

ASH WEDNESDAY



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2024, 12:30 and 7 P.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

If you are a guest with us today, we are so glad you are here! We invite you to fill out a yellow card from the pew rack and put it in the offering plate on the table outside the sanctuary. Or scan the QR code printed here to fill out an electronic guest card. You will find all of the words in the worship service projected at the front of the church or in this bulletin.



If you have something you would like us to pray about this week, you can write it on the back of the yellow card. Our staff and prayer team will pray for the requests during the week. If you so choose, we will post your request online at our prayer wall as well.

First Trinity is a Bible-based church. We believe God's Word is the sole authority for this life. We are imperfect people loving imperfect people. Our prayer for you today is that you would connect to God and grow closer and closer to Him each day.

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY | **LENT** | EASTER | PENTECOST | TIME OF THE CHURCH

We are now in the season of Lent, a time to repent and remember. During this time, we study Jesus' final days and crucifixion. You will see penitential purple paraments on the altar. The soldiers who mocked Jesus before His crucifixion dressed Him in a purple robe, calling Him "King of the Jews". We know we deserve to be humbled the way they tried to humble Jesus. Purple reminds us to repent of our sins that brought Jesus to the cross.

To participate in this service, just follow along in this service folder. Lutheran worship is specifically designed to include your participation. We are not here to be an audience; we are here to speak and sing the Word of God to each other. Parts marked "Leader" are spoken by the pastor or other worship leaders, and parts marked "People" are spoken by the congregation. Congregational parts are also printed in bold. It looks like this:

Leader Spoken by a worship leader.

People Spoken by the congregation.

To help you understand the different parts of worship today, we've provided several side notes throughout the service folder. Read the notes to discover some of the meaning behind the words and parts of the service. You will find a deeper appreciation for the rich symbolism and spiritual meaning behind Lutheran worship.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Rev. Jason Christ, Associate Pastor*

WELCOME *Rev. Dr. Charles Whited Jr., Lead Pastor*

(Stand)

OPENING HYMN *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* Hymnal 418

Verse 1

O Lord, throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.

Verse 2

You strove with Satan, and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word.

Verse 3

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed
And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves,
Since we have known God's love

Verse 4

Be with us through this season, Lord,
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.

*Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB
Hymn License no. 110004192*

This hymn sprung from the belief that children need hymns that teach and confess the faith in simple, concrete language. Best used at the beginning of Lent, the hymn recalls the events of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness following His baptism. Stanza 4 begins with the season of Lent but also looks beyond to the final Easter dawn of the great resurrection.

INVOCATION

Leader In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

ADDRESS

Leader Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lenten season for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and celebrate in sincerity and truth.

A litany is a structured prayer consisting of a series of requests and responses.

Today's litany is an abridged form of the "Great Litany" on page 288 of the LSB Hymnal. This version is tailored towards the penitential theme of Lent.

OPENING LITANY

Leader O Lord,

People have mercy.

Leader O Christ,

People have mercy.

Leader O Lord,

People have mercy.

Leader Be gracious to us.

People Help us, good Lord.

Leader By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

People Help us, good Lord.

Leader In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

People Help us, good Lord.

Leader We poor sinners implore You

People to hear us, O Lord

Leader To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

People We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Leader To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

People We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Leader To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

People We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

Leader Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People we implore You to hear us.

Leader Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
People have mercy.

Leader Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
People have mercy.

Leader Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
People grant us Your peace.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Leader In times of great sorrow and heartache, God's people of old would wear their grief. With sackcloth and ashes, their outward form reflected the reality of their hearts.

People Brokenness cannot be hidden away.

Leader Tonight we admit the brokenness of our hearts and we wear the sign of our brokenness: ashes.

People Our brokenness cannot be hidden away.

Leader Yet we know that brokenness is only part of the story. There's more. The ashes trace the shape of the cross—the cross that removes our sin, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

People Our brokenness is not forever; we are restored in the cross.

Those desiring ashes may come forward in the center aisle to receive them.

CONFESSION

Leader Recognizing our sinful state and God's faithfulness to forgive, let us confess our sins to our Loving Father.

People O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Leader God be merciful to us and strengthen our faith.

People Amen. *(silence for personal confession)*

ABSOLUTION

Leader By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him all our sins are forgiven. We are now at peace with God.

People Amen.

This first day of Lent is called Ash Wednesday, because ashes are a symbol of sin and evil, and their consequences, death. It is not pleasant to be marked with ashes, and to be reminded of our separation from God. The custom of "imposition of ashes" began in Rome around A.D. 600. It gives this season of Lent its penitential emphasis. You will hear a call for repentance spoken over you: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (See Genesis 3:19 and Job 42:6).

Genesis recounts the creation of the world and the very early history of God's people.

(Sit)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Reader God speaks to us through the Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-10

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

LENTEN VERSE

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.

During Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, our responses to the Gospel reading change. In addition to the traditional "Praise to You, O Christ", we add a second part themed around the season. Advent, Lent, and Easter come from the Vespers order of service. We wrote the Christmas one because it felt festive. Watch for all of them in the seasons ahead!

Reader God speaks to us through the Gospel: Matthew 3:4-12

People Glory to You, O Lord.

Reader Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Reader This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

(Sit)

MESSAGE HYMN Savior, When in Dust to Thee LSB Hymnal 419

Verse 1

Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the_adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Verse 2

By Thy helpless infant years,
By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the_insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!

Verse 3

By Thine hour of dire despair,
By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

Verse 4

By Thy deep expiring groan,
By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored,
Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

Text: Public domain

MESSAGE *Honest Repentance:* Law Rev. Dr. Charles E. Whited, Jr., Lead Pastor

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

People I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

"Creed" comes from the Latin for "I believe." Words of faith confessing the teachings of Holy Scripture. The three Ecumenical Creeds are the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. (Ecumenical means representing a number of different Christian churches.)

(Sit)

OFFERING INVITATION Give at FTGives.com or text "Give" to (716) 575-2659.

OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Hymnal 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Stand)

PREPARATION FOR LORD'S SUPPER

Leader The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Leader Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Leader It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

The words "It is truly good, right, and salutary..." begin this prayer immediately preceding the Sanctus. We hear these words regularly, but "salutary" may be unfamiliar to some. It means "favorable to or promoting health" or "promoting or conducive to some beneficial purpose". The gift of the Lord's Supper is "salutary" in that it brings spiritual health to the repentant sinner in a tangible way as we receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins in this special way.

SANCTUS

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.

Leader On the night when He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, He gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take; eat; this is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Leader As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, Lamb of our salvation.

Leader O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People 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. 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.

Leader The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And also with you.

THE INVITATION

AGNUS DEI *Hymnal 180*

☐ 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.

(Sit)

COMMUNION HYMNS

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord Hymnal 637

Verse 1

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

Verse 2

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Verse 3

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Public domain

O Christ, You Walked the Road Hymnal 424

Verse 1

O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.

Verse 2

No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.

Verse 3

No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.

(Stand)

BLESSING

Verse 4

When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.

Verse 5

O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.

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This Latin hymn dates back to the sixth- or seventh-century. The opening line echoes the Words of Institution as worshippers are invited to "take the body of the Lord", reminiscent of Christ's command to "take and eat". Stanza 2 speaks of God's protection in this world and stanza 3 recognizes Christ's presence in the meal and the blessing He bestows— forgiveness and life in His name.

LENTEN AND EASTER EVENTS

Ash Wednesday Worship	February 14	12:30 and 7 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Dinner	February 14	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Lenten Worship.....	February 21	7 p.m.
	February 28	7 p.m.
	March 6	7 p.m.
	March 13	7 p.m.
	March 20	7 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Worship.....	March 28	7 p.m.
Journey Through Good Friday	March 29	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Good Friday Worship.....	March 29	7 p.m.
Easter Vigil.....	March 30	5:30 p.m.
Easter Worship	March 31	8:45 and 11:15 a.m.