

# Trinity Old Lutheran Church

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026**

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*We begin with quiet meditation to contemplative music.*

## Opening Hymn

## ***Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.
  
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.
  
- 3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

## Psalm 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**<sup>4</sup>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.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

**<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be re- stored to you.

**<sup>14</sup>Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**<sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the discipline of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

### Prayer of Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity,+ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy on us.**

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

### Imposition of Ashes

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. **Amen.**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work 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, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### First Reading *Joel 2:12-19*

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?’”

Then the Lord became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people. In response to his people the Lord said: I am sending you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a mockery among the nations.

...The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:2

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!

...The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse *(spoken by all)*

*Please stand as you are able*

**Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

“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.

“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.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

“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.**

Hymn

***Glory Be to Jesus***

1      Glory be to Jesus,  
          who, in bitter pains,  
          poured for me the lifeblood  
          from his sacred veins.

2      Grace and life eternal  
          in that blood I find;  
          blest be his compassion,  
          infinitely kind.

3      Blest through endless ages  
          be the precious stream  
          which from endless torment  
          did the world redeem.

4      Abel's blood for vengeance  
          pleaded to the skies;  
          but the blood of Jesus  
          for our pardon cries.

5      Oft as earth exulting  
          wafts its praise on high,  
          angel hosts rejoicing  
          make their glad reply.

6      Lift we then our voices,  
          swell the mighty flood;  
          louder still and louder  
          praise the precious blood.

Text: Italian, 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878

Prayers of the Church

We cry to you for help, O God, praying for the church, the world, and all those who are in need.

You call your church to fast from injustice. Help us share our treasure with those in need, and teach us to pray as we ought.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the spring whose waters never fail. Repair the damage we have done to this earth. Restore all of creation to perfection.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are gracious and merciful. Guide those in authority to serve the common good, to lift up those who live under the yoke of oppression, and to provide fair conditions for all workers.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Restore our cities, towns, and rural communities. Use us to share your love by serving others in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You call us to return to you during this season of Lent. Satisfy our needs when we are in parched places, and make us strong.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember all those who have returned to dust, with whom we are one in the body of Christ. Crush our fear of death, and give us faith to live with courage.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Now is the acceptable time to offer our prayers to you, God of grace and truth. Receive them in your mercy, and grant us all that we need, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### Great 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 him 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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please stand as you are able*

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.

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.

### The Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. They 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.**

*{Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.}*

### Hymn Before Communion (sung)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come forward and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

### Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened by the breathing of your Spirit. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, which is revealed to all the world in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Hymn  
*able*

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

*Please stand as you are*

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me;  
lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

## Dismissal

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. **Thanks be to God.**

*We Depart in Silence.*

*The Rev. Fred Kopp  
Music Minister: Don Grabau  
Assisting Minister: Charlie Schmidtke*

Liturgical elements: Sundays and Seasons,  
Augsburg Fortress License Number 026761

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**Welcome:** We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us this evening. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time.

**Mid-week Lenten Services and Soup Suppers:** Here is this year's schedule of Wednesday Lenten soup suppers (6 pm) and worship services (6:30 pm):

<b>February 25</b>	Abiding Savior, 1534 Ruie Rd., North Tonawanda
<b>March 4</b>	Good Shepherd, 2669 Sheridan Dr., Tonawanda
<b>March 11</b>	Augustana, 3143 Eggert Road, Tonawanda
<b>March 18</b>	St. Martin's, 322 Old Falls Blvd., North Tonawanda
<b>March 25</b>	<b>TOL</b>