

**Trinity Evangelical  
Lutheran Church**



**FEBRUARY 18, 2026  
ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Good Evening and welcome!** We invite you to worship with us often, and ask if you need any assistance! If you are visiting us today, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex, please include your address and phone number. Please place your offering envelope in the plate in the Narthex. Thank You.

**Remember in your prayers:**

Lynn Wolfgang, Oscar & Angie Smith, Erika Zaiser, Brandon Stauffer, Betty Moore, Barbara Stewart, Kathy Gamler, Bill Brensinger, Richard Eck, Becky Yescavage, BillyRay Pearce, Sr., Kathy Sell, Dennis Brooke, Donna Day, Linda Allmendinger, Elaine Dotterer, Jeff Reitnauer, Ralph Rothenberger, Anna Spencer, RuthAnn Goode, Pete Schmoyer, John Logan, Carole Mest, Tammy Strunk, Mary Snyder, Linda Bewley, Tammy Kemp, Mike Wyda, Marcia Auge, Millie Merkel, Greg Mest, Louise Wolfgang and Linda Ritter.

**Friends & Family:**

Michelle Hiriak, Linda Stark, Martha Van Parys, Joyce Kemp, Linda Gilbert, Jo Garber, Helene Kushnir, John McCarron, Tanner Antalosky and Lillian Solar.

**Families Of:**

Billy Freed, Jerry Jacobs, Fay Bauman, David Freed, Jerry Parsons, Joan Gonzales and Dennis Weller.

**Also members, relatives and friends in the community who are serving in the military including:**

Christopher Heffner, BillyRay Pearce, Jr., Noah Heydt, Ben Rhode, Steven Herbst, David Crews, Jeff Lydic, Seth Kurtz, Clinton Bowen, Eli Abner and Johnne Knepp.

**Our sister congregation**, the Marienkirche in Borna, Germany.  
(Website: [Kirche-bornaer-land.de](http://Kirche-bornaer-land.de))

**Please note: Names of friends and family will be kept on the bulletin prayer list for one month. If still in need of prayers, these names will then appear in the newsletter prayer list. Names on the friends and family list will normally be kept on the newsletter prayer list for one year. If you wish for names to remain longer, please speak to Pastor Gene, Linda Ritter, or contact the Church Office. Thank you for helping us keep the prayer list current!**

**This evening we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.** We invite everyone to the Lord's table who recognizes Christ's presence in His holy sacrament. We will be communing using the continuous method this evening. When the time comes, the usher will direct you forward—simply receive the bread from the Pastor and move to the side to the communion server to receive the wine (or grape juice). When you have received both elements, please return to your seat by the side aisle.

**February 18, 2026**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Tonight's Worship Assistants:**

Assisting Minister: Jenn McCarron  
 Server: Waynette Shafer  
 Ushers: Kay McGowan\* & Howard Shafer  
 Lector: Diane McElwee  
 Acolyte: Diane McElwee

- (those who are able may stand)

**Prelude**

"Prelude"

**Announcements and Concerns**

**PSALM: Psalm 51:1-18 (read responsively)**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | loving kindness;  
 in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

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

3 For I know | my transgressions,  
 and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**4 Against you only | have I sinned  
 and done what is evil | in your sight.**

5 And so you are justified | when you speak  
 and upright | in your judgment.

**6 Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,  
 a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

7 For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,  
 and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

**8 Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;  
 wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

9 Make me hear of | joy and gladness,  
 that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

**10 Hide your face | from my sins,  
 and blot out all | my iniquities.**

11 Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
 and renew a right spir- | it within me.

**12 Cast me not away | from your presence,  
 and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.**

13 Give me the joy of your saving | help again  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

**14 I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,  
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

15 Deliver me from | death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

**16 Open my | lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

17 Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

**18 The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.**

- **EXHORTATION**

P Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love--the discipline of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination precedes the confession.*

• **CONFESSION**

P Most holy and merciful Father:

C **We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own 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, Lord.**

P We have been deaf 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, Lord.**

P We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

and our exploitation of other people,

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our anger at our own frustration,

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C **We confess to you, Lord.**

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.

For our blindness to human need and suffering,

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,

and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

P For our waste and pollution of your creation,

and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

• **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*When ashes are to be imposed, those who desire to receive ashes come forward . The minister apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

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

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

- 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 Lord,  
 C **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

• **Prayer of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.      C And al - so with you.

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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 context of this reading is a community liturgy of sorrow over sin. The prophet has called the people to mourn a devastating plague and to announce a day of darkness, the day of the Lord. The people are called to repent and to return to God, who is gracious and merciful.*

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— 2 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. 12 Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 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. 14 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? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16 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. 17 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?' "

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10**

*Out of love for humankind, Christ experienced sin and suffering, so that the saving power of God could penetrate the most forbidding and tragic depths of human experience. No aspect of human life is ignored by the presence of God's grace. Because of this, Paul announces that this day is a day of God's grace, an acceptable time to turn toward God's mercy.*

We entreat 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 As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 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!

3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves

in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9 as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

*In this passage Matthew sets forth a vision of genuine righteousness illustrated by three basic acts of Jewish devotion: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus does not denounce these acts--in the New Testament they are signs of singular devotion to God. Rather, he criticizes those who perform them in order to have a sense of self-satisfaction or to gain public approval. Care for the poor, intense prayer, and fasting with a joyous countenance are signs of loving dedication to God.*

### I Called to My God for Help

9

*Lent*

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The text is: "I called to my God for help; he heard me from his temple. His arm reached down to save and rescue me from my foes. The man - na from heav - en for Is - ra - el is his Son, the bread of life!"

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

The musical score is written on a single staff in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The text is: "Glo - ry to you, O Lord."

### Presentation of the Gospel by Heart

[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.



- Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

- **The Prayers of the Church**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God, in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of prayers:*

P Lord, in your mercy.

**C hear our prayer**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen**

- **Sharing of the Peace**

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

**C: And also with you.**

• **The Great Thanksgiving**

Musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major, 3/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'P The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you. P Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord. P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

P The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

• **The Proper Preface**

P It is indeed right and salutary...  
 (Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding) ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Musical notation for 'The Proper Preface' in G major, 3/4 time. The piece consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: '☩ 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.'

☩ 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.

- **Eucharistic Prayer**

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

- **The Lord's Prayer**

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

☩ 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.

### Communion

- **Post-communion Blessing**

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

C **Amen**

• **Post-communion Canticle**

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.  
 My own eyes have seen the sal- va- tion which you have pre- pared in the  
 sight of ev- 'ry peo- ple: A light to re- veal you to the  
 na- tions and the glo- ry of your peo- ple Is- ra- el.  
 Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir- it,  
 as it was in the be- glu- ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A- men

• **Post-communion Prayer**

P Compassionate God, your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

- **Our Mission Statement**

P People of Trinity, what is our mission?

C We shall, as individuals and as a congregation, strive through word, worship, and witness to further the kingdom of God by knowing and sharing Christ's Love in our hearts, in our homes, in His church, in the community, and in the world.

- **Benediction**

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 favor and give you peace.

C **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

- **Recessional Hymn** WOV# 657  
"The Glory of These Forty Days"

- **Dismissal**

P Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"Postlude"

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# **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**

The Rev. Dr. Eugene C. Zaiser, DMin.,  
Pastor

Ms. LaRue Sheetz, Director of Music

Mrs. Karen J. Smith, Parish Secretary

Mrs. Catherine M. Yoder, Sexton

The Members of this Congregation are its  
Ministers

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(Or by Appointment)

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it needs; With - out it I am  
of death; Our lives are in his noth - ing.  
na - ture In - scribed up - on his keep - ing.  
his Word. We praise him for his tem - ples.  
mer - cy.

© Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
Tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

ALS TIEFER NOT  
87 87 88 87

## Just as I Am, without One Plea

296

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, But that thy blood was shed for me,  
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,

And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,

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.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

## rney



and ice,  
our sin,  
ly round:



he earth,  
or wind,  
of life,



life.  
- ry.  
rest.



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## Rivers



and wept;  
a song;  
- ter land?  
- an - ny;



hung our harps up - on a wil - low, mourned for Zi - on when we slept.  
so we sat with star - ing vi - sion, and the days were hard and long.  
Can our voic - es veil the sor - row? Lord God, hold your ho - ly band.  
by the pow'r of res - ur - rec - tion loose them from cap - tiv - i - ty.

Text: Ewald Bash, b. 1924  
Music: Latvian folk tune; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
Text © 1964 The American Lutheran Church  
Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

KAS DZIEDAJA  
8787

## The Glory of These Forty Days

657

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.  
Music: attr. Martin Luther, 1483-1546; *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543  
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