

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.

Tonight’s Ministers

Presider: Vicar Aaron
 Preaching: Vicar Aaron
 Assisting Minister: Cedar Hilger
 Reader:
 Music: Bryce Leifeste
 Audio/Streaming: Larry Mills

Ushers:
 Counters:
 Altar Guild:
 Wine:
 Bread:
 Eternal Candle:

CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

Thursday	6:30 pm	Al-Anon (Fellowship Hall)
Friday	7:00 pm	Spanish Pentecostal service

NEXT WEEK

February 22	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Noisy Offering)
	11:15 am	Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
	1:00 pm	Spanish Pentecostal service
Tuesday	12:00 pm	Al-Anon (Sunday School room)
	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Study Group (Koinonia Room)
Wednesday	6:15 pm	Soup Supper
	7:00 pm	Lenten Mid-Week Service
Thursday	6:30 pm	Al-Anon (Fellowship Hall)
Friday	7:00 pm	Spanish Pentecostal service
Saturday	10 am & 4:30 pm	2C Kitchen Meals



Ash Wednesday
 Year A
 February 18, 2026



Welcome!

Mission Statement

*Trinity Lutheran is a place to gather, refresh the faithful,
and reach out with word and service to all others
through the Holy Gospel.*

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Synodically Authorized Minister:

Vicar Aaron Carr (208) 936-9683 cell TLCVicarAaron@hotmail.com

Office hours: M-T-W-Th 8 am to Noon & On call as needed

Office Manager: Sarah Lamkey-Vandiver **Office hours:** M-T-W-Th 8 am to Noon

Land Acknowledgement

Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homeland of the Shoshone-Bannock, Nūūmū (Northern Paiute), Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla tribes. Our location here was made possible by the displacement and dispossession of these tribes. We acknowledge and honor these tribes, who have and continue to care for this land, which is their home since time immemorial.

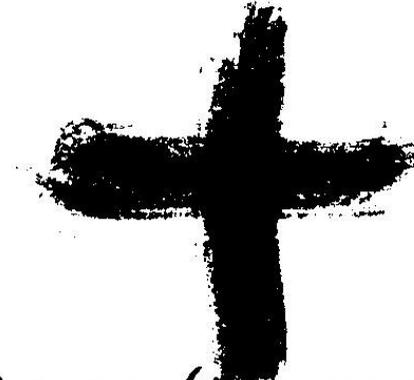
Follow us on



Services are live streamed on our Facebook and YouTube pages, and the bulletin is available on the website to follow along.

Who We Are

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation in the **Treasure Valley Cluster** in the **Northwest Intermountain Synod** of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)** which is one of 150 member churches in 96 countries that are part of the **Lutheran World Federation**.



*Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

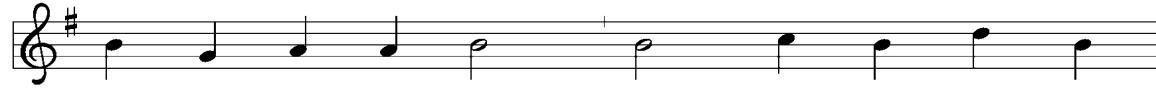
SENDING HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW #320



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.

BLESSING

V: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

A: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
 hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted;
 honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please depart quietly.

Notes

All parts of the liturgy, written and musical, are reprinted from sundaysandseasons.com and used by permission.
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 Erlander.

**ON ASH WEDNESDAY
THE PEOPLE GATHER QUIETLY**

Guide to the Bulletin

C: Congregation V: Vicar A: Assisting Minister R: Reader

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Please rise as you are able.

GREETING

V: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW #599



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

V: 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.

You may be seated.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹ 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 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. 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, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 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; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate 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?' "

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

R: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: ² Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

R: ³ For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: ⁴ 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.

COMMUNION HYMN(2)

Be Thou My Vision

ELW #793



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.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

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.

Please rise as you are able.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

V: As children of God, we are bold to pray

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

V: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

You may be seated.

Holy Communion

Everyone, including children, who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome to Christ's table.

Gluten free wafers are available. Simply ask the Pastor.

Cups in the tray: The inner ring of cups is white grape juice.
The outer ring of cups is rose wine.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW Setting 4



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, grant us peace.

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

R: ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

R: ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

R: ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

C: ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

R: ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

R: ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

R: ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

R: ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

All: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

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

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....

.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 4

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

V: 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.

V: 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.

You may be seated for the offering.

OFFERING HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

ELW #697

Refrain



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;
dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;

Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

V: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

V: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

V: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Please rise as you are able.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer-ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, — and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

V: Glory to you, O Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated.

THE HOMILY



Please rise as you are able.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: God of our journeys, we pray for the church as the season of Lent begins. Guide your people in spiritual practices and preparation for baptism. Strengthen communities of faith in discipleship and witness for the sake of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of creation, we pray for the earth. As you once brought forth life from the dust, breathe healing and renewal into all places where ecosystems are stretched and strained. Nurture organic cycles of life, death, and rebirth. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the nations, we pray for an end to wars and occupations that reduce communities to ash. Turn leaders away from fearful decision-making, and lead all people into the justice and compassion of your reign. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the suffering, we pray for all who live with any pain (*especially*). Comfort people living with chronic or terminal illnesses, addictions, or anxiety. Grant that all who dwell in the dust of grief may know your presence there. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of community, we pray for those who accompany the dying: for first responders, health care and hospice workers, chaplains, and those who facilitate burials of the dead. Sustain them as they serve their neighbors in life and death with dignity and care. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God of the cross, we give thanks for those who have completed their lives on earth and have returned to you. Strengthen us with the promise that within the ashes of death are the seeds of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

V: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Individual absolution will be given on Maundy Thursday.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

V: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence; through the same Jesus the Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

C: Amen.

*Those who wish to receive the imposition of ashes
are now invited to come forward to receive the ashes.
You may then return to your seat.*

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

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.

V: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

A: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

V: 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.

Please rise as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Just As I Am

ELW #592



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,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

INVITATION TO LENT

V: 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.

Please be seated or kneel.

CONFESSION OF SIN

*At the + you are invited to make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.*

V: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

V: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: 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,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

V: We have not loved you with our whole heart, 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, O God.

V: 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 grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

V: 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.

V: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

V: 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.

V: 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.

V: Our false judgements,

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.

V: Our 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.