



February 14, 2024

**Ash Wednesday**

**February 14, 2024**

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 4**

*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.*

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**PRELUDE**

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**GATHERING**

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**WELCOME & PSALM LITANY**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

**P** Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness: in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offenses. Wash away all my guilt: and cleanse me from my sin.

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

**P** For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is always before me. Against you only have I sinned and done evil in your sight.

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

**P** Create in me a clean heart O God: and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence: do not take your holy spirit from me.

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

**P** Give me the joy of your help again: and strengthen me with a willing spirit. O Lord open my lips: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

**GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

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.**

*Please be seated.*

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## WORD

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### FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>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— <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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 the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: 2ND CORINTHIANS 5:20B—6:10

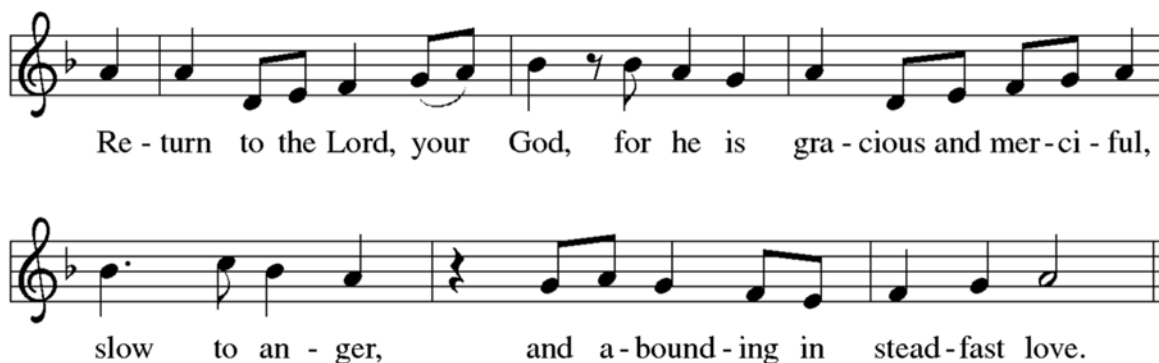
<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting 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 have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

# GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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: <sup>1</sup>“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.”<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

**PR. BARBARA JONES**

*Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.*

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived  
 by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
 Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at  
 the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and  
 the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of  
 saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  
 everlasting. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## 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 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 AND FORGIVENESS

P During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart. Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P God at the margins,

**C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Christ, leading you from death into life.

**C Amen.**

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## MEAL

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**OFFERING**      *The offering collected as you entered the sanctuary will be presented at the altar along with the bread & wine.*

## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS & ELEMENTS

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

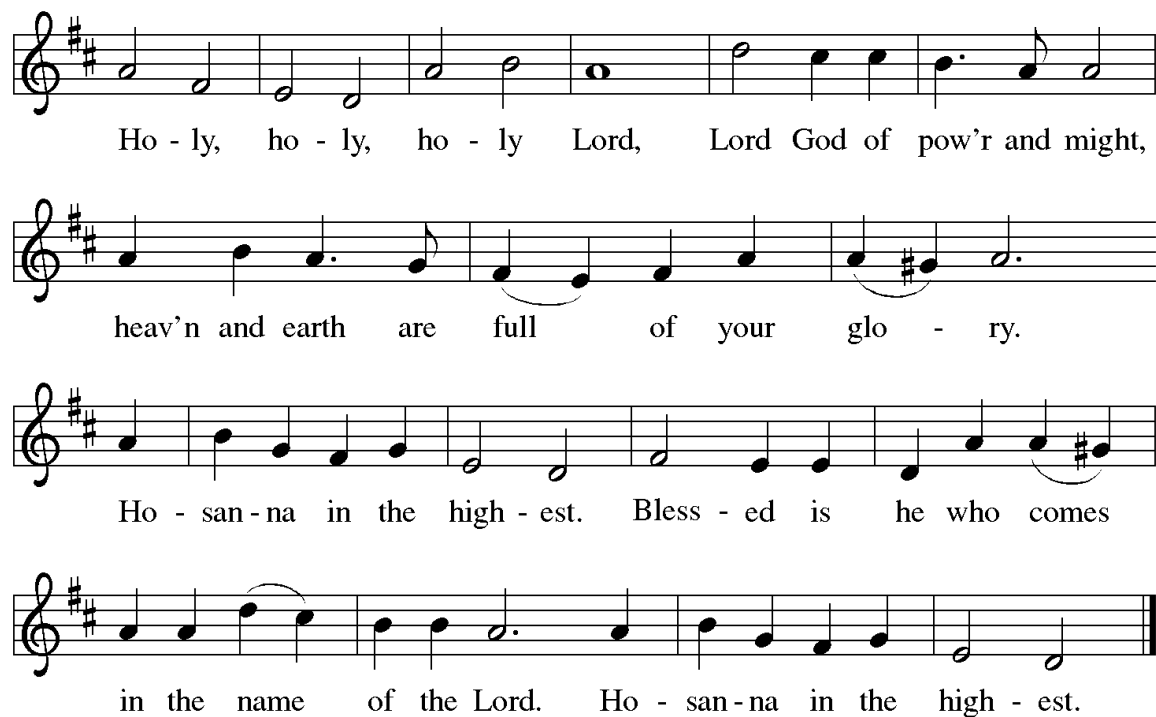
P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**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.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** Jesus draws the whole world to himself Come to this meal and be fed.

*All are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available as an alternative to wine. Everyone is invited forward to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate an openness to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing. We have gluten-free communion wafers available. If gluten-free is your preference, please let the pastor know when you are at the communion rail.*

*Please be seated.*

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DURING COMMUNION.**

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God. Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May the ashes we receive 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.

C **Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the ashes.*

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### SENDING

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#### BLESSING

P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

**ELW 608**

*See page 10.*

#### DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace. Share the good news.

C **We will. Thanks be to God.**

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### POSTLUDE

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1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

## *Welcome to worship at Trinity!*

*Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you found the Spirit of God in our midst. If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, or have other questions, please contact the church office at 785.233.0767.*

### **Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services**

February 14 - Ash Wednesday

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Barb..... 7:00 pm Our Saviors with Pr Merle  
..... **NO SOUP SUPPER**

February 21 – “Repentance” Matthew 4:1-20

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Merle ..... 6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Merle  
..... 5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper

February 28 – “Fasting” Isaiah 58:3-7

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Barb..... 6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Barb  
..... 5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper

March 6th – “Prayer” Ephesians 1:15-23

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Merle ..... 6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Merle  
..... 5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper

March 13th – “Sacrificial Giving” 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Barb..... 6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Barb  
..... 5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper

March 20th – “Works of Love” John 4:9-12

12:00 noon Trinity with Pr Merle ..... 6:15 pm Our Saviors with Pr Merle  
..... 5:30 pm Our Saviors - Soup Supper



## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Website: [trinitylutherantopeka.org](http://trinitylutherantopeka.org)

### OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

**Together in Community**

**Living with Christ**

**Caring for Neighbors**

### **Living with Christ's Love**

As Lutherans, we believe that we are justified by faith alone through the grace of God (*Ephesians 2:1-9*). As our namesake Martin Luther made clear, we are both sinners and saints as we live our lives of faith. Together as Christians, we are called to allow God into our lives everyday and to do our best to live according to Christ's love. We do this through being a community of faithful that welcomes all people to join us in prayer, service, study, and worship as we journey together in learning how to live out the Great Commandment.

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

**President** Diane Bottorff

**Vice-President** Curt Lewis

**Secretary** Shelley Andrews

Parker Jackson

Carol Marker

Dean McGinnis

Steve Luoma

Janelle Meredith

Duane Pomeroy

**Treasurer** Bob Kobbeman