselves have been forgiven by You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

HYMN “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” *LSB 722*, sts. 1-3

*** * * TO GOD BE THE GLORY * * ***

Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall after the service to enjoy Lenten
Supper sponsored by the Human Care Team.

Menu includes scalloped potatoes & ham, chicken hot dish, coleslaw,
bread and dessert.

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