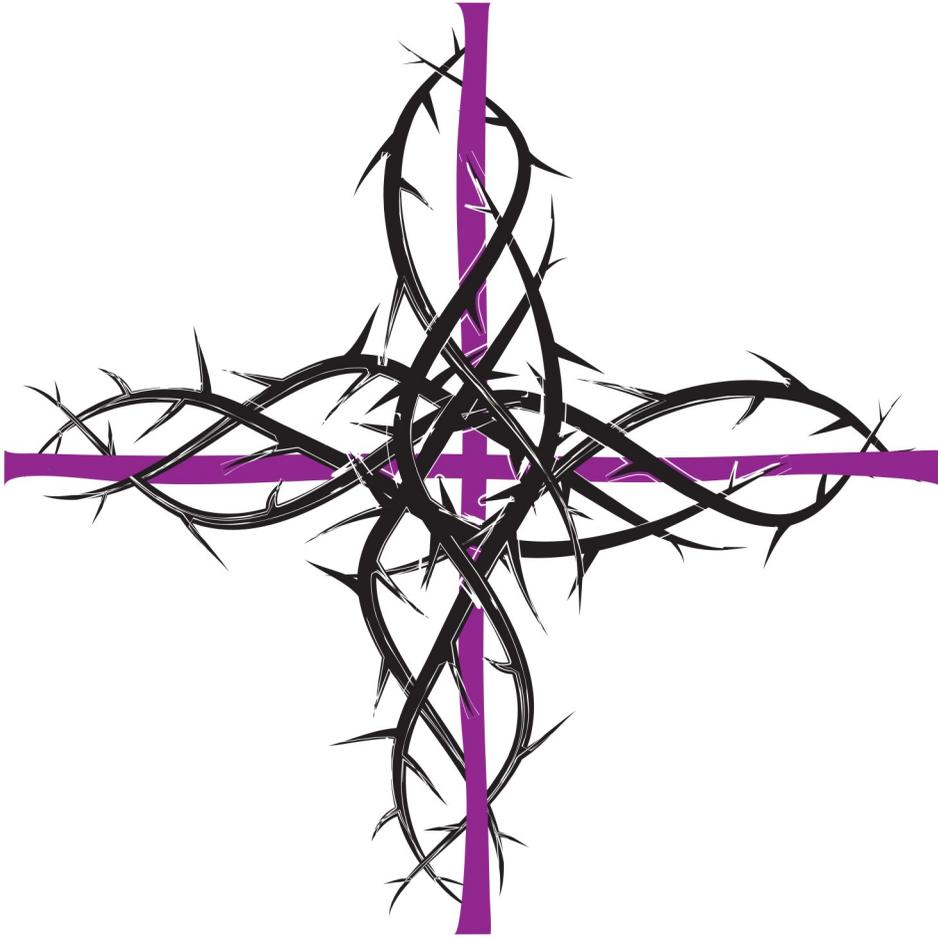


Ash Wednesday



Replacing our broken heart with a heart of new life, hope and rebirth.

February 14, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church
213 North Pennsylvania Ave | Mason City, Iowa 50401 | 641-423-0536 | www.trinity-mc.org

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14, 2024
1:30 p.m. and *6:30 p.m.
*Livestream Worship Service

Tune My Heart

Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves - a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Looking at Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, as we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God.

Ash Wednesday is about the heart - our heart and God's heart for us. On Ash Wednesday, we acknowledge the brokenness in our hearts due to missteps, mishaps and painful endings. We also celebrate the remarkable grace of the God who, through Jesus, replaces our broken heart with a heart of new life, hope and rebirth.

Welcome to Trinity! We are glad you're here. If you are new to Trinity Lutheran, please complete an informational card which can be found in the pews.

We love having small children in worship! Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the **Child Care Room** located on the 2nd floor just outside the north sanctuary door (door under the stained glass window door).

Large print bulletins and listening devices are available from the ushers.

Activity Bags are available for children during worship. They are located in the narthex and at the front of the church. Please return them at the end of services.

Our Mission We are called to share God's healing love through Christ's forgiveness and our personal servanthood.

Serving in Worship

Pastor	Dan Gerriettes Daniel Hanson
Organist	Ryan Hulshizer Deb Nielsen
Communion Assistants	Roz Barron and Kathy Dobrzynski Dan and Jane Billings Gary and Sharon Lindgren Gary and Vicki Wattnem
Scripture Readers	Kathy Dobrzynski Gary Lindgren
Technical Support	Randy Elsbernd, Sophia Fitzgerald Evelyn Hunt
Ushers	John Barron, Dean Graven David Stine, Stu Vold Becky Elsbernd, Liz Fitzgerald Jake Rockman, Roger Schlitter

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L ¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Poem: *“Tune My Heart”*

by Rev. Sarah Speed

L Tune my heart.
 Like an old violin,
 like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners of weather;
I have been left alone for far too long.
So like a concertmaster
 with a steady hand,
tune me up.

Listen and learn
the cracked keys,
the broken strings.
Memorize the forgotten intervals
that even I did not know.
And then, when we're ready,
When this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song.

Hymn

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW 592

Greeting

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and ever-living God,
you hate nothing you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and honest hearts,
so that, truly repenting of our sins,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW pg. 125



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

***Gospel: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon—Pastor Dan Gerrietts

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou fount of Every Blessing

ELW 807

Invitation to Lent

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony in creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent - self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love - strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*The Confession

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

C Most holy and merciful Father:

P We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole communion of heaven, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

C We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and the apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

C Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

P Have mercy on us, O God.

- C Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.**
- P Have mercy on us, O God.
- C Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.**
- P Have mercy on us, O God.
- C Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**
- P Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy, and
✠ forgives you in Christ's name. Amen.

MEAL

Offering

Text to Give is available at Trinity!
Simply text the amount you wish to give to 833-412-0093.
Or scan the QR code with your smartphone.
Please note where your gifts should be directed towards.



*Offertory

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

ELW 712 vs 1

*Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.*

*Offering Prayer

- P Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
- C Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give you thanks and praise.

P Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea;

within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

P Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day;

across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

P We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;

beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

P 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 his love for us on the way,

at the table, and to the end,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.
Blessing, praise, and thanks to you,
holy God, through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church,
without end.

C Amen.

***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.

The Imposition of Ashes and Communion

Lent is a time for us to return to our Creator who formed us from the dust of the earth. Our lives are finite, so we want to spend every precious moment in tune with God, living whole, abundant lives—the kind of lives we were created to lead. And so in recognition of our origins in the earth, in acknowledgment of our finite days, we come to receive ashes and remember: dust we are, and to dust we shall return.

*The imposition of ashes and distribution of Communion will take place together.
The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person at the first station with the words:*

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

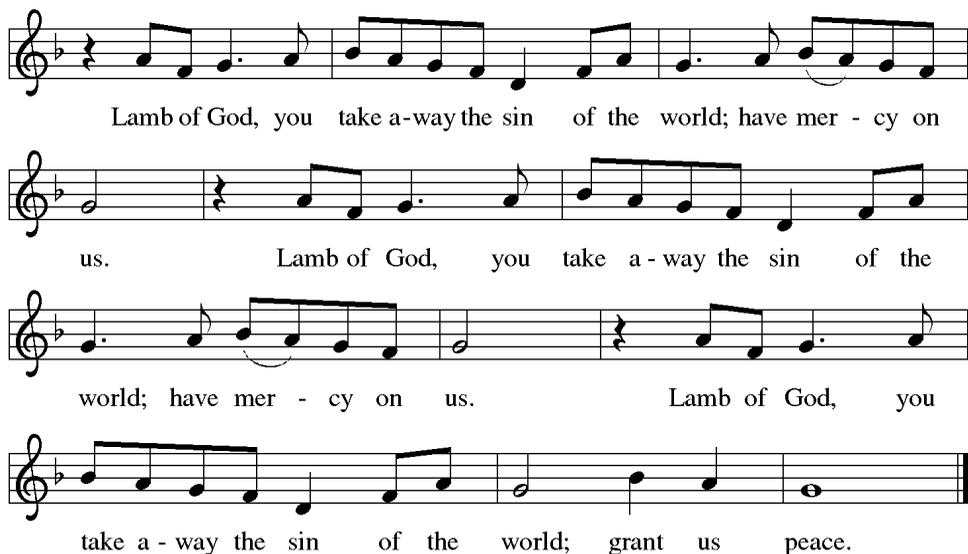
If you do not desire ashes you may move directly to the communion station.

Communion will be served by intinction today. Receive the wafer from the server and then dip it into the wine or the grape juice before eating it. Gluten free wafers are available. Check with your server.

If for any reason you are not comfortable participating in communion today, we invite you to come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing.

Lamb of God

ELW pg. 135



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.

Communion Songs

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Give Me Jesus*

ELW 623

ELW 770

*Prayer after Communion

P Holy Creator, you fashioned us from the dust and called us good, so very good. Your fingerprints remain all over us. Don't let us forget that we come from the earth, we will return to the earth, and every day in between is a gift from you. Gifts aren't meant to be encased in glass boxes and set high on a shelf, lest they show any signs of use. No, you gave us this life in the hopes that we would live it fully, using it up and letting it develop signs of wear and tear, a marvelous patina that proves we have lived.

But some days we'd rather be safe and sound, where nothing can touch us. It's a beautiful life, but the living can be so hard, God. All along our journeys we get scraped knees, hurt feelings, missteps, mistakes, unexpected diagnoses, broken hearts, painful endings, and phone calls that change our lives in an instant.

As the paths of our lives wander through hills and valleys, as we get caught in the rain and the soles of our shoes wear down, tune our hearts to hear your voice everywhere. If we listen closely, we can hear it now. It's in uncontrollable giggles, birdsong at the window, the sizzle of a homemade meal on the stove, and melodies buried deep in our souls.

Yes, indeed, it's a beautiful life. Not because it's perfect, but because it's real. Journey with us, accompanying us as the path winds. Lift our heads to witness the majesty tucked around every detour. If we look closely, we might see your fingerprints. And if we listen deeply, we just might hear your voice calling us good, so very good.

C Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

P Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

***Sending Song**

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

***Sending**

P Go in peace, following Christ's way.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



LENT 2024

This Lent at Trinity, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer.

In Peter, we often see ourselves - a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

A **daily LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOK** is available to pick up they are located at the Welcome desk and by the church offices.

LENT COIN FOLERS have been mailed. All gifts benefit Trinity's ongoing ministry in our community. To make your gift online, go to trinity-mc.org/give. Additional folders can be found at the Welcome Desk and by the office windows.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

1:30 and 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space

Join us for a service of music, scripture, journaling and small group discussions.

Lent Dinners are from 6-6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall—all donations from the meals will support Trinity Youth attending the national youth gathering this summer.

WANDERING HEART LENT RETREAT—Saturday, February 24 | 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Take a deeper dive into the life of Peter with this hands on event. Wandering Heart Lent Retreat starts with a large group activity and then invites you to wander where your heart leads to explore a variety of interactive stations that each tell a story about Peter's journey with Jesus. Opportunity for reflection, creativity, and physical activity will be offered. All ages and abilities are welcome to attend but children must be accompanied by an adult. **Please sign up by Thursday, February 22.**

