

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

February 17, 2021 7:00 p.m.

(Congregational responses are in **bold case**. Please remember to turn off your cell phone. Thank you.)

Significance of the Day: On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Gathering

(All gather in silence. To gather with a sense of community in worship, please be seated in the front pews on either side. You may kneel for self-examination in prayer before God. Please honor the silent meditation of others.)

Greetings and Announcements

Silent Prayer

(The assembly stands.)

Psalm 51:1-17 (Psalm will be recited in unison.)

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;* in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,* and cleanse me | from my sin.
- 3 For I know | my transgressions,* and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- 4 Against you only | have I sinned* and done what is evil | in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified | when you speak* and upright | in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,* a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,* and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;* wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of | joy and gladness,* that the body you have broken | may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face | from my sins,* and blot out all | my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean | heart, O God,* and renew a right spir- | it within me.
- 12 Cast me not away | from your presence,* and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving | help again* and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,* and sinners shall re- | turn to you.
- 15 Deliver me from | death, O God,* and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.
- 16 Open my | lips, O Lord,*
 and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,* but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

Invitation to Lent

Brothers and sisters 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 with 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.

Confession of Sin

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

(The assembly kneels, as able, or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)

Most holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

(The assembly may come forward and kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive the ashes. All baptized Christians are encouraged to participate.)

(After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.)

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

(The presiding minister addresses the assembly.)

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

(After a period of silence for reflection, the assembly stands.)

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. (A brief silence is kept.)

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.

Amen.

(The assembly is seated.)

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

A reading from Joel:

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, and abounding in steadfast love,

and relents from punishing.

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;

sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

16 gather the people.

Sanctify 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?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:8-14

(The psalm will be spoken in unison by whole verse.)

8 LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

9 you will not al- | ways accuse us, nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

10 You have not dealt with us according | to our sins, nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth, so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

12 As far as the east is | from the west, so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.

13 As a father has compassion | for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

14 For you know well how | we are formed; you remember that we | are but dust.

A reading from Second Corinthians:

20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For 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 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,

and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(The assembly stands)

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples:

- 1 "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.
- 2 "So 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. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so 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. 6 But 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. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so 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; 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(The Gospel is proclaimed, concluding:)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

(Silence for reflection follows the sermon.)

(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)



Prayers of Intercession

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need, responding, "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

(Brief silence)

- A: O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.
- A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

- P: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: Amen.

(The assembly stands.)

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Meal

(The assembly is seated.)

The Offering of Our Gifts

Music during the Offering

Interlude on Southwell

(Fedak)

(The assembly stands.)

Offertory Verse

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace, that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase. Let the clear inscription be; Jesus, crucified for me, in my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

Offertory Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 Breaking of Bread

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Music during communion Appointed hymns

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you onto eternal life.

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. (A brief silence is kept.)

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(The assembly kneels, as able, or sits in silent prayer until after the dismissal.)

Sending

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.** (*sung.*)

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;

be of good courage;

hold fast to that which is good;

render to no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honor all people;

love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin

Organist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Chuck Lanning
Communion Assistant Nancy McLaughlin
Lector Bonnie Massing

Usher Tammy Daniello

About Ashes and Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday received its name from the practice of imposing ashes on this day which marks the beginning of the forty days of Lent. The imposition of ashes is a sign that we have confessed our sinfulness and is an outward sign of inward penitence. Experience has shown that Christians find this practice rich in meaning and powerful in emotional impact. After being long neglected, this practice has been revived in Lutheran congregations over the past several decades.

The use of ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in Scripture (for example see Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; and Matthew 11:21.) The early Christian Church accepted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence, sorrow for sin.

Why use an ancient symbol now? Because the symbol speaks to us in several ways. First, ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin – as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19.) Second, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Ashes were used in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday the ashes are a penitential reminder of God's cleansing of us in Baptism. Third, ashes remind us of the shortness of human life – as we say at the time of burial of the dead, "We commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." The imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a reminder that one day those words will be said over each of us. Finally, as mentioned above, ashes are a symbol of repentance.

Palm branches saved from the previous year's celebration of the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday are burned to make the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

Invitation to Communion

Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing

We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Morning Prayer

We will **NOT** be gathering at the church to pray Morning Prayer on weekdays during Lent. However, one member of the congregation will pray Morning Prayer at the church each day on our behalf. Because we typically pray for every member of the congregation by name during Lent at these services, we have created a simplified order of Morning Prayer for you to pray at home every day. See that order, and the list of names for each day, in the current Messenger.

Stations of the Cross

We will not gather in person to pray Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings. We will, however, have Stations of the Cross available on our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCamdlF705R3knw7NEksvFxg. You can pray Stations on Friday evenings by using the posting on that channel.

Wednesday Evening Prayer and Lenten Study

We **WILL** gather for Evening Prayer at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. Because we have had a daily Eucharist scheduled for Wednesday evenings since June, a brief distribution of Holy Communion will occur at the conclusion of Evening Prayer for those who wish to remain in the church.

We will also have a Lenten study at 7:15 p.m. Pastor Brenda will hold the study in-person at the church for a small number of people who attend Evening Prayer and prefer to remain in the church. The study will also be available via Zoom for those who feel safer gathering in that way. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office so that we can email you the Zoom link.

The study this year will be on the Luther writing, "Freedom of the Christian." Last year was the 500th anniversary of the publication of "Freedom of the Christian," and we will explore what it means for those of us who usually think about "freedom" as the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of a Western democracy, and compare that to what it means to be freed in Christ.

Sunday Church School Lenten Project 2021 - Calling All Bunnies!

The Parish Education Committee is requesting participation from the congregation in our SCS Lenten Project.

For the Good Shepherd Center's Easter basket distribution this year, we will again be collecting chocolate bunnies. We ask that the bunnies be medium-sized, preferably 6 oz. Bunnies can be brought in, starting on Ash Wednesday (February 17) and placed on tables which will be located as usual at two spots – in the narthex, and in the administrative hall near the back alley door. We will need to have all bunnies collected by **Tuesday, March 23**, in order for GSC to have them in time for the Easter basket distribution dates.

Thank you so much in advance for any help you can provide with our Lenten Project!

Good Shepherd February Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **February is canned fruit.** Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister. Donations may be dropped off at the church office or directly at the Food Pantry.

Please Pray For

Permission is necessary to add a person to the prayer list. Please ask before your call the office. Thanks.

Health and Healing:

Lori McCann

Donnie (friend of Wayne and Darla Swift)
Chris Hansen (cousin of Betty K. Junk)
Laurie Campbell (friend of Fran Black)
Dennis (brother of Jim Martin)
Betty K.
Hank (son of Henry and Ruth Heil)
Kate (friend of Paul and Sue Bittler)

Nancy (friend of Linda Armstrong)

John L (father of Catherine Mott)

Brenda (sister-in-law of Betty K. Junk)

Carl

Paul

Dillon (friend of Ed Pitcher and Beth Harpst)

Belle (granddaughter of Linda Bateman)

Christ's comfort for those who grieve the death of:

Jim

Kelly Henderson Bradley (cousin of Jill Murrin)
Allan Wilkins
Beverly Richards

In Military Service

Specialist (SPC) Andrew McCall, Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado (son of Mark and Jane McCall, grandson of Karen McKay and the late Jim McKay)

Sgt. First Class Nicholas Carman, US Army, Fredericksburg, Virginia (grandson of Nancy Ullstrom)

Admiral Richard Childs, Assistant Surgeon General of the USA (nephew of Harvey Childs)

CDR Ryan Leary, USN, Operation Officer, 7th Fleet, Yokosuka, Japan (son of David and Judy Leary)

Tim Ross, Navy Special Forces, (grandson of Rae Johnson, nephew of Lori McEwen) Ian McQuiston, US Air Force, Kuwait (friend of Betty K. Junk)

Easter Flower / ELCA Disaster Response Form

Help decorate the chancel for Easter by ordering potted flowers for our celebration of the Festival of the Resurrection. You may also make a donation to the ELCA Disaster Response.

Your donation may be made in celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of a person (s) or an event. (Amounts given are not listed in the bulletin.)

The deadline for ordering flowers and making a donation to Disaster Response is **Sunday, March 14, 2021.**

Please enclose payment for both Easter flowers and Disaster Response donations when you return this completed form to the church office.

	Lily (\$9.75)	Tulip (\$8.75)	Hyacinth (\$8.75)
	Donation to ELCA Disaster Response		
An	nount Enclosed \$ Envelope Number:		
	(Please make check	s payable to Holy Trinity Lut	heran Church)
To the Gl	ory of God and in Mem	nory (deceased) of:	
	ory of God and in Hono	or (living) of:	
		bration (event) of:	
I	1 1	our Easter plant(s) after the 9 be picked up the Tuesday afte Easter Sunday.	
I	/we wish to have my/ou	or Easter plant(s) delivered to	a shut-in.
	(Your name)		(Phone)