

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

6:30 PM Worship Service • February 14, 2024



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Welcome members and guests to our worship service today. If you are visiting, we encourage you to sign the guest register located in the narthex. Please include your home address, email address and phone number. In each pew, there is a card that you can fill out if you wish to have a consult with the pastor and/or leave us more information.

The nursery is available, however since there are no attendants at this time, feel free to use it as needed.

Trinity offers an induction loop for the benefit of hearing impaired worshippers. To use, please switch your hearing aid to "T." If you are unsure if your hearing aid is compatible, please contact your audiologist.

Enlarged print sermon copies are available for the benefit of sight or hearing impaired worshippers. They can be found in the narthex on the table.

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6812 River Road, Newport News, VA 23607

(757) 245-7861 – <http://trinitylutheran-nn.com>

Church Office Hours: Mon. – Thur. 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



REV. TINA MELUSKY – Pastor (tina.melusky@gmail.com)

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THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN – Ministers of the Word

FACEBOOK & WORSHIP LIVESTREAMS: <http://facebook.com/TrinityNN>

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL WEBSITE: <http://trinitynn.org>

PASTOR MELUSKY'S OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9am-12pm; Tuesday 9-10:30am, 11:30am-12:15pm;

Wednesday 9:30am-12pm; Thursday 9am-12pm

Times are flexible with monthly meetings, but feel free to call for an appointment or drop in.

Pastor's Cell: (734) 239-4013

Trinity is a partner church with Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center,
LINK, THRIVE, and The Simple Sunflower.

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Our worship service today is a prayer service in the style of the Taizé community.

Founded in 1940, the Taizé community is an ecumenical monastic order in France, whose worship services are characterized by meditation, silence, prayer, and repetitive singing.

Each chorus is rooted in Biblical texts and will be sung several times in repetition.

There will be an extended period of silent prayer in the middle of the service. You are invited to spend this time in personal reflection and meditation.

The entire service is one continual prayer, and will continue unannounced.

A retiring offering will be received to benefit the ministries of Trinity.

Plates are located at the entrance to the sanctuary.



PLEASE GATHER IN SILENCE

A READING FROM JOEL 2:12-13

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.

BLESS THE LORD

Musical score for "Bless the Lord" in G major, 4/4 time, tempo 76. The score is written for voice and piano. The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic structure with chords in the right hand and bass lines in the left hand. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as 76. The score is divided into two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines. The piano part includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A READING FROM ISAIAH 58:5-9A

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and the Lord will say, Here I am.

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re -
joice! Look to God, do not be a - fraid. Lift up your
voic - es, the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. There are triplets in the piano part in the second and third systems.

PSALM 51:1-17 (*read responsively*)

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

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**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.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**


O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.


COME, BRING YOUR BURDENS TO GOD

Cantor





(no.) Come, bring your bur - dens, oh,


Assembly




Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your
Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -

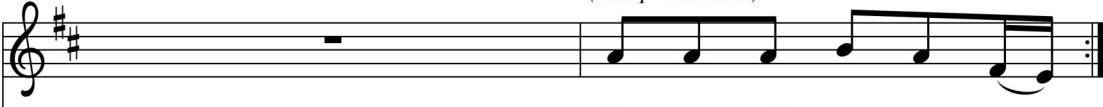
come, bring your bur - dens, oh, come, bring your bur - dens,




bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God for
thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho U -




(except last time)



Je - sus will nev - er say



Je - sus will nev - er say no.
ye - s'a - ka - so - za - thi hayi.



THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Jesus said to the disciples, "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 might 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 yourself 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.

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

(as the prayers of intercession are offered, the congregation responds with the bold)

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

(the congregation sings both stanzas once, then responds as designated)

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music includes the following lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The". The second system includes: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The". The score includes various chords such as Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, B, G6, and Am. The piece concludes with a "fine" marking.

In the solace of silence, we come to you, O Lord.
We come for acceptance; we come for community;
we come for forgiveness and love. (*stanza 1*)

In the restfulness of worship, we come to you, O Lord.
We come to you for respite; we come to you for completion;
we come to you for forgiveness and love. (*stanza 2*)

In the quiet of this place, we come to you, O Lord.
We come for peace; we come for comfort;
we come for forgiveness and love. (*pause*)

We come, O Lord of Light, seeking the illumination of Your Word.
We come for the path we can't find; we come for the life we don't have.
We come to you, for our lives are death,
and you alone have breath and being. (*stanzas 1-2*)

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

At this time you may come forward and receive the sign of the cross on your forehead or the back of your hand. As you receive the ashes, the pastor will remind you that "you are dust, and to dust you shall return," to which you may respond with "In life and in death, I belong to God."

You are invited to join in singing the following choruses during the imposition.

TAKE, OH, TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
 set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next two lines.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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SANCTUARY

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and
 ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
 I'll be a liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for you.

The musical score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line with chord diagrams above the notes. The chords are: A7, D, A, G, Em7, D, A, A7, D, A, G, A7, D.

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

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SANCTUARY

Irregular

PRAYER (*unison*)

**Merciful God, your Word is the way of truth and life.
Create in us hearts that are clean, and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace and declare your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is held around the table. The bread will be handed to you by the pastor. Please take a communion cup with wine from the outside edge of the tray or a grape juice cup from the center of the tray. Recycling baskets for your plastic cups are located outside the doors of the sanctuary. Trinity has an open table – all are welcome to come to the feast.

As communion is being distributed, the congregation is invited to sing:

EAT THIS BREAD (*stanza 1 only*)

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

The musical notation consists of two systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is for the refrain, and the second system is for the first stanza. The lyrics are written below the treble staves.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *(congregation reads the bold)*

The end is God's; the beginning is God's.

The storm is God's; the peace is God's.

The depths are God's; the heights are God's.

The dark is God's; the light is God's.

For all times and all things belong to God.

As we enter Lent, walk with the God of your salvation.

We travel with God to the end from the beginning.

Walk with the God of your deliverance.

We continue with God during the storm as well as the peace.

Walk with the God of your restoration.

We journey with God through the depths and the heights.

Walk with the God of your assurance.

We remain with God in the dark and the light.

For all times and all things belong to God. Amen.

JESUS, REMEMBER ME

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines. The first system includes a fermata over the final note of the vocal line. The second system ends with a double bar line.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Acolytes: Karina and Elena Stevens

Flute: Patricia Fielding

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