

# Trinity Lutheran Church

February 18<sup>th</sup>,  
2025

Ash  
Wednesday

217 Brackenridge  
Southwest  
Sleepy Eye, MN

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9am - 3pm

Ministers  
Every member

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**Custodian**  
Pat Lowther



# ASH

*Wednesday*

Create in me  
*a pure heart,*  
O God,  
and renew a  
*steadfast spirit*  
**within me.**

Psalm 51:10

## Trinity Lutheran Church

Noon & 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Pastor Dave Nissen

# ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M. ~ Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026



*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.

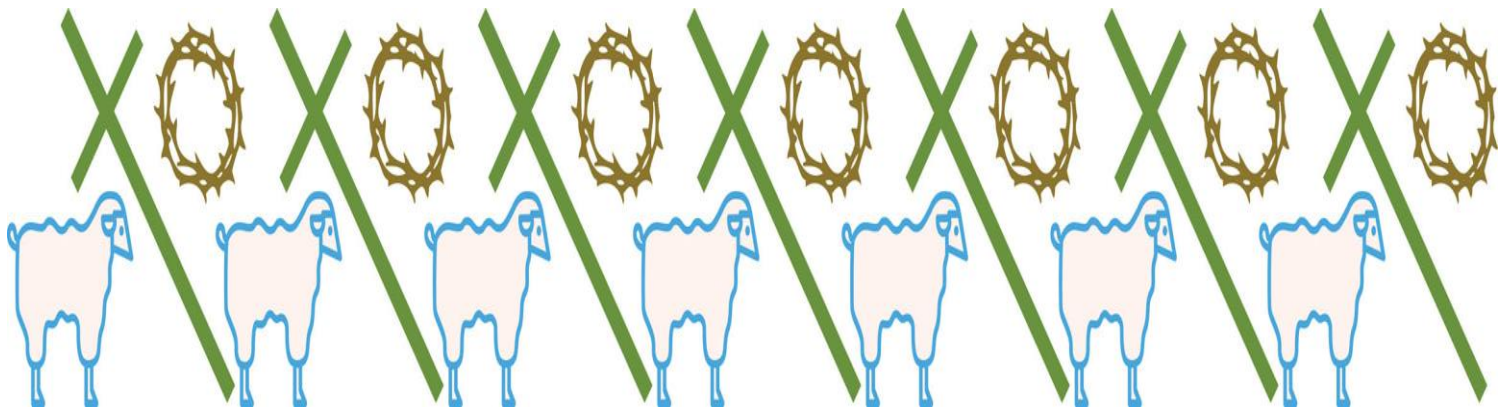
## GATHERING

**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.**



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

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<sup>[b]</sup> 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:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water

Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **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.**

### **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**

**Joel 2:1-2, 12-**

The first lesson is in the book of Joel Chapter 2, verses 1-2 & 12-17. Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

*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**

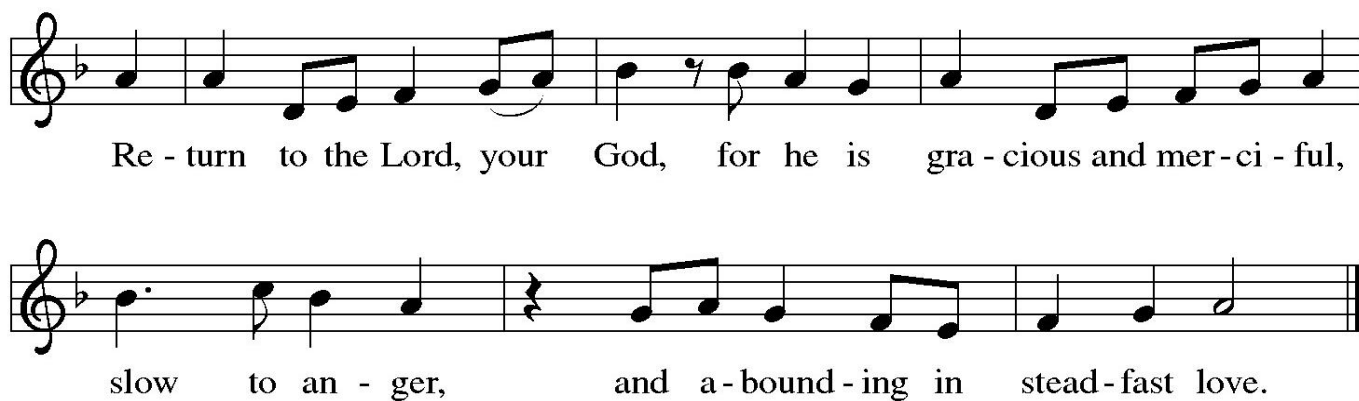
The Second Lesson is 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verses 20–chapter 6, verse 10. The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God’s reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

*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.**



**The Gospel**

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

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

*[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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.*

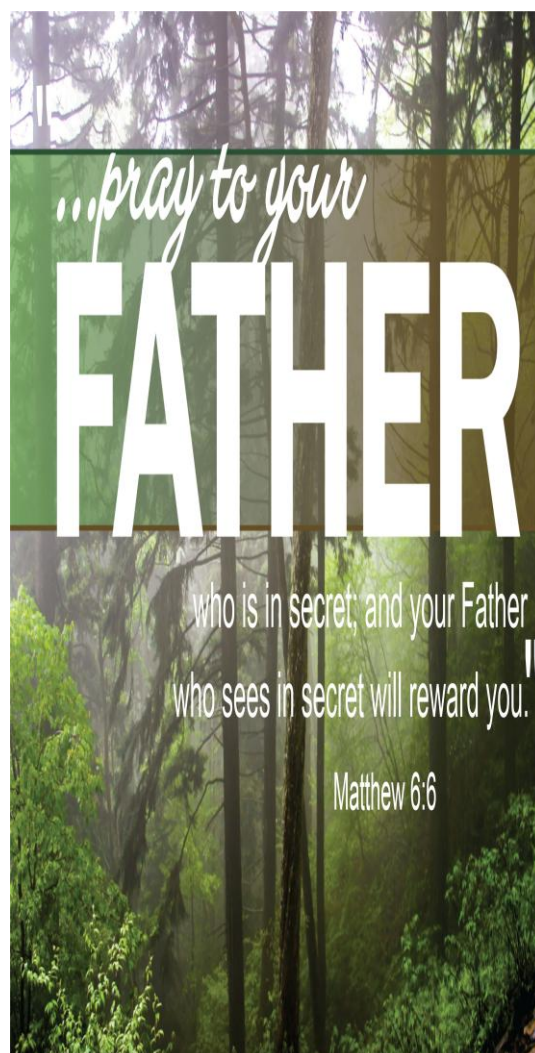
*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

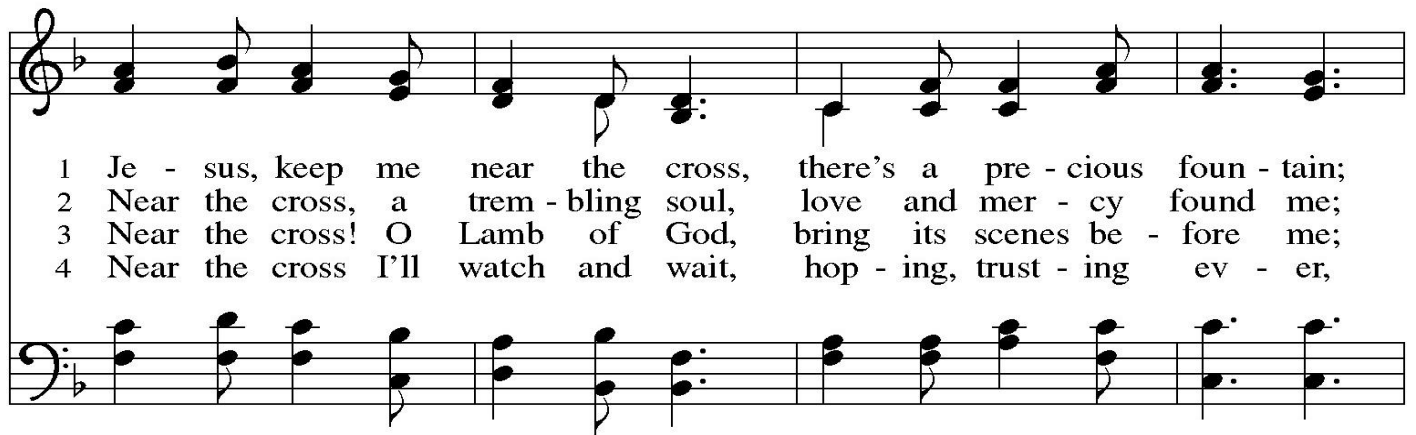
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message**

Pastor Dave Nissen



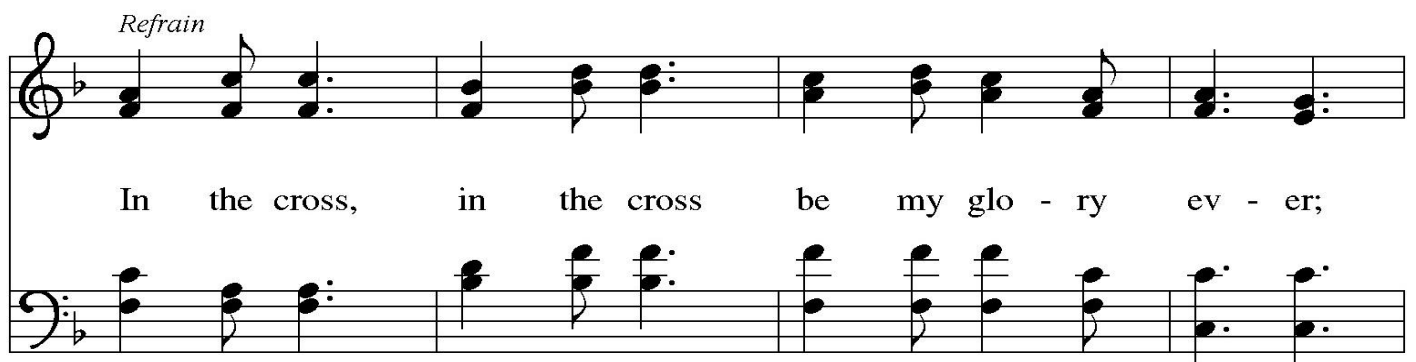


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## 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)

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heaven, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

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## MEAL

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## COMMUNION WELCOME

All are welcome to the Lord's Table at Trinity. You are well prepared and worthy if by faith you believe these words, "given for you" and "shed for you...for the forgiveness of sin". Welcome to the Lord's Table. Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

## THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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.**

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 comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

## WORDS OF JESUS

### 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.**

DISTRIBUTION *(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor.)*



### PRAYER

Let us pray. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THANKS

Be known to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, as you were made known to the disciples. Receive these gifts, and the offering of our lives, that we may be your risen body in the world. Send us forth as witnesses to Jesus' resurrection that we may show your glory to all the world; through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **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.**

### HYMN 629 ELW

#### "Abide With Me"

A musical score for the hymn "Abide With Me". It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. Below the staff are five lines of lyrics. The second system also has a treble clef staff with the same key signature and time signature. Below the staff are two lines of lyrics. The bottom of the page shows a bass clef staff with a few notes, likely for the piano accompaniment.

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace its foil - the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

**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. **Thanks be to God.**



*Thank You*

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 The Weekend Backpack Program. Please donate.

**Our Thanks To All Who Serve The Body Of Christ**

<b>Accompanist</b>	Lorie Grunzke
<b>Acolyte</b>	Miles Krzmarzick
<b>Reader</b>	Phyllis Kleven
<b>Ushers</b>	Eric & Juliann Wahlborg
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joleen Dittbenner

The Boards of Trinity cordially invite you to join us for supper each week before the evening service at 7:00 and Church School at 6:00.

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

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

**February 25<sup>th</sup>: Choice of Four Soups, Bread, Beverage and Dessert**  
 Youth





## Trinity's Mission Statement

*We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.*

**TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN** Send an email to [secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org) or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

**TRINITY'S WEBPAGE** Send an email to the church office at [secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org) and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

**TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK  
CHECK IT OUT!!**

*"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"*

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on [www.sleepyeyonline.com](http://www.sleepyeyonline.com) watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give. Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

### Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance: 69



*Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1<sup>st</sup> of the year*

## This Week's Prayer Concerns

*Pray for Trinity*...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

*Pray for the Church*...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

*Pray for our World*...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

*Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering*...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Nicole, Dave, Susie, Gary, Jane, Mark, Sherry, Kali, Isak, Vivian, Kim, Pam, Pat, Beth, Harold, Rita, Paul, Ray, Lorinda, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Duane, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

*Pray for the beloved*... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones... that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more....

*Pray for all families*...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

*Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home*...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

*Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)*...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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As we begin the journey of Lent,  
may the ashes remind us

of our

**MORTALITY**

and the hope we have

in the

**RESURRECTION**

