

ash

WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

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

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

1:00 pm and *6:30 pm

*Livestream Worship Service



Lent was originally a season for new converts to Christianity to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: God's mercy, radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—good news for us and for all people. The good news is... all are invited...

We begin Ash Wednesday with an open invitation. Today's parable invites us into a communal feast. The host of the party sends a servant to search the entire city to bring people in: Though the net is cast wide, too many guests deny the invitation, instead focusing on their individual concerns. Yet, the host's invitation is persistent. They search high and low for the dispossessed and the vulnerable, perhaps those who are hungry to accept the invitation. As guests are gathered in, the miracle is that there is still room. There is more love and abundance available, if only we are present to receive it.

Welcome to Trinity- We are glad you are here!

If you are new to Trinity please complete the Welcome Card located in the pews so we can follow-up with you.

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

Seating for People with Limited Mobility is reserved throughout the Sanctuary. Just look for the blue accessibility signs or ask your Usher.

We love having small children in worship!

- 1) ***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.
- 2) Those needing a space to change or feed little ones are welcome to use the ***Child Care Room*** located next to the nursery. Nursery space is available but won't be staffed. The nursery is located on the 2nd floor of the education wing and just outside the north sanctuary door. Ushers are available to direct you if needed.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastors

Dan Gerriets, Daniel Hanson, Beverly Butler

Preacher

Pastor Daniel Hanson

Organist

Cantor

Ushers

1pm _____ coming from Jim Zach)
6:30pm _____ (coming from Jim Zach)

Scripture Reader

Dennis Wilson

Communion Assistants

1pm: 6:30pm:

Technical Support

Custodian

Dave Smith

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Invitation to Lent

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 season where we return to the roots of our faith. At the heart of Jesus’ teachings, we find liberation, love, forgiveness, mercy, and grace—good news for us and for all people.

Here at Trinity, we are inviting you to experience the fullness of Lent through a daily devotional based on the Gospel of John (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. Let us walk together in the footsteps of our Savior.

Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

ELW 802

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

¹ Blow 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—
² a 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.

¹⁴ 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?

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

Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar,
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
 and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

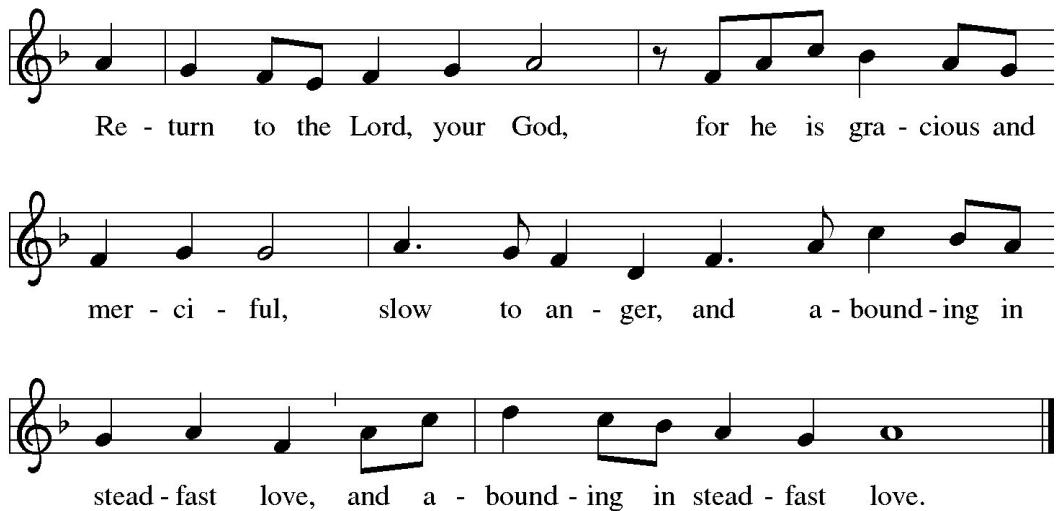
Why should it be said among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’ ”

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.

*Gospel: Luke 14:15-24

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵ One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, “Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!” ¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him, “Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is ready now.’ ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.’ ¹⁹ Another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.’ ²⁰ Another said, ‘I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.’ ²¹ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ ²² And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ ²³ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’ ”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Daniel Hanson

Hymn of the Day

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW 592

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P At God's invitation, we are led upon the path of mercy and forgiveness. Freed by Christ from sin and all that draws us away from loving God and others, let us now confess our sin 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 \pm forgives you in Christ's name.

C **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.

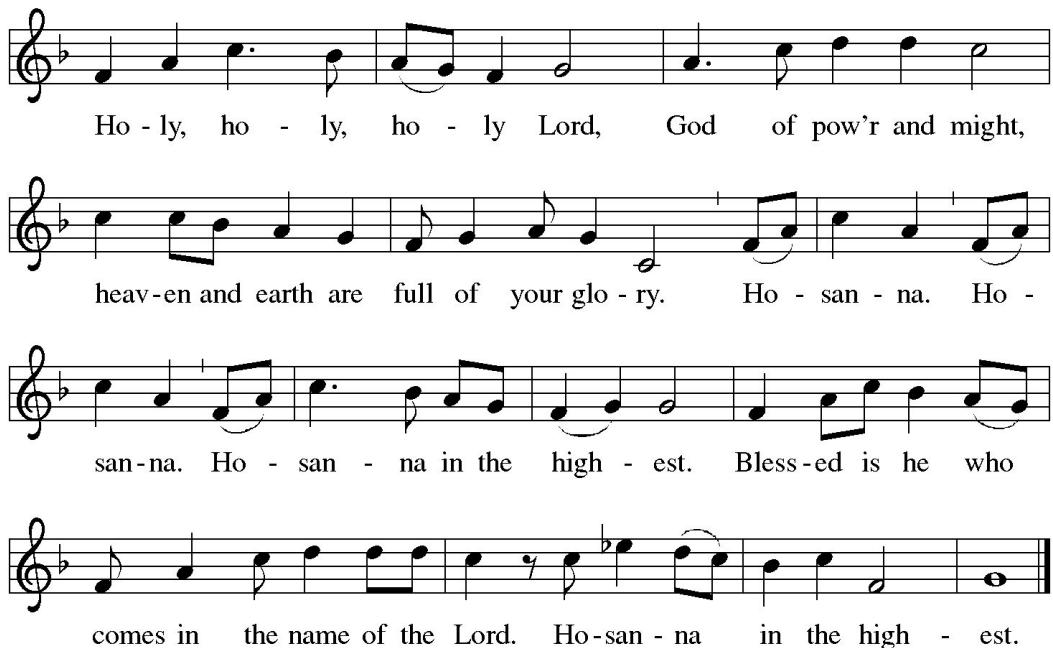
Christ will come again.

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; 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
When I Survey the Wonderous Cross*

ELW 770

ELW 803

***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 Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

***Sending Song**

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

ELW 609

***Sending**

P Go in peace, following Christ's way.
C Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Lent was originally a season for new converts to Christianity to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: God's mercy, radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—good news for us and for all people.

The good news of Jesus brings us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings grounds us in who God created us to be. But can we be “good news” people in a world so full of bad news?

This Lent at Trinity, we want to remember that the good news really is *good news*. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

Tell Me Something Good series at a glance.....

- ...So Good it Catches us by Surprise* – 1st Sunday in Lent (Feb. 21-22)
- ...Great Love for God and Neighbor* – 2nd Sunday in Lent (Feb. 28-March 1)
- ...Together, the Impossible is Possible* – 3rd Sunday in Lent (March 8-9)
- ...Protection and Care for the Vulnerable* – 4th Sunday in Lent (March 15-16)
- ...Rooted in Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness* – 5th Sunday in Lent (March 22-23)
- ...Inspiring Us to Act* – Palm Sunday (March 28-29)

Lent Wednesdays Worship | February 25—March 25 |

1:00 PM (Chapel) & 6:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Shorter traditional service with a creative liturgy and message

Wednesday Dinners | February 25—March 25 | 6:00 PM—6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

A delicious community meal served by TLC Youth

JOURNEY WITH JESUS: Reading John Through Lent

The season of Lent is a great time to commit to spending time with God and tending our spiritual life. This Lenten season, we invite everyone at Trinity to read Scripture together as a spiritual discipline. Using the devotional Journey with Jesus, we will read the Gospel of John together. Journal questions are provided to dig deeper and to reflect on the daily readings. We encourage you to form a group or find a friend and meet weekly (or when you can) during Lent to reflect on the readings and questions. 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 allows.

WALKING THE JOURNEY WITH JESUS Thursdays in Lent | 4:00 pm

Join us, starting Thursday, February 26th to walk and talk about the Gospel of John.

We'll walk the halls and stairways of Trinity Church as we discuss and process the Scripture for the week in the Lenten devotional. Meet in the Art Gallery Alcove.

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

