

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**February 14,
2024**

**Ash
Wednesday**

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

Website
[www.trinity
sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

Phone:
(507) 794-5051

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Office Hours
Mon-Thurs
9am –3pm

Ministers
Every member

Interim Pastor
Grant Fischer
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Parish Secretary
Darlene Brummund
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*Financial
Secretary*
Pat Stevermer
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*Organist /
Choir Director*
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794-3768

Custodian
Pat Lowther



Trinity Lutheran Church

6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Pastor Grant Fischer

ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 A.M. ~ Wednesday, February 14th, 2024



THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES ALL who enter this house of worship! Today the risen Christ calls all to faith as we come to receive his presence and promise of forgiveness & life given in the form of Ashes. During the time of offering, please sign the Friendship Pad as it is passed to you. If you are visiting tonight, we pray our service of worship together will be a special blessing to you as you are to us.

WORSHIP AIDS

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from the ushers.

ACTIVITY BAGS for young children are on a stand at the rear of church; please return it after services—thank you.

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... *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.*

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

OPENING PRAYER

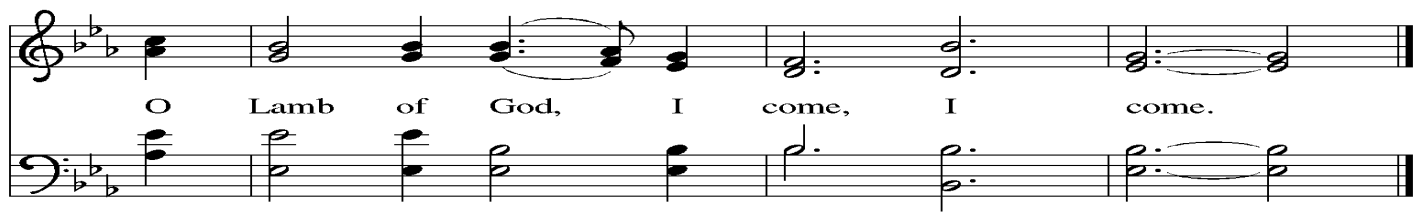
O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write you word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN 592 ELW

"Just as I Am"

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry
shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

2



Psalm 51:1-17 (read responsively)

Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon

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

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

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

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

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

Glory 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.

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:

Most holy and merciful Father:

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.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, **we confess to you, Lord.**

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

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
we confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
we confess to you, Lord.

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

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,
accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES: Those who desire to receive ashes, on your forehead or the back of your hand are encouraged to come forward at this time. Please wait for the ushers to direct you forward.



Accomplish in us, O God, the works of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 793 ELW

"Be Thou My Vision"



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

The first lesson is in the book of Joel Chapter 2, verses 1-2 & 12-17.

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— 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.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?’”

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Lesson**2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10**

The Second Lesson is 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verses 20-chapter 6, verse 10.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

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.

The Gospel

Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

“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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Prayer

“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. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message

Pastor Grant Fischer





1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



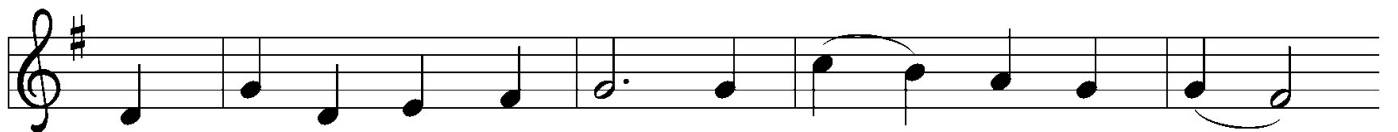
we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

THE OFFERING*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

ELW 686



1 We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun-ties thus as stew-ards true re-ceive,
 3 The cap-tive to re-lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be-lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad-ly, as thou bless-est us, to thee our first-fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un-to thee.

(The ushers bring the offering up)

Responsive Prayers

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Faithful God, shower the world with your loving kindness, **that all may know your peace.**

Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, **that all may know your love.**

Comfort the sick and dying, **that all may know your mercy.**

Guide our leaders in the way of truth, **that all may know your justice.**

Focus our hearts on the way of the cross, **that all may have faith in you.**

Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us pray:

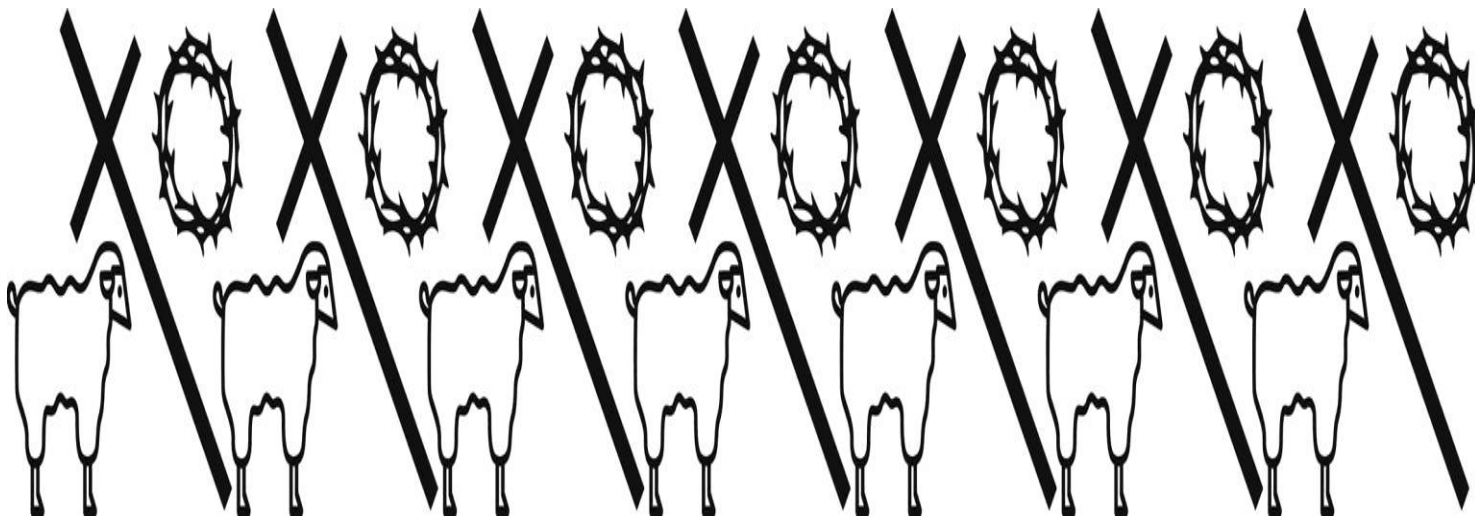
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and serve the Lord someplace else. **We will and thanks be to God.**



All Wednesday Lenten service offerings are designated for the **General Fund**. Quarter folders and/or film canisters are available to fill with coins. The **Lenten quarter folders** as well as the **Lenten supper donations** have been designated for Green Lake Bible Camp Scholarships. Please donate. Camp is costly.

Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ

Accompanist	Mary Mulry
Acolyte	Levi Johnson
Reader	Megan Sellner
Greeters	Anders Coulson, Brayden Heiderscheidt
Ushers	Jon Hanson, Caleb Oscarson, Shea Evers
Altar Guild	Joleen Dittbenner



ALL 1ST-12TH GRADERS ARE INVITED to attend Bible Camp at Green Lake or Shores of St. Andrew from June 23rd-27th (or half the week for younger kids). Trinity offers **SCHOLARSHIPS** for kids to go to camp...get the information from your child's Church School teacher or in the church office. Register at the Green Lake website. Early bird deadline is DUE Feb. 15th so register **TODAY!**

Meals that Matter Remember! Prepared frozen meals are in the freezer for you to deliver to a friend or neighbor who have had a life changing event- illness, birth of a baby, death in the family, etc...
Be the hands of Jesus!



The Boards of Trinity cordially invite you to join us for supper each week before the evening service and Church School at 6:30.

We are raising funds to support Summer Church Camp with the help of Thrivent Action Teams

**Meals are served from 5:30 pm – 6:15 pm each Wednesday
Cost for the meal is a Free Will Offering**

February 14th: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert
Welca **Child Friendly Option**

February 21st: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert
Youth **Child Friendly Option**

February 28th: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert
Social Ministries **Child Friendly Option**



“Blessed

are those who
have not seen and have
believed.”

John 20:29