

# ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

6:30 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church  
530 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Faribault, MN 55021



## DYING HIS DEATH, LIVING HIS LIFE

### Welcome and Announcements

P. Our Lenten services this year are based on the theme “Dying His death, living His life.” We are buried with Christ in His death so that we might live with Him in His resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for Him. We contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Opening Hymn “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” LSB 440, sts. 1,2,4,6

*Please stand*

### Invocation

P. We begin our service this evening in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen**

### Litany for Lent

P. In this holy season we worship the Son of God, who humbled Himself so that we might receive mercy.

**C. Humble me, O God, cause me to live a life acceptable and pleasing to You.**

P. In this holy season we call on the Son of God, who prays for us so that we are made one with Him and each other.

**C. Grant, O God, that in my praying I may be pleasing and acceptable to You.**

P. In this holy season we worship the Son of God, who in our baptism exchanged His perfect justice for our deadly sin.

**C. Fill me with Your Spirit, O God, that my life and actions may be pleasing and acceptable to You.**

P. In this holy season we worship the Son of God, who entered into suffering and death to redeem us from our sin.

**C. Grant me grace, O God, to believe that my faith in Jesus pleases You. Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

P. The Scripture reminds us that we are dust, and to dust we shall return, let us therefore confess our sins:

**C. Most merciful God, we confess that our very nature is sinful. Pride causes us to love ourselves more than we love You or others. We think that our lives are acceptable to You, when in reality they are not. We have sinned against You by speaking selfish words, by thinking selfish thoughts and by taking selfish action. We have failed to love others more than ourselves, and we have failed to love You above all else. Have mercy on us sinners.**

P. Since we cannot justify ourselves before God, He sent His one and only Son to live the life we were intended and to die the death we deserve. Because of His generous grace, our sinful pride and all other sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Please be seated**

#### **Old Testament Reading      Joel 2:12-19**

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
 “return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>and 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.

<sup>14</sup>Who 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?

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

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

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

<sup>17</sup>Between 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?'"

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land  
and had pity on his people.

<sup>19</sup>The 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.**

### **Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10**

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,

<sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P. This is the Word of the Lord

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Please stand for the reading of the Gospel**

**Gospel Reading Matthew 18:23-35**

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay

you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

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

**Please be seated**

**Sermon Hymn “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” LSB 843, sts. 1-4**

**Sermon “DYING TO SIN, LIVING IN FORGIVENESS”**  
*The Rev. Rex Longshore*

**Offering Special Music “There Is a Redeemer” Trinity Choir**

**Prayers**

*Each petition ends with the following response:*

P. Christ, Healer all brokenness,  
**C. restore our broken hearts.**

P. Together we pray as our Savior has taught us:

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

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."

### **Imposition of Ashes**

P. In times of great sorrow and heartache, God's people of old wore their grief. Sackcloth and ashes reflected the reality of their hearts.

**C. Brokenness cannot be hidden.**

P. Tonight we acknowledge the brokenness of our hearts, and we wear the sign of our brokenness, ashes.

**C. Our brokenness cannot be hidden.**

P. But our brokenness is only part of the story. There's more. The ashes trace the shape of the cross—the cross that removes our sin, heals us, and makes us whole.

**C. Our brokenness is not forever; we are restored in the cross.**

### **Please stand**

### **COMMUNION**

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.**

P. Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P. As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God" *LSB p. 163*

**☐** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please sit

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“What Is This Bread” *LSB 629, sts. 1-5*

“Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness” *LSB 636, sts. 1-8*

**Please stand**

**COMMUNION DISMISSAL**

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

**C. Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

P. Let us pray.

O God, merciful Father, You do not turn away from the sighing of a contrite heart nor the desires of those who in sorrow for their sins cry to You for mercy. Hear the prayers of Your people who in the midst of their troubles call to You for relief.

Graciously hear us that the evils which burden our souls and the sins which weigh greatly on our hearts may know peace and forgiveness. Rekindle within us Your new life imparted in Baptism and restore to us the holy joy that belongs to all Your people, that we may keep Your commandments and do on earth Your heavenly will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C. Amen.**

**Benediction**

P. Receive the blessing of the Lord:

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 grant you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C. Amen**

**Please sit**

**Closing Hymn** “God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven” *LSB 877, sts. 1-4*△

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

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES CONTINUE**  
**Services at 6:30 p.m.**

Suppers are served at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

- **Week 1, February 25** – Dying to Pride, Living for Others  
*Supper will support the St. Vincent de Paul food shelf*
- **Week 2, March 4** – Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven  
*Faribault Lutheran School will serve Baked Potato Bar*
- **Week 3, March 11** – Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith  
*Supper sponsored by Bible Study Group.  
 Serving Chili and Broccoli Cheese Soup*
- **Week 4, March 18** – Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace  
*Supper sponsored by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.  
 Serving Vegetable Beef and Chicken Noodle Soup.*

*Women in Mission need help making soup on March 18, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Ingredients will be provided –we just need more helping hands! We appreciate anyone who can come help make soup.*

- **Week 5, March 25** – Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace  
*Supper still in need of a sponsor*