

Liturgy at
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021 + 10am & 7pm



Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

Greeting

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

brief silence

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

The reading from Joel begins Lent with the stark call to repentance. The community is to meet together to weep and fast and pray. At the conclusion of this long season of Lent and Easter, the lectionary returns to a quote from Joel in Peter's sermon on Pentecost that promises the coming of the Spirit.

A reading from Joel:

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.

¹⁴Who 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?

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

¹⁷Between 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?' "

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.


Psalm 51:1-12

Setting: Peter Hallock


The choir sings the refrain and the assembly repeats. The choir sings the verses.

Refrain:

Organ intro: ³



Have mer-cy on me, O



God, ac - cord - ing to your lov - ing kind-ness.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Refrain

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

Refrain

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Organ intro:

Have mer-cy on me, O

God, ac - cord - ing to your lov - ing kind-ness.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Refrain

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Refrain

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Refrain

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

Ash Wednesday begins Lent as the acceptable time, the day of salvation, the time to be reconciled to God. During these weeks, the church meditates on what it means that God made Christ to be sin, that we might become the righteousness of God.

A reading from Second Corinthians:

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For 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. ²For he says,

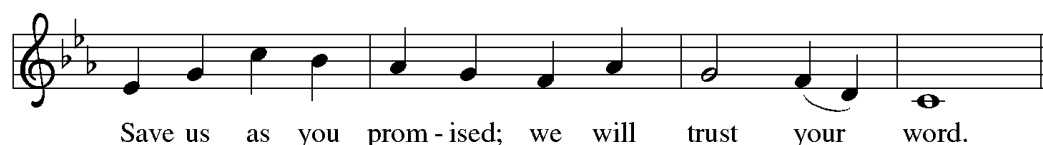
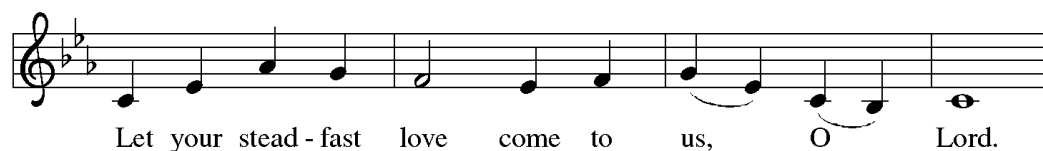
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

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

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The cantor sings the acclamation and the assembly repeats. The cantor sings the verse.



Return to the LORD, your God, for God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

Let your steadfast...

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Since the Middle Ages, this text was proclaimed on Ash Wednesday, and its call for almsgiving, prayer, and fasting lays out what have been called the three disciplines of Lent. The discipline of fasting means not to denigrate the human body, but to symbolize the turn from self-indulgence to care for the neighbor and reliance on God. In the surprise of faith, we discover that these disciplines can accompany us to the alternative treasures that come from God alone.

As the gospel is announced you may trace a small cross on your forehead, lips and breast, a prayer that the Word may dwell in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
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. 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.”

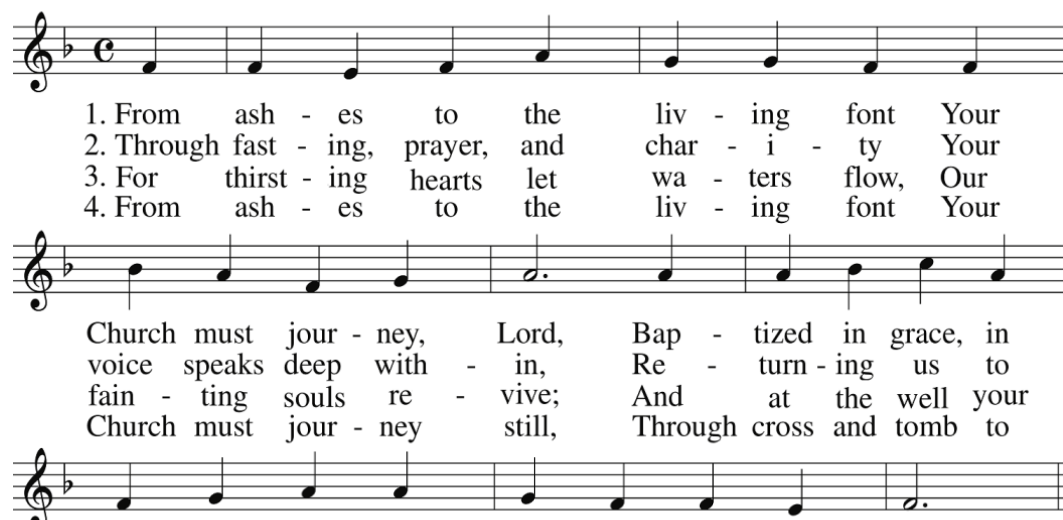
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Following the homily there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation. Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures and music, but also moments of silence.

Hymn of the Day *From ashes to the living font*



1. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your
 2. Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your
 3. For thirst - ing hearts let wa - ters flow, Our
 4. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your

Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in
 voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to
 fain - ting souls re - vive; And at the well your
 Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb to

grace re - newed By your most ho - ly word.
 ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.
 wa - ters give Our ev - er - last - ing life.
 East - er joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

Text: Alan J. Hommerding, b.1956, © 1994, 2011, World Library Publications
 Tune: ST. FLAVIAN, CM; John Day's *Psalter*, 1562

Invitation to Lent

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.

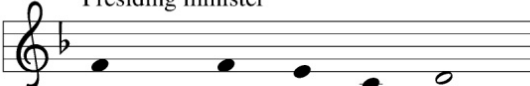

The assembly keeps an extended period of silence for reflection and self-examination.

Confession of Sin

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...

	Presiding minister	Assembly
		
1	...we have been for - given.	Have mercy on us, O Lord.
2	...grieved your Ho - ly Spirit.	
3-8	...we con - fess to you.	

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.

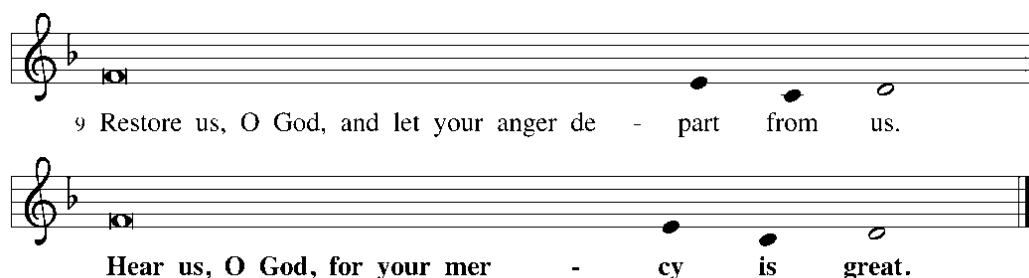
Have mercy on us, O God.

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.



Blessing Of Ashes

Let us pray.

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.

Imposition of Ashes

If you are gathered with one or more others please wait a few moments to impose ashes on each other.

If you are alone this day and will be imposing ashes on yourself, please do so as the minister says these words:

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

If you are gathered with one or more others, you may now impose ashes on each other using the words above.

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Following the imposition of ashes:

Presiding minister

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your sal - vation,

Assembly

that we might show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to joy of his res - ur - rection.

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.

Prayers of Intercession *(assisting minister)*

On this day we confront human mortality and our need for God's mercy, let us offer our laments and petitions, responding to each with the words "O God, in mercy, **receive our prayer.**"

O God, we lament the times when your church has been complicit in the face of injustice. May we be signs of reconciliation and healing. O God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We lament the ways that we and our society have misused your earth with selfish or short-sighted actions. Increase our commitment to the care of your good creation. O God, in mercy,
receive our prayer.

We lament the occasions when our government has neglected the needs of its people. We lament our history of ethnic and racial prejudice. May our elected leaders uphold the common good as they listen to the voices of the marginalized among us. O God, in mercy,
receive our prayer.

We lament the unspeakable sadness that has been unleashed by the coronavirus here and around the world. Bring health to the sick, comfort the dying, provide vaccinations to everyone, and a lasting end to this pandemic. We remember especially those in need that we name in our hearts, in the chat feature or by temporarily unmuting (*longer silence*). O God, in mercy,
receive our prayer.

We lament also our private sorrows and our hidden fears. Create in us new hearts, that embracing our mortality, we may treasure the gift of each day. O God, in mercy,
receive our prayer.

We lament the lives of those who have died—in storms, in riots, and in sickbeds. We praise you for all those who have been signs of your steadfast love and mercy, especially Blessed Mary, Martin Luther, and all your holy ones. Bring us, with them, to the joy of the resurrection. O God, in mercy,
receive our prayer.

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

Musical Offering <i>Call to remembrance</i>	Richard Farrant (c.1530-1580)
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Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindness which have been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth, but according to thy mercy think thou on me,
O Lord, for thy goodness.

(Text: Psalm 25:5-6)

Concluding Prayer *(assisting minister)*

Let us pray.

brief silence

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,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Hymn #328 *Restore in us, O God*



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Sending *(assisting minister)*

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 IN TODAY'S LITURGIES

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Minister of Music

Readers

Pr. Craig Mueller

(10am) Christian Cisneros (7pm) Pr. Michelle Sevig

David Brackley

(10am) Barbara Wahler, Kerry Fleming

(7pm) Erika Robeck, Karol Weigelt

CONNECT AND LEARN MORE



Whoever you are, whatever your religious or spiritual background or how you feel about church, whatever the color of your skin, your sexual or gender identities, you are welcome here. God's acceptance of all compels us to also stand against racism, sexism, heterosexism, xenophobia, classism, ageism, ableism and all forms of hate and prejudice.

If the rituals and practices of our liturgy are new to you, please participate as you feel comfortable and are able.



If this is your first time worshipping with us, please let us know in the comments or register at <https://www.htchicago.org/new>. This helps us get to know you.



More information on Holy Trinity, Lutheranism, worship practices, marriage and baptisms is available on our website, [htchicago.org](https://www.htchicago.org).

The use of our Elvina Moen Social Justice Fund to support Mutual Aid Requests during the pandemic has shown that the majority of our requests have supported a combination of rent, utilities, and groceries. A few have been supporting folks who have gone through medical procedures and needed assistance with their bills, and one has helped a seminarian cover the cost of their Clinical Pastoral Education tuition costs. Thank you for your generosity, and continue to keep this fund in mind as we are still receiving requests as the pandemic continues!



Nearly \$14,000 has gone to support people in need.
Thank you for your generosity!

The Elvina Moen Social Justice fund provides support for persons with special financial needs and will be an important resource during these challenging days. Please consider a special gift to Moen Fund at giving.htchicago.org or via Venmo (@htchicago)

Worship Acknowledgements

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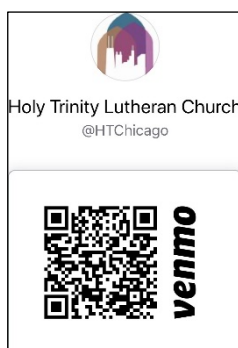
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PURPOSE STATEMENT
Open to the Mystery...
Connect, Strengthen, and Serve with Joy!

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
Act with courage
Be radically inclusive
Cultivate empowering relationships
Delight in God's beauty
Engage With Intention

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.