



Welcome To
Trinity Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

February 17th, 2021
Ash Wednesday – “A Call to Return”
Return to the Lord Lenten Series

ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

We welcome all who gather here today! We are blessed to celebrate together the mercy, grace, and love we have from God through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Children: Families with children are *very* welcome here. Having children in church is important so they can begin to learn about their faith in Jesus, and it's good for the whole congregation to see. *Please feel comfortable keeping "squirmy" kids in the service. This is where they belong, too!*

Pew Cards: Guests and Members, please fill out the card you picked up on the way in and place in the offering plate on the way out. You may note specific prayer requests there.

If standing is difficult: Please feel free to remain seated during any portion of the service. Please let an Elder or Usher know if you need communion in your pew seat.

About our celebration of Holy Communion: We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood contrary to that which is stated above do so to their great harm, and also because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with Pastor. Those not communing are still invited to come forward for a blessing from Pastor, and you may indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

As We Gather for Ash Wednesday: "A Call to Return"

Through the words of the prophet Joel, God called to His people and commanded that they turn from their sinful ways and return to Him for His grace and blessings. The images the prophet Joel uses are vivid and disturbing. The situation of God's people is desperate and needs immediate attention. This is a time for listening and responding to the call to return to faithfulness to the God who has ever been faithful to His people. "Return to the Lord, your God" is more than a verse sung as part of the liturgy. It is a heartfelt directive for our lives as together we follow the pathway of Lent.

PREPARATION

Due to the solemn nature of the day, and to allow for personal reflection and prayer, we ask that you enter the sanctuary in quiet reverence. No opening hymn or pre-service music will be played. You may choose to reflect on the words in this evening's hymns, prayers, or readings.

Please stand as able

ASH WEDNESDAY ADDRESS

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection

LITANY

P: O Lord,	C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,	C: have mercy.
P: O Lord,	C: have mercy.
P: O Christ,	C: hear us.
P: God the Father in heaven,	C: have mercy.
P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	C: have mercy.
P: God the Holy Spirit,	C: have mercy.
P: Be gracious to us.	C: Spare us, good Lord.
P: Be gracious to us.	C: Help us, good Lord.
P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:	
C: Help us, good Lord.	

P: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12; antiphon: 51:17

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

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

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

C: **according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C: **and cleanse me from my sin!**

P: For I know my transgressions,

C: **and my sin is ever before me.**

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

C: **and renew a right spirit within me.**

P: Cast me not away from your presence,

C: **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

C: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
C: **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

P: Lord, have mercy upon us.
C: **Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
C: **Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;**
P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

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.

¹⁷ Between 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?’”

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b} We implore 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} Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For 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. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

VERSE

Joel 2:13b

P: Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,

C: **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C: **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,**

**very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

SERMON

Please stand as able

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with this response: P: In prayer,
C: we return to You, O Lord.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

2 Timothy 4:22

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Colossians 3:1

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Psalm 136

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 overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (*spoken*)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
C: **Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**
P: Hosanna! Hosanna!
C: **Hosanna in the highest!**
P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
C: **Hosanna in the highest!**

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and give it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

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

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be served in a continuous fashion. Households may commune at the same time together. Ushers will help direct you forward via the center aisle; please return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available for those who need it, as is non-alcoholic grape juice. Simply request either when you come forward to receive Communion.

After Communion, please stand as able

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

Forgiving God, we thank You for providing Christ’s body and blood as nourishment today and throughout our Lenten journey. As we travel through these forty days, guide us to greater depth and breadth in following Jesus, that as the Body of Christ our witness to the love of God may permeate the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Just as I Am, without One Plea

LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - ya
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 con - flict, man - ya doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS and SENDING WORDS

P: We go to live for Jesus!

C: We go to share His love!

Acknowledgements

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Next Wednesday's Readings (Midweek of Lent 1)

OT Reading: Genesis 32:22-30
 Epistle Reading: Romans 8:22-28
 Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:36-46