

# ASH WEDNESDAY



February 10, 2016

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Pam Illick, Vicar



Scripture counsels us, "Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). A sincere welcome to our Ash Wednesday Service. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register at the rear of the sanctuary and please join us for worship again. We have a transport chair available to members and guests when needed. Please ask an usher for assistance.

*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.*

As Lutherans, we believe that the bread and wine of Holy Communion are signs given by God that Christ is fully present among us. We invite you to participate in receiving this miraculous presence. If you are unable to receive either the bread or the wine, be assured that even in the words, Christ is present to you. You are welcome to come to the Table to be fed and nurtured with us.

## GATHERING

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

*The assembly stands (if you are able).*

## GREETING

- ☞ The Lord be with you.
- ☞ And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

### **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.*

**L** A reading from Joel.

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?"

**P** Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 51:1–17**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.

<sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

℣ A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

### Chapter 5

<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.

### Chapter 6

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, <sup>5</sup>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.

℣ Word of God., word of life.

☩ Thanks be to God.

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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

℣ The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

**☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

"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.

☐ The gospel of the Lord.

**☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly remains seated for the Hymn of the Day.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church* (ELW 321)**

**INVITATION TO LENT** (*Assembly remains seated.*)

☐ 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 OF SIN**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

☐ Most holy and merciful God,

**☩ 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,  
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**☩ 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 frustrated your Holy Spirit.

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

**P** Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have 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 poor stewardship shown through 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

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.*

*The presiding minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

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

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all remain seated, and the minister continues.*

**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.**

*The assembly stands.*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

**A** Merciful Lord, where people ask, “Where is their God?” send your church. Equip us with compassion and boldness to listen to our neighbors. Make our speech and actions witness to your eternal presence. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Merciful Lord, where the soil cries for rain, send relief. Restore depleted water tables and cleanse waterways around the world. Teach us to treasure all creation as you do. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Merciful Lord, where terror shouts, send peace. Deliver all from the threat of bloodshed and the trauma of violence. Reconcile nation with nation and neighbor with neighbor. Wash us in your peace. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** Merciful Lord, where bellies rumble, send food. Bless Lutheran World Relief and all who work to ensure no one goes to bed hungry. Provide for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** Merciful Lord, when hearts and minds call for you, send faithful disciples. Walk with all who prepare for baptism. Uphold them with a community rooted in your word and nourished by bread and wine. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** Merciful Lord, where death stings, send comfort. Be with all who mourn. In the midst of their sorrow and pain, sustain their trust in the eternal life you give. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**OFFERTORY** (*Assembly stands*)

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be

fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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**OFFERING PRAYER**

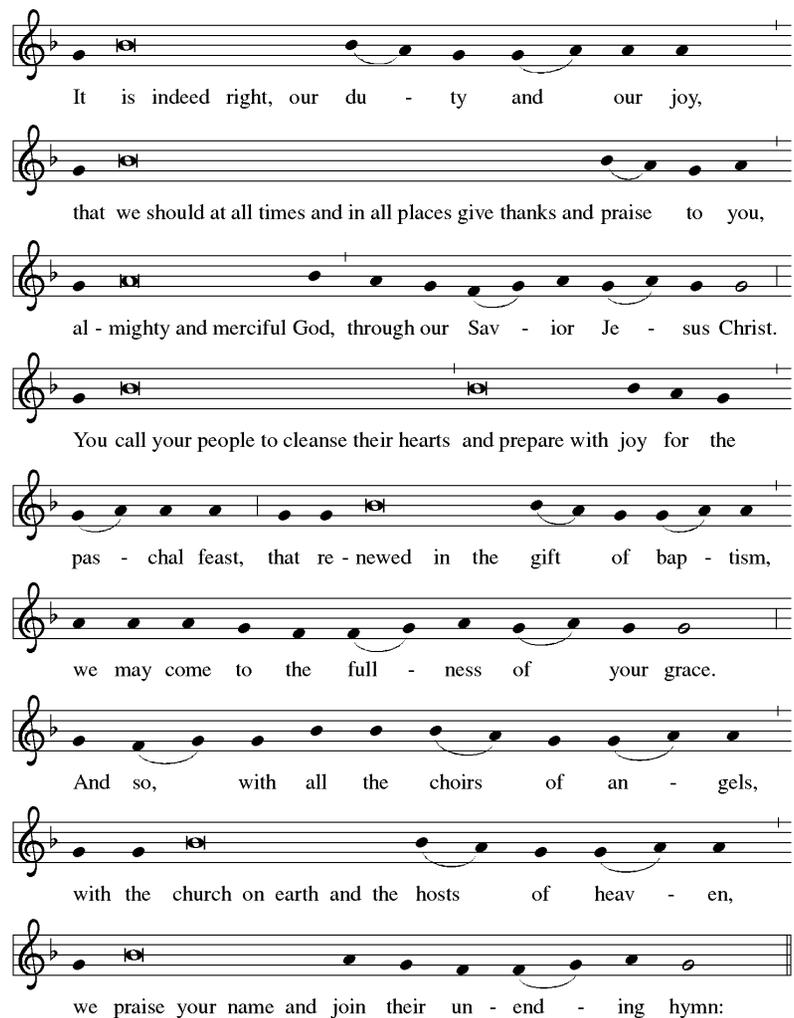
**A** God our provider,  
you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life.  
Bless us and these your gifts,  
which we receive from your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

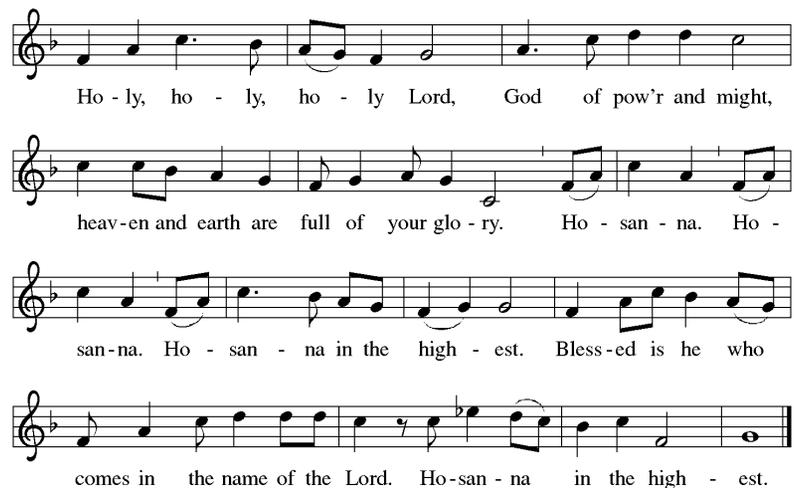
## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.  
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the  
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,  
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.  
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,  
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C** Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

**P** O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

**C** Come, Holy Spirit.

**P** Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C** Come, Holy Spirit.

**P** With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.

**C** Amen

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

**P** Come to Christ, who is broken and poured out for you.

*The assembly is seated.*

## COMMUNION

*Communicants will proceed up the center aisle at the direction of the ushers. If you wish to receive the wine from the pouring chalice, please pick up an individual cup from the table at the head of the aisle. After receiving the bread from the pastor, proceed to the pouring chalice or the common cup to receive the wine. Return to your seat by the side aisle. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward with your arms crossed over your chest. If you would like to have communion brought to your seat, please indicate your wish to one of the ushers, and the pastor come to you.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

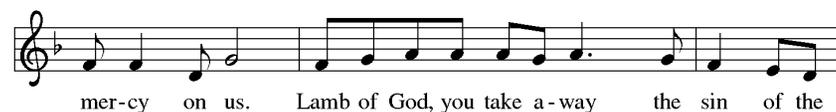
The body of Christ, given for you.

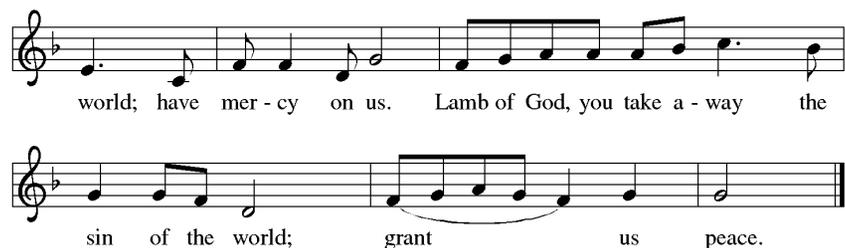
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond*

**Amen.**

## COMMUNION SONG





**TABLE BLESSING** (*The assembly stands.*)

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve us in eternal life.

**C Amen.**

**CONCLUDING PRAYER**

**A** 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.**

**BLESSING**

**P** The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of † Christ Jesus, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**C Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace. Share God’s message of love through your words and actions with others

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

**DEPART IN SILENCE**

*Worship is ended; our service begins.*

**- SERVING TONIGHT -**

Vicar Pam..... Presiding Minister  
 Terry Eberly..... Assisting Minister  
 June Ecker..... Lector & Communion Assistant  
 Brenda Rice ..... Organist  
 Don Becker..... Usher  
 Amy Dennis..... Usher  
 Linda Fleagle ..... Usher  
 Judi Rice ..... Usher  
 Sherri Kayhoe & Carol Snyder ..... Altar Care

**Lenten Services:** We will continue our observance of Lent with mid-week Taizé Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 beginning on February 17. Please bring a friend and join us for these brief, quiet services of music, prayer and meditation.

## Treasures and Hearts

Matthew 6:21 states that where our treasure is, our heart will follow—not the other way around. Passion, strength, and commitment—the giving of our heart—will follow what we hold dearest and what we most delight in. The heart listens closely to that which is deep within. The heart aligns itself with what it treasures, energy to energy, beat to beat.

Sometimes we think it is the other way, that our treasure follows our heart. But the heart needs to know what it values before it can give itself away. Are there beloved children treasured deep within? There, the heart will find its center. Is there a cherished talent to give, to share—a thirst to draw, to sing, to run, to lead? The heart will be drawn to these treasures.

It is Ash Wednesday. Jesus invites us to listen to him, and also to ourselves. He knows the cross is ahead. His heart can go no other way, given that his treasure is the Father, whose own treasure is the Son. So Jesus wants us to listen. What is it that we treasure? What is it that our heart beats for when all is still, when all we are left with is its most basic, raw rhythm?

Do we treasure personal attention? Religious affirmation? The sound of our own prayers? Our own goodness? Our own sense of righteousness? That kind of treasure doesn't cut it if Lent, or life itself, is to mean anything at all.

If we are to follow Jesus there can be only one great treasure within: Jesus himself. The word of hope before us today is this: Jesus is our treasure. From that treasure the heart moves, energy is released. Lenten discipline, Lenten focus, Lenten service, Lenten giving, springs forth.

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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- Our Mission -

The mission of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rouzerville, Pennsylvania is to build, strengthen, and increase our faith community to better love and serve God – and the world community – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



- Our Vision -

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is a flourishing, Spirit-filled, Christ-centered home for all.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.