

DISMISSAL

P: 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 in silence

To all who gather: We are Reconciling in Christ, which means we strive to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and to work for racial equity and to commit to anti-racist work.

We welcome believers, seekers, and the curious, regardless of religious background. God makes no distinction based on race; ethnicity; immigration status; economic status; physical, mental, or developmental circumstances; or other life circumstances. God loves and welcomes all people. Therefore, we welcome all people to the life of Christ at Trinity.

From Pastor Rick: This community affirms its welcome by accepting me in this place. Diagnosed with Huntington's (HD), my progressing symptoms and neurodiversity are displayed publicly. The uncontrolled movements (chorea) may limit my functionality, or appear in other ways; yet, it is an opportunity to learn and love alongside one another. HD is part of me, but I am not defined by the diagnosis. As for all of us, I am defined as child of God.

Guests and Visitors: All are invited to receive the gluten free bread and wine of Holy Communion (juice is also available). Your offering is your presence in worship. Please fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate as you leave. Don't forget your 'Sweet Treat' plate from the welcome desk!

Worship Note: The red hymnal *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) page numbers are found in the front while song numbers are in the back. If you have any questions about worship or Trinity, our clergy or welcome table hosts are happy to help.

Parents and Caregivers: God's children of all ages are welcome in worship. If helpful, please use the Family Break Room outside the worship space or a "Worship Activity Bag" - available near the welcome table. On Sunday, if needed, we offer a fully trained Nursery; staffed by Tiffany K. and Zoe K.

Special needs: Hearing-assistance devices are available during our services. Holy Communion can also be brought to the seats of those who are unable to come forward. Our Welcome Table Hosts can help with any of these special needs.

Trinity Lutheran Church

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

The Good Shepherd



Trinity is a welcoming faith community living together in God's love to share the joy of Jesus Christ.



Trinity Lutheran Church

301 E. Stuart St., Fort Collins, CO 80525 (970) 482-1226

Website: www.trinitylutheranfc.org email: office@trinitylutheranfc.org

TLC Preschool - 221-9852



Ash Wednesday

The Lenten pilgrimage of forty days and six Sundays begins with Ash Wednesday, the day in which we confront our own mortality and confess our sins before God within the community of faith. This service focuses upon the reality of human sin and death, and in the face of this confession, proclaims God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

The imposition of ashes is an ancient gesture, common to Jewish and Christian traditions. Ashes are placed on our foreheads as a sign of human frailty and mortality, and our intrinsic need for God. All are welcome to participate.



PRELUDE

“Pavanne”

Gabriel Faure
©1974 Lorenz Pub

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together, as the people of God.

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, Your son came, and like a good shepherd, gave his life for your sheep. Receive our humble gratitude for this act of sacrifice and courage. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night...
...gave it to the disciples, saying:
C: Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.
P: ...gave it for all to drink, saying:
C: This cup is the new promise 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 in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER

P: Let us pray.
A brief silence is kept.
P: 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.

SENDING

P: God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

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

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

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

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

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

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

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

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

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

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

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

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ELW pg. 254

Silence is kept for reflection and self examination
All are welcome to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead.

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

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

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

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

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

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

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION & COMMUNION

*The Lord's Supper is open to all. If you are not yet ready to receive communion, but would like a blessing, please come forward with folded hands. Children are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents, or to receive a blessing. *We serve all Gluten-free bread**

HYMN

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

ELW #319

W: Claudia F. Hernaman,
 Gilbert E. Doan Jr

©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship OL#11862
 M: Public Domain

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and yet you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth ly days, that when the fi - nal

for skill our sin, and free us from our past.
 my Eas - ter and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 our - selves dawns, that we may join know God's love.
 heav - en's in

READING

JOHN 10:1-18

¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P: Word of God. Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Pastor Kaari

HYMN

“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”

ELW #605

W: Rosamond E. Herklots
 ©1969 Oxford University Press OL#00786
 M :The Sacred Harp Public Domain

1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;

but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

INVITATION TO LENT

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 and to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

CONFESSİON OF SIN

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
 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.**
 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, O God.**
 P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
 C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**
 P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
 C: **Have mercy on us, O God.**