

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
207 N. Main Street, Freistatt, MO 65654
Rev. Jake Sletten – Church: 235-7300
Principal: Amanda Moennig – School: 235-5931
Email: trinityfreistatt@gmail.com Website: www.trinity1874.com

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

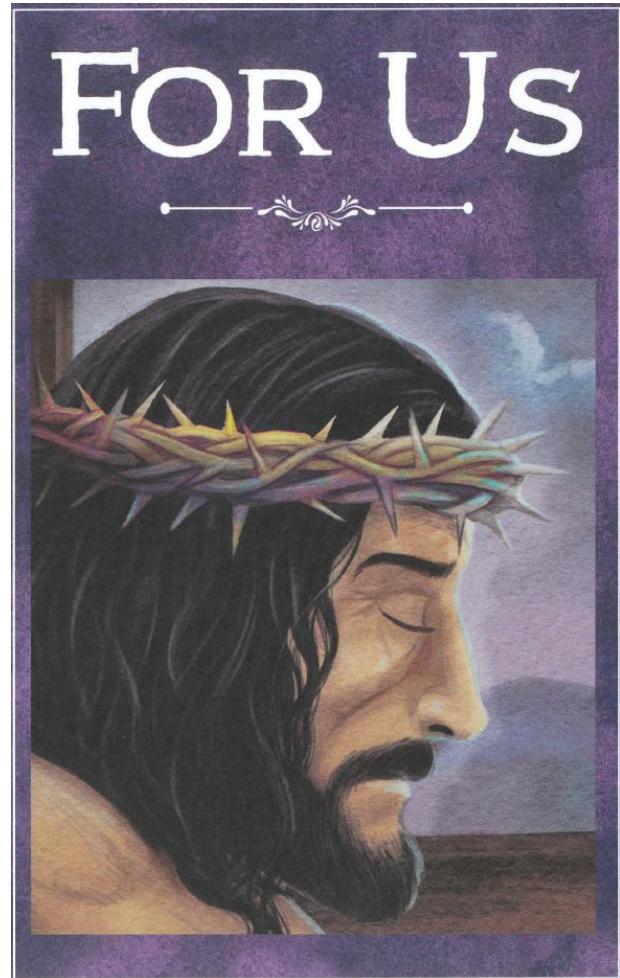
**11:30am
7pm**

The Mission of Trinity Lutheran Church is the preaching, teaching, baptizing and sharing the love of Christ in our church, our community and our world.

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

AS WE GATHER

This Ash Wednesday, we introduce our Lent sermon series, which is based on the ancient hymn “O Love, How Deep” (LSB 544). This hymn, written in the fifteenth century, contemplates the love of God in becoming man, taking on our life, dying our death, and rising again, all *for us*. But for us to understand and appreciate this love, we must first examine ourselves and our lives to see how we have failed in thought, word, and deed. While we may try to get credit for our so-called good works, we all still die with nothing to show for them. But God’s love is not like our love. Our love is self-centered and fickle. God’s love is steady, deep, and beyond all understanding (Ephesians 3:14–19). This love of God will have no end.



+ Preparation +

HYMN

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

1 Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

2 By Thy helpless infant years,
By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!

3 By Thine hour of dire despair,
By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

4 By Thy deep expiring groan,
By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored,
Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFSSION AND PSALM *Psalm 51:1–15, 17*

L: As we focus on the overwhelming grace of God and His love, we must admit our sinful condition before we approach Him. Let us confess our failings to God, our heavenly Father.

L: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

L: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C: and cleanse me from my sin!

L: For I know my transgressions,

C: and my sin is ever before me.

L: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

C: so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

L: It is only with God's help that we can rise above our sin. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

C: and in sin did my mother conceive me.

L: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,

C: and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

L: Let me hear joy and gladness;

C: let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

L: The joy and gladness we long for can be ours only from God, for He alone knows what we have done. Hide Your face from my sins,

C: and blot out all my iniquities.

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C: and renew a right spirit within me.

L: Cast me not away from Your presence,

C: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

L: As we approach God's throne of grace, let us ask for what we do not deserve and seek His presence, help, and even joy. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

L: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

C: and sinners will return to You.

L: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

L: Symbolizing our repentance, come forward, ushered to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead.

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

ABSOLUTION

L: Because of God's great love and mercy in sending His Son to die and rise for you, and as a called and ordained servant of His, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

+ Word +

SALUTATION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray...Heavenly Father, Your love knows no bounds, and we cannot fathom Your great power, compassion, and love.

C: Increase in us the desire to see our failings as clearly as You see them, so that, living under Your grace and love, we may give thanks to You with our songs of praise and in loving deeds toward one another;

L: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19

¹²"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples,

‘Where is their God?’’’ ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, ‘Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.’’

GRADUAL *Hebrews 12:2*

L: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C: the founder and perfecter of our faith,

L: who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,

C: and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

We implore 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. ¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

VERSE *Joel 2:12b*

L: Return to the Lord, your God,

C: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Jesus said: ‘Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²‘Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by

others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

SERIES HYMN*O Love, How Deep*

LSB 544:1, 5–6

I O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt. Text: Public domain

ASH WEDNESDAY HOMILY**EXPLANATION OF THE SECOND ARTICLE**

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent

suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Psalm 51:12, 15*

OFFERING and OFFERTORY

+ Sacrament +
7pm service only

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became sin for us at the cross, taking away the ashes of our death so that we may be redeemed by His blood and marked by His Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* LSB 940:1, 4

I Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.

All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.

Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.

4 Thou art King of Glory, Christ;
Son of God, yet born of Mary.

For us sinners sacrificed,
As to death a Tributary,
First to break the bars of death,
Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt. Text: Public domain

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB, p. 162

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

PAX DOMINI

LSB, p. 163

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

LSB 434:1

I Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O Jesus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546 Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION and DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

LSB 706

1 Love in Christ is strong and living,
Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving.
May His will in us be done.

2 Love is patient and forbearing,
Clothed in Christ's humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
Reaching out in charity.

3 Love in Christ abides forever,
Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven,
Shall endure until life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schultz, 1934

Text: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003347

Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels

LSB 695

1 Not for tongues of heaven's angels,
 Not for wisdom to discern,
Not for faith that masters mountains,
 For this better gift we yearn:
May love be ours, O Lord.

2 Love is humble, love is gentle,
 Love is tender, true, and kind;
Love is gracious, ever patient,
 Generous of heart and mind:
May love be ours, O Lord.

3 Never jealous, never selfish,
 Love will not rejoice in wrong;
Never boastful nor resentful,
 Love believes and suffers long:
May love be ours, O Lord.

4 In the day this world is fading
 Faith and hope will play their part;
But when Christ is seen in glory
 Love shall reign in ev'ry heart:
May love be ours, O Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

Text: © 1985 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003347

As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered

LSB 612

1 As rebels, Lord, who foolishly have wandered
 Far from Your love—unfed, unclean, unclothed—
Dare we recall Your wealth so rashly squandered,
 Dare hope to glean that bounty which we loathed?

2 Still we return, our contrite words rehearsing,
 Speech, that within Your warm embrace soon dies;
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain reversing
 As tears of joy and welcome fill Your eyes.

3 A feast of love for us You are preparing;
 We who were lost, You give an honored place!
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more despairing—
 Here taste again the treasures of My grace.”

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003347

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

L: Let us pray...We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

11:30am service resumes

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 162

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.

BENEDICTION

L: Our loving Father—whose love is so deep, broad, and beyond all thought—His + Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, accompany you now and always.

C: Amen.

HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

LSB 418

1 O Lord, throughout these forty days

 You prayed and kept the fast;

Inspire repentance for our sin,

 And free us from our past.

2 You strove with Satan, and You won;

 Your faithfulness endured;

Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust

 In God's eternal Word.

3 Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed

 And fixed Your mind above;

So teach us to deny ourselves,

 Since we have known God's love.

4 Be with us through this season, Lord,

 And all our earthly days,

That when the final Easter dawns,

 We join in heaven's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 11000334

COMMUNION CONFESSIONS SCRIPTURES

*“ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

***“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

***“ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 25In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.31But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

