

March 5, 2025

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

\*6:30 p.m.

\*Livestream Worship Service

Lent 2025



*Sometimes faith is simple. But often it's messy and nuanced – more complex than black or white, one thing or the other. This Lent, we are letting the Gospel of Luke guide us to the “in-between” nature of following Jesus. Jesus is on the road, but not there yet. Jesus is telling stories, but the crowds don't understand. Jesus is leading a parade, but it's not the one people expected. Welcome to an in-between Lent.*

*On this Ash Wednesday, we hear how “would-be followers” have good intentions but also struggle to follow. Somewhere between good intentions and impulsive action lies discipleship. Today we make a commitment to align our intentions and our actions.*

**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.

**Serving in Worship**

<b>Pastor</b>	Dan Gerrietts Daniel Hanson Beverly Butler
<b>Organist</b>	Deb Nielsen
<b>Cantor</b>	Mel Shallberg
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Tom and Nancy Ball Tearnie Heinzerling
<b>Scripture Readers</b>	Tearnie Heinzerling
<b>Technical Support</b>	Maggie Gerrietts, Leah Gerrietts Dani Vogel
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Deardeuff, Gary Wattnem, Jon Wicks

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Call to Worship

L Holy God, your invitation is simple.

**C You lean in close. You say our name.**

L With joy in your voice, you invite us to follow.

**C But the noise of this world is distracting, and we are afraid.**

L So we get stuck somewhere between our head and our heart.

**C We get stuck somewhere between our intent and our action.**

L So today we pray, speak to us again.

**C Tell us the story. Invite us to follow.**

L Speak once more, of good news that will not leave us alone.

**C Speak to us again, for we are listening. Amen.**

### Hymn

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

ELW 800

### Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

L <sup>1</sup> Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments;

they want God on their side.

<sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day  
and oppress all your workers.

- <sup>4</sup> You fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.
- <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?
- <sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?
- <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
- <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."  
If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
- <sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.
- <sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually  
and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong,  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water  
whose waters never fail.

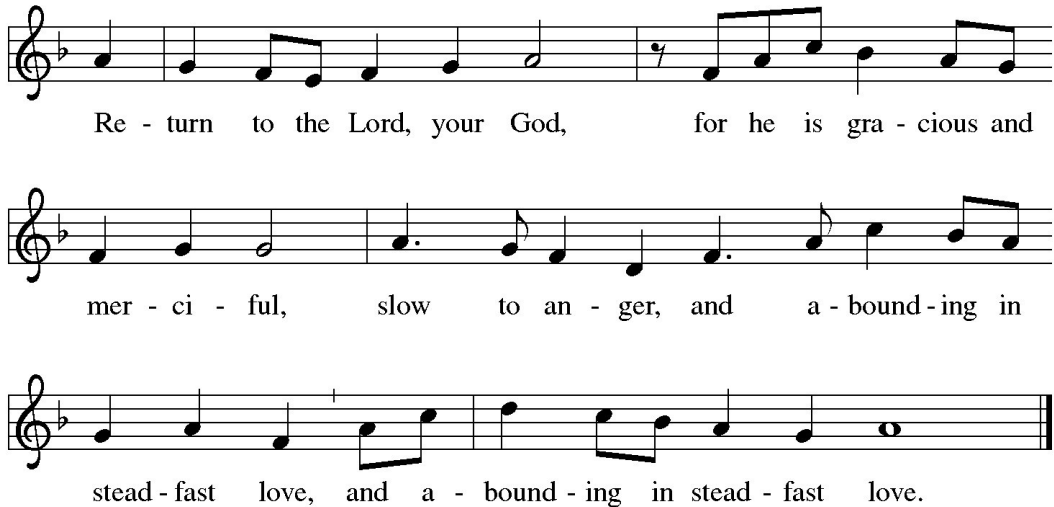
<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

L The word of Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

ELW pg. 142



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

**\*Gospel: Luke 9:51-62**

P <sup>51</sup> When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup> And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, <sup>53</sup> but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup> When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup> But he turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup> Then they went on to another village. <sup>57</sup> As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup> To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup> Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at

my home.”<sup>62</sup> And Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon—Pastor Dan Gerrietts**

**Hymn of the Day**

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

ELW 802

## **Invitation to Lent**

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the season of Lent - a time of focus and rekindling – a time when we remember Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection and how, in Christ, our lives are renewed.

Lent is a call to step forward, even when we’re not fully ready. Are you ready to move toward transformation? Are you ready to listen for good news amid the noise and division around our world? Are you ready to set Lent intentions, even with this year’s challenges? Are you ready to begin again?

Here at Trinity, we are inviting you to experience the fullness of Lent through a daily devotional based on the Gospel of Luke (more about that in a bit). We invite you to worship each Wednesday and each weekend. We invite you to prayer and sacrificial giving and acts of love like the Easter food box project – knowing that all these acts are strengthened by God’s love given through the Word and the Sacraments. We want to walk this journey with all of you – through Holy Week and Easter.

Lent is here. So let us begin by acknowledging our need for repentance and God’s mercy. Let us admit that we are not ready to follow, but that God, through sheer grace and forgiveness, sets us free to start walking. Freed by Christ from sin and all that draws us away from loving God and others, let us now confess our brokenness. Let us take this first step together.

## **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

#### *Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### \*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.

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.**

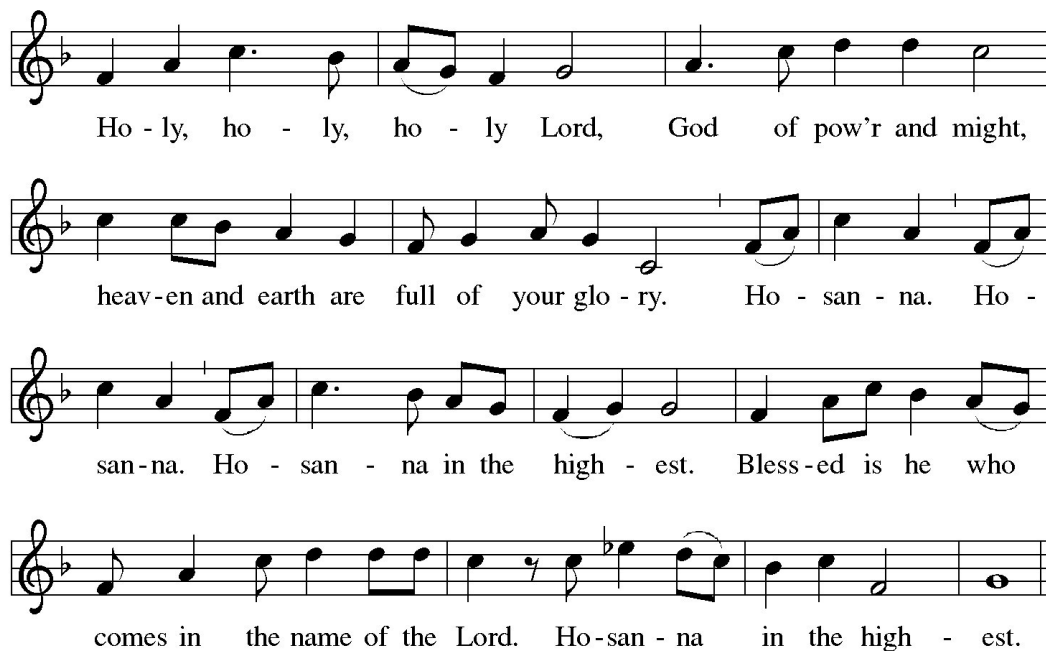
**Christ will come again.**

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.**

## \*Holy

ELW pg. 144



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

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. 146

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

*Give Me Jesus  
Day by Day*

ELW 770  
ELW 790

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

- P Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **\*Blessing**

- P God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.
- 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 2025

This year, we're letting the Gospel of Luke guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), this series flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. In each narrative, Jesus intentionally highlights the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical and inclusive love of God. Many of these stories mirror the divides we see in our families, churches and communities today. This series is an invitation to approach these polarities with more faith, intention, and openness to others. Each weekly theme will explore two supposed binaries, like “rest & growth” or “grief & hope.” But life is often more nuanced and complex. God is present [in] between.



## Journey with Jesus: Reading Luke through Lent

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.” Psalm 119:105*

The season of Lent is a great time to commit to spending time with God and tending our spiritual life. This Lenten season we are inviting everyone at Trinity to read Scripture together as a spiritual discipline.

Using the devotional, Journey with Jesus, we will together read the Gospel of Luke, a chapter a day, along with other readings from the Bible that connect to Luke. Journal questions are provided to dig deeper and to reflect on the daily readings.

For those interested, there will be a ***gathering at noon on Mondays during Lent in the Fellowship Hall, to discuss and process the Scripture for the past week in community.*** People are encouraged to bring a lunch and to stay for whatever time their schedule affords. In journeying with Jesus' sacred story, may we be fed and grounded in God's word. Copies are available by the church offices and the Welcome Center.

## Lenten Offering Folder

Lenten folders are available for a special offering during this season of “alms.” This offering benefits Trinity's ongoing ministry in our community. If you're unable to fill it with \$40, please give the amount that feels right for you. To complete online, go to [trinity-mc.org/give](http://trinity-mc.org/give)

## **WEDNESDAYS IN LENT**

### **STARTING MARCH 12TH**

**Lent Dinners are from 6-6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall

All donations from the meals will support Trinity Youth activities.

**Lent Services will be at 6:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary

Based on our Lent Series “Everything [in] Between,” is for people living in a divided world.

It’s for all who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it.

It’s for those who want to experience a God who shows up on the edges and everywhere in between.

***March 12—Guest Speaker is Alan Steckman***

*Each week someone from our faith community will share a reflection.*

### **Middle School Mom Lent Bible Study**

**6:00 AM** / Cabin Coffee - Mason City

Middle School moms are invited to Cabin Coffee in Mason City with Carol Dettmer on Wednesday mornings during Lent from 6:00 - 7:00 AM to read and discuss the Lent Bible Study of Luke that is for all Trinity members. These morning meetings will help with accountability and provide fellowship. No RSVP needed for either, just show up!



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