

ASH

Wednesday

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RETURN  
TO THE  
LORD  
YOUR  
GOD

Ash Wednesday Services  
12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.

## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

209 Broad Street,  
Anderson, SC 29621

Ministers: People of Holy Trinity

**The Reverend J. Chris Fischer, Pastor**

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### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

March 5, 2025

12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m.

### **Gathering**

The Assembly Gathers in Silence

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

\*Psalm 51: 10-17 (read responsively by whole verse)

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

<sup>11</sup>**Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup>**Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.**

<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup>**O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

<sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

<sup>17</sup>**The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

\*Greeting The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

\*Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, You hate nothing You have made, and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from You, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# Word

## First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

- Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
    for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—  
2 a day of darkness and gloom,  
    a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains,  
    a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
    nor will be again after them  
    in ages to come.
- 12 Yet even now, says the LORD,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD your God,  
    for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,  
    and relenting from punishment.
- 14 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?
- 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
16 gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
    assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
    even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room  
    and the bride her canopy.
- 17 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?' ”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 105:1-11** (read responsively by whole verse)

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- <sup>2</sup> **Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**
- <sup>3</sup> Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- <sup>4</sup> **Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**
- <sup>5</sup> Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
- <sup>6</sup> **O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**
- <sup>7</sup> He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.
- <sup>8</sup> **He is mindful of his covenant forever,  
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,**
- <sup>9</sup> the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,
- <sup>10</sup> **which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant.”**
- <sup>11</sup> saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance.

## **Second Reading**

## **2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10**

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6** As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions,

hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, <sup>9</sup> as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possess everything.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

6 “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

5 “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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message: **“EXPERIENCING CLEAN HEARTS”**

\*Hymn of the Day

*“Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Our Church”*

Hymn #321

Confession of Sin

*The presiding minister leads the following or another confession.*

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

*The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another,**

**and before the whole company of heaven,**

**that we have sinned by our fault,**

**by our own fault,**

**by our own most grievous fault,**

**in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to Your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to You.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share that faith that is in us, we confess to You.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgement, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to You.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to You.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let Your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for Your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes (The congregation moves forward at the appropriate time to receive the ashes.)

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.*

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 Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

(k) Prayers of Intercession

(each petition ends) ... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

### **Meal**

Offering (All offerings received during the Mid-week Lenten services will go to Haven of Rest.)

Anthem      **“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor & Needy”**      arr. Ronald Turner  
(7:00 p.m.) Choir

Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore,  
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity love and power.

Come, ye thirsty, come and welcome, God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance, Ev'ry grace that brings you nigh.

I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms.

\*Offering Canticle    *“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*

Hymn #181

\*Offering Prayer

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\***The Great Thanksgiving** (spoken)

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L. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

L. Lift up your hearts.

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

L. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\*Eucharistic Prayer and the Words of Institution

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**



O God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

\*The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary Version)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

\*The Communion Hymn

**"Lamb of God"**

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**The Communion** (Continuous method-Please follow the directions of the ushers.)

*Invited to commune at this altar are all baptized believers. Children not yet receiving Holy Communion are invited to come with their families to receive a blessing. On the way up, you are to pick up a cup and bring it to the altar. Prefilled cups in the center of the tray contain grape juice; otherwise wine will be dispensed at the altar into empty cups. Gluten free wafers are available as needed. Please notify the Pastor. To have the elements brought to you for communion, please notify an Usher.*

*It would be helpful if you would sit on the front pew or on the aisle. As you go to the altar for communion, you are invited to dip your fingers into the water of the Baptismal Font and make a sign of the cross on your forehead in remembrance of your baptism.*

\*Post Communion Canticle

*“Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant”*

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**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled,**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared  
In the sight of ev’ry people: a light to reveal you to the nations and  
the glory of your people Israel.**

\*Prayer after Communion

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending**

\*Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

\*Hymn

*“Savior, When In Dust To You”*

Hymn #601

**(Silence is observed for meditation as candles are extinguished.)**

\*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!**

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\*Congregation stands

L – Leader

C - Congregation

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**Minister**

Rev J. Chris Fischer

**Pianist/Choir Director**

Jill Helgeson

**Acolytes** (12:00 p.m.) Nancy Korn (7:00 p.m.) Cathy Rudisill

**Lay Readers**

(12:00 p.m.) Nancy Korn (7:00 p.m.) Amy Goodson

**Assisting Ministers**

(12:00 p.m.) Harry Coggins (7:00 p.m.) Amy Goodson

**Ushers**

(12:00 p.m.) John Lybrand, Mike Cox, Tom Weeks

(7:00 p.m.) Mike Metz, Sid Stokes



You can't help but notice the "dead" tree covered in caterpillars which has appeared in the Sanctuary. You may question - why is it here or what is it about?

Things are different in both the church and nature this time of year. There are some things "sleeping" in our worship such as the use of

Alleluias. Everything in our yards such as the grass and trees look dead but they too are just "sleeping". Some of God's creatures such as caterpillars make cocoons. Although we might think they are dead, they actually have rebirth as a butterfly.

This tree is actually here to help each of us to remember that while the weather often is cool and gray and the grass is brown and the trees bare, there is the hope that Spring is coming! Bulbs are blooming and the days are getting longer. Just as we have hope for Spring, Lent gives us a time to hope for Easter and the promise that the resurrection brings. Just as the change of seasons brings surprises, keep watching the tree thru the Lenten season – there are more surprises to come!

In past years this has been a project of the LCY and the Sunday School children but this year we included all families of the congregation during a Family Fun Night event.

