

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A family where Christ is Head and the entire congregation are ministers."

Rev. Jonathan Meraz ~ *Pastor*
Stephen Pruitt ~ *Director of Music*



Ash Wednesday

6001 Granby Street
Norfolk, VA 23505
757-489-2551

A Special Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this evening. Trinity is a liturgical Lutheran church. Today's Service is printed for you in this bulletin. Today's service is being live streamed to YouTube and will be available later on Trinity's Facebook page and Website. By entering the service, you consent to the video recording to be used for live streaming, inclusion on our web site and Facebook, and/or any other purpose by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. We hope that your experience here is meaningful and will be lasting.

Offering - An offering plate has been placed by the entrance/exit door so that you may leave your tithe.

ALL LOOSE COINS placed in the offering plate directly assist our future pastors with their education through Concordia Seminary's "*COINS FOR CHRIST*" program.

Participants in Worship This Evening

Pastor
Lector
Music Director

Rev. Jonathan Meraz
Scott Thieman
Stephen Pruitt

Return to the Lord

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

Congregation sits in silence

Organ Chorale

Have Mercy, Lord, My Sin Forgive

J. S. Bach

Stand (as you are able)

Invocation and Call to Worship

Opening Litany

P: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

C: We believe that Jesus is Lord!

P: At the name of Jesus every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

C: Our knees bow, and our tongues confess his name!

P: Always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that you have as a Christian.

C: We hope in Jesus, the crucified and risen one!

P: Together we proclaim the praises of him who called out us of darkness into his wonderful light.

C: Praise to the Lord for calling us into the light!

Opening Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Confession and Absolution

P: Father in heaven, you call us always to be prepared to share the hope we have in Christ. But we admit that we have not followed this command.

C: We are often unprepared, and therefore we have been reluctant to confess your name.

P: The causes are many: pressures of the world, fear of embarrassment, misplaced priorities, lack of prayer.

C: Behind them all is sin in our hearts and our weak faith.

P: Father, forgive us.

C: Look not at our sin, but at your Son.

P: Father, strengthen us.

C: Fill us with confidence in your gracious promises.

P: Father, prepare us.

C: Give us your words, and lead us with your Spirit, to confess faithfully your holy name.

Silence for repentant reflection on how we have failed to confess Jesus to our friends and neighbors.

P: Brothers and sisters, God is merciful and kind. He does not leave us in our sin, but loves and forgives us in Christ. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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

^{6:1}Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Lenten Verse



C 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.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Music for Meditation

Dust and Ashes
Lynn Hubert, soprano

Haas and Wrenn

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy...

C ...hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

**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.

Benediction

P: God has listened and heard our prayer!

C: He turned the sea into dry land; we passed through the waters on foot.

P: May the Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—lead you to a place of abundance.

All: Amen and Amen!

Closing Hymn

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



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 A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly 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.
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
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.

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Significance of the Lenten Season

The season of Lent has a long tradition in the Christian Church. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and then runs for forty days, not including Sundays, until Easter. It is traditionally a time of fasting and repentance; reflecting the forty years that Israel spent in the desert and the fasting and soul searching of our Lord, when he spent forty days in the wilderness.

It is important to note, therefore, that while Lent is a time for meditating upon your ways and your life, its ultimate purpose is to prepare us for the good news of Easter, the coming of new and abundant life in Christ. During Lent we are asked to slow down, take a deep spiritual breath, and await God's grace. It is to be a sober, but not a somber opportunity, to revive our souls.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. In effect, the Ash Wednesday Service sets the scene for the forty days of reflection to follow. It is a service of great moment. As is our custom, during the evening service ashes made from palms from the previous Palm Sunday are placed by the pastor on the foreheads of worshipers in the sign of the Cross. In this act we are reminded that we are human and therefore will ourselves return to the dust. Ash Wednesday allows us not to retreat from life, but to begin to once again recognize the profound gift of grace and new life that we find in Jesus. It is a way of recognizing that the love of God is real and the beginning of a meaningful life.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday before Easter, Maundy Thursday is observed in commemoration of the Last Supper of Christ with his disciples. The name Maundy is derived from the Latin *mandatum* (commandment) and refers to the new command that Jesus gives us in John 13:34.

Good Friday

The Friday immediately preceding Easter, Good Friday is celebrated by Christians as the anniversary of Christ's crucifixion. Since the time of the early church, it has been a day of repentance, prayer and fasting.