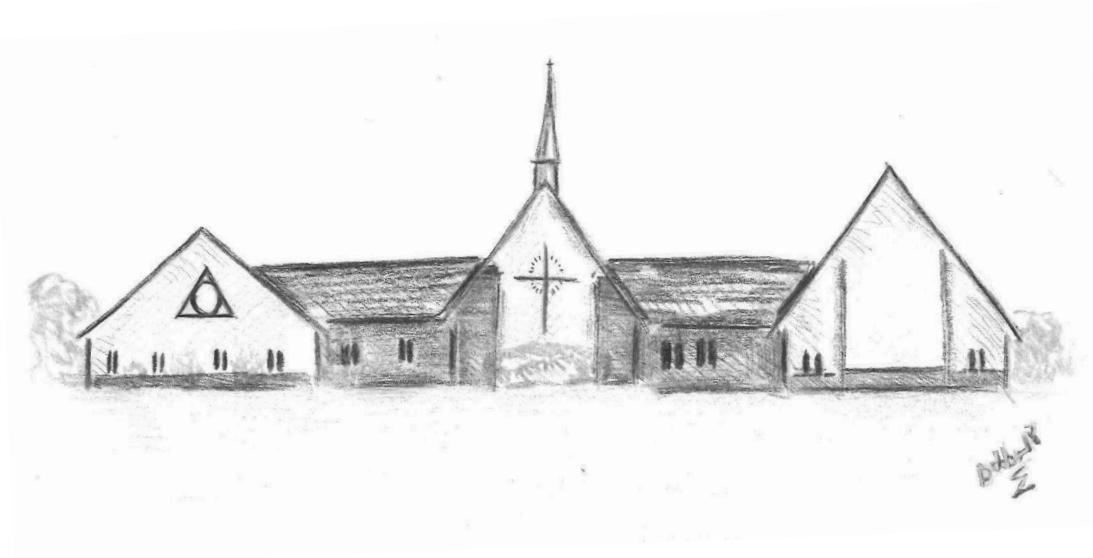


# Ash Wednesday

## February 18, 2026



### **OUR MISSION:**

***To make disciples for Jesus Christ,  
to baptize and to teach the faith,  
that all may know the hope of Jesus Christ  
and become responsible members of His church.***

Trinity Lutheran Church  
1190 Valley Forge Rd PO BOX 340 Fairview Village, PA 19409  
610-584-8411 [www.trinityfairview.com](http://www.trinityfairview.com)

*Assistive technology for the hearing impaired is available.  
Please see the operator in the sound booth.*

# INTRODUCTION TO 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.*

## PRELUDE MUSIC

## WELCOME

## GATHERING SONG

W&P 27

Cares chorus

27

I cast all my cares up-on you; I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And an-y-time that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares up-on you.

Text and music: Kelly Willard  
Text and tune © 1978 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company  
Arr. © 1997 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Company

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P Please rise.

## Psalm 51:1-17

L Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

L For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

C **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

L Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

C **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

L Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

L Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

L Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C **Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

L Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

C **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

L O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offerings.**

L The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **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 Let us pray.

C **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.**

P Please be seated.

# WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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

*Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

<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?

*(Reading Continues on Next Page)*

<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.**

P     Please rise.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commands almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

[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.**

P Please be seated.

## **SERMON**

The Reverend Karen Nelson - Pastor

P Please rise.

# SERMON HYMN

ACS 925

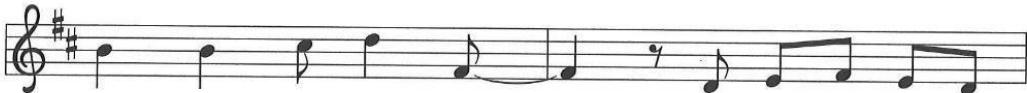
LENT

925

Beautiful Things



1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll  
2 All this earth; . . . could all that is  
3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing



ev - er find my way. I won - der if my  
lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den  
up from this old ground. . . Out of cha - os,



life could real - ly change at all.  
come up from this ground at all?  
life is be - ing found in you.

*Refrain*



You make beau-ti-ful things, you make beau-ti - ful things out of the dust.



You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau-ti -



ful things out of us.

# 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

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

*Please sit or kneel before the confession.*

P Most holy and merciful God,

C **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.**

p 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.

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

P 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P 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.

C **Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the ashes.*



## DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit.*

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

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

P 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.

C **Amen.**

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

L God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture organic cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

L God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain. Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety. Grant that all who dwell in the dust of grief may know your presence there.

We especially pray for those who are unable to be with us today: Sandy, Dot, Nancy, Diane & Joan.

For those in need of God's healing love and strength: Ron, John, Sharon, Tom, Susan, Kathy, Rick, Steve, Frank, Bob, Ray, Peggy, Marita, Tilly, Heather, Margie, Judy, Gwen, Julie, Lori, Carol, Melissa & Jim.

For those in need of God's guidance, protection and strength.  
Meg

In gratitude for God's abundance.

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one: For the Flanigan family upon the death of Judy's husband Bob.

For those who serve and protect our nation: Jordan, Brian, Craig & Eve.

And for those who we hold in our hearts, and those whose needs are known only to you God.

**C** God, in your mercy  
**receive our prayer.**

**L** God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy,  
**C** **receive our prayer.**

**L** Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY MEDITATION MUSIC**

## OFFERING

*God has blessed us in so many ways. We offer our gifts as a demonstration of our gratitude. And we pray God will use these resources to help us address the needs of our neighbors.*

**Offering by online giving:** Make a gift to the general fund at  
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YR6Z/home>



**Bill pay option** with your local bank or

**By Mail:**

Trinity Lutheran Church    PO Box 340    Fairview Village, PA 19409

P    Please rise.

## OFFERING PRAYER

P    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.

C    Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P    The Lord be with you.

C    **And also with you.**

P    Lift up your hearts.

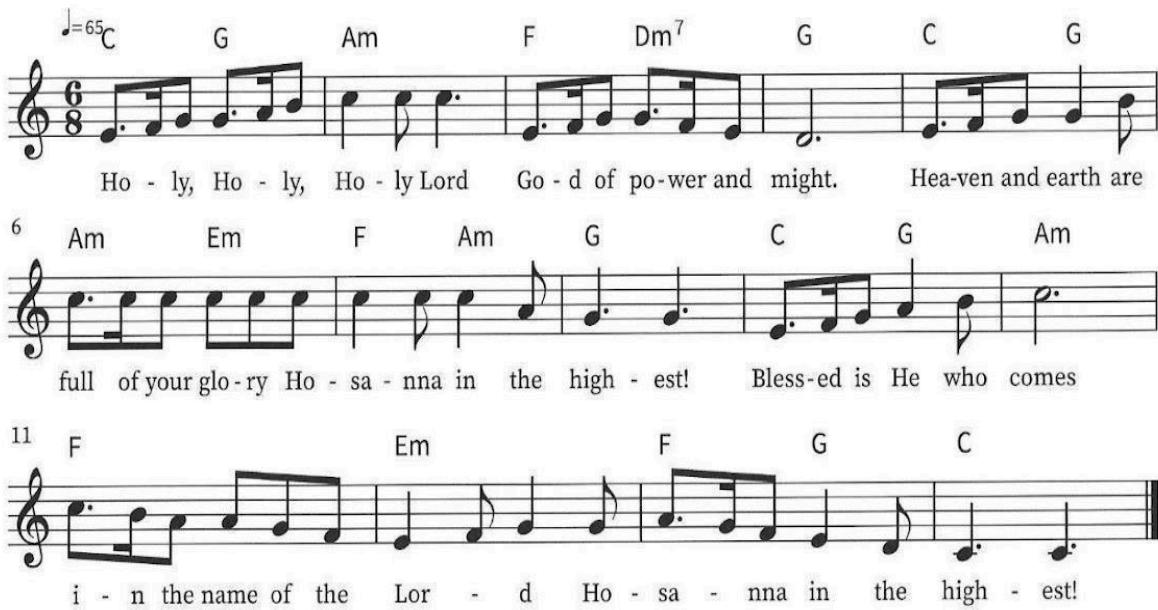
C    **We lift them to the Lord.**

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:

## SANCTUS



$J=65$  C

6 8

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord Go - d of po - wer and might. Hea - ven and earth are

6

Am Em F Am G C G Am

full of your glo - ry Ho - sa - nna in the high - est! Bless - ed is He who comes

11

F Em F G C

i - n the name of the Lor - d Ho - sa - nna in the high - est!

# THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

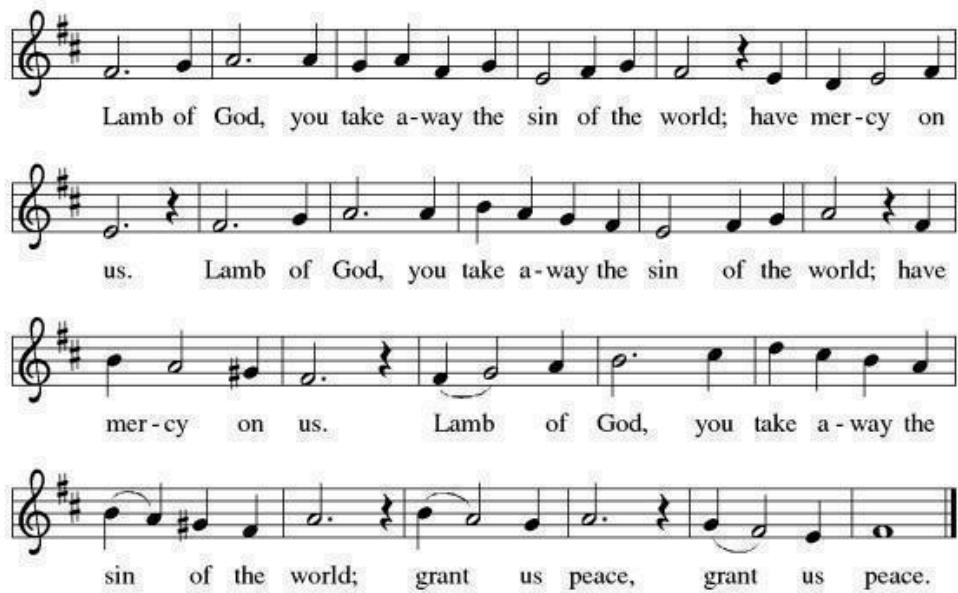
## LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.**

P Please be seated until the invitation.

## LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

*To receive Holy Communion please come by the center aisle to the pastor to receive the bread (wafer) and then proceed to the communion assistant for intinction (dipping your wafer in the wine) and then eat, then return to your seat by the side aisle.*

*Non alcoholic wine is used at all services.  
A gluten free wafer is available, simply tell the Pastor when you approach.*

*If you are not communing and desire a personal blessing please come to Pastor with your hands at your sides.*

P Please rise.

# **COMMUNION BLESSING**

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you forever in his grace.

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord look upon you with his favor, and give you his peace.  
In the name of the Father, <sup>☩</sup> and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Please depart in silence.*

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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<b>Serving Today 2/18</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Judy Flanigan</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Marilou Doughty</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Bob Graves &amp; Peter Schell</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Ann Dungan &amp; Leslie Askonas</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Trish Graves</b>
<b>Building Opener/Closer</b>	<b>Ann Dungan &amp; Meg Smith</b>
<b>Counting Team</b>	<b>Rick &amp; Chris Cole</b>