



Lutheran Church & Christian School



**February 14, 2024**

***Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!***

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## Mission Statement

[Who We Are]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School strive to:

**HUMBLY AND KNOWINGLY FOLLOW JESUS,  
SEEKING JOY THROUGH HIM IN WORSHIP,  
TEACHING, AND PRAYER.**



## Vision Statement

[Who We Endeavor to Be]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School endeavor to:

**LIVE [up] BY FAITH, BE KNOWN [out] BY  
CHRIST'S LOVE, and REJOICE [in] HIS  
FORGIVENESS.**

*"Redeemed and restored, we are rejoicing in Jesus!"*

## AS WE GATHER

By way of God's grace, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord equipped His people for a vibrant life with Him and lived out in the world. One of the ways He did this was through various spiritual practices, or disciplines. Each drawn from God's Word, these faith strengthening practices, governed by the movement of the Holy Spirit, accompanied the 1st Century Christians, propelling them into a life of witness and service.

This service's practice centers on confession and forgiveness, where at the heart of this healing practice, confession is very simply an admission of guilt, with forgiveness being the "greater part"—an act that flows straight to and from the heart of God, boldly proclaimed on a hill outside of Jerusalem. Hannah More puts it this way: "A Christian will find it cheaper to pardon than to resent. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, and the waste of spirit." It is God's gift to us, to lay our burden down, with the promise that for those who do, healing and wholeness are found — between us and our heavenly Father, and between each other. Welcome to worship.

### [7:00 p.m.] PRELUDE

#### **PRE-SERVICE SONG** "Lead Me to the Cross"

Savior I come, quiet my soul, remember

Redemption's hill, where Your blood was spilled for my ransom

*Chorus: Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.*

*Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out*

*Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.*

*Rid me of myself, I belong to You.*

*Lead Me to the Cross Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.*

You were as I, tempted and tried ... human.

The Word became flesh, bore my sin in death; now, You're risen. (*Chorus*)

*Bridge: To Your heart; to Your heart.*

*Lead me to Your heart; lead me to Your heart. (Chorus)*

## INTRODUCTION

## OPENING PRAYER

*Merciful Lord, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in You there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but You are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Strengthen our faith and trust in You. We are empty vessels that need to be filled; fill us. We are weak in faith; strengthen us. We are cold in love; warm us, and make our hearts fervent for You that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. We pray these things in faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

Pastor: Now is the time of God's favor;

**Congregation: now is the day of salvation.**

Pastor: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

**Congregation: that the light of Your face may shine on us.**

Pastor: May Your justice shine like the sun;

**Congregation: and may the poor be lifted up.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in 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 God's 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 season for us, so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts, thus keeping the feast in sincerity and truth.

*At this time, you are invited to come forward and receive the imposition of ashes. Each will receive the sign of the cross upon their forehead with the following remembrance:*  
*"From dust you have come; to dust you shall return."*

**[7:00 p.m.] HYMN OF PREPARATION "I Lay My Sins on Jesus"**

*LSB 606*

*For this and all subsequent hymns, please see PowerPoint slides or the hymnal.*

*We remain standing.*

## CONFESSION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for self-examination.*

Pastor: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**Congregation: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.**

**Congregation: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord ✠ grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that lamenting our sins and acknowledging Your goodness we may continue to receive from You full pardon and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## VARIOUS READINGS ON CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

\*Psalm 32:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

<sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

Psalm 139:23-24

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
Try me and know my thoughts!

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Acts 2:37-41

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." <sup>41</sup> So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

## 1 John 1:8-10

<sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## James 5:16

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

## \*Colossians 3:12-15a

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

## \*Matthew 4:12-17

<sup>12</sup> Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. <sup>13</sup> And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> the people dwelling in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## Matthew 5:23-24

<sup>23</sup> So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 6:14-15

<sup>12</sup> and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

<sup>15</sup> but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

**[7:00 p.m.] HYMN** “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

*LSB 431*

**MEDITATION** “4-Given”

**Notes:**



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Do you view confession as a burdensome obligation or an invitation? Why?

When and from whom have you received unmerited forgiveness? What was that like for you? How did you respond?

Where are you most vulnerable to unforgiveness? Within your family? At work? While driving in your car? How might you invite God to join you in this place?

1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins to God, he is faithful to forgive us our sins. Are there sins in your life that you need to go to God and ask forgiveness?

Is there anyone that you need to confess and ask forgiveness from? Who? What do you need to say? What is holding you back? Why not today?

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICES:

Read and reflect on the verses listed in today's bulletin. Read each verse slowly. Center in on one or two. Where are you noticing God in the verse? Pay attention to where He is moving your spirit to do something.

In a safe space, in the presence of God who both knows and loves you, reflect on each of the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17, or the Small Catechism). Journal the Spirit's promptings, noting what sins surface. When finished, go through each commandment one at a time, asking God to forgive you and to help you change. Then burn your list in a symbolic act of what it means to have God remove your sins from you.

While sitting in silence ask God to show you who you need to forgive. Be real about the pain and suffering. Ask God to take those feelings, to enable you to release them to him. Ask God to forgive that person through you.

Use this prayer as a guide to confession:

*Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive me of what my lips tremble to name and what my heart can no longer bear. I confess my \_\_\_\_\_ and I humbly ask for your forgiveness. Amen.*

Pray this prayer, as an Assurance of Pardon:

*Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in my contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all my sins, and cleansing me from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE “Jesus, in Your Dying Woes”

LSB 447:1-3

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we mark the forty days of Lent with repentance and forgiveness, let us pray for the renewal of the Church and the restoration of the world to the life of God in Christ.

*Silence for time of personal reflection.*

*Each petition concludes with the following response:*

**Congregation: Forgive us, Father, and show us what to do.**

*Additional petitions may be offered.*

Pastor: Gracious Father, please hear the prayers that flow from our lips, and sustain us with the forgiveness won by Jesus’ death and resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

*Sharing of God’s peace.*

**OFFERTORY** “Take Me In” (Words & Music by Dave Browning © 1986 Glory Alleluia Music)

Take me past the outer courts, and through the holy place  
Past the brazen altar; Lord, I want to see Your face.  
Pass me by the crowds of people, the priests who sing their praise.  
I hunger and thirst for Your righteousness, but it’s only found one place.

Take me into the Holy of Holies. Take me in by the blood of the Lamb.  
Take me into the Holy of Holies. Take the coal, cleanse my lips. Here I am.

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** “Jesus, Remember Me”

LSB 767

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

*Repeat Three Times*

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*  
Congregation: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*  
Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*  
Congregation: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## EXHORTATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: “Now, what is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: It is the true body and blood of the Lord Christ, in and under the bread and wine, which we Christians are commanded by Christ’s word to eat and drink ... In this sacrament He offers us all the treasures He brought from heaven for us, to which He most graciously invites us in other places, as when He says in Matthew 11 [:28]: *“Come to me, all you that are weary and are [heavy laden], and I will give you rest”* ... We must never regard the sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine that aids you and gives life in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body is helped as well ... Here in this sacrament you are to receive from Christ’s lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and brings with it God’s grace and Spirit with all His gifts, protection, defense, and power against death, the devil, and every trouble.”(Kolb, *Large Catechism*, 467, 473f)

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Please see PowerPoint or back of hymnal.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## DISTRIBUTION

*For those desiring to receive the LORD'S SUPPER today, please refer to the laminated card in the pew racks. Those not receiving Communion are still invited to come forward for a blessing. At the Communion rail, simply bow your head to receive a blessing.*

*At the time of Communion, please follow the direction of the ushers. For those receiving the individual cups, a non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center of each tray. Following the passing of the individual cups, the common cup is offered for those who wish to commune in that manner.*

**All who are communing** are encouraged to review the Sacrament of the Altar on pp. 326-327, and the Questions on pp. 329-330, in the front of the hymnal.

**[7:00 p.m.] DISTRIBUTION HYMNS** “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”      *LSB 435*  
“Glory Be to Jesus”      *LSB 433*

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:** O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

**Congregation:** His mercy endures forever.

**Pastor:** We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have assured us of entrance to that feast in the heavenly Eden, where we shall sit at table with Your Son and those who have preceded us in the faith. Grant us strength for the days ahead, that we may display in our lives the new life You have bestowed on us in Your grace; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation:** Amen.

## **BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** 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.

**Congregation:** Amen.

**[7:00 p.m.] CLOSING HYMN** “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”      *LSB 883, St. 1-3*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Portions of this service were taken from Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun (IVP © 2005), “Spiritual Formation Resources” ([www.spiritualformationstore.com](http://www.spiritualformationstore.com)); *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2*. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Other music and streaming license used by permission: CCLI License # 500626.**