

ASH

Wednesday

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

February 18, 2026

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)

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

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

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

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

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

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

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

¹⁷The 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

Isaiah 58:1-12

58 Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ 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?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷ 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?

⁸ 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.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry

and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ² 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! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰ 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.**

[we stand]

***Gospel**

Luke 11:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’ ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before

him.’⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? ¹²Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? ¹³If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

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

Message: **“And When You Pray”**

[we stand]

*Hymn of the Day

“Lord Jesus, Think On Me”

Hymn #599

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.**

Prayers of Intercession (we kneel)

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

Meal

Offering (All offerings received during the Mid-week Lenten services will go to New Foundations Home for Children.)

Anthem ***“Have Mercy In Your Goodness Lord”*** Donald Rotermund

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy in Your goodness, Lord, and in Your grace forgive my sins;
Wash me from evil through and through, cleanse me, O Lord, without,
within.

All my transgressions, Lord, I know; I see my sin both day and night;
Wash me from evil through and through, done what is evil in Your sight.

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

For deep within You look for truth; in secret make me understand;
Purge out my sin and I shall be pure as Your holy law demands.

Create in me a clean heart, Lord, renew a spirit that is right;
Take not Your Spirit from my life, nor cast me out, Lord, from Your
sight.

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

[we stand]

*Offering Canticle ***“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”*** Hymn #181

*Offering Prayer

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallow 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.**

*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"

page 135

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!

***Congregation stands**

Minister

Rev J. Chris Fischer

Organist/Choir Director

Jill Helgeson

Acolytes (12:00 p.m.) Nancy Korn

(7:00 p.m.) Cathy Rudisill

Lay Readers

(12:00 p.m.) Rynde Dial

(7:00 p.m.) Joshua Fischer

Assisting Ministers

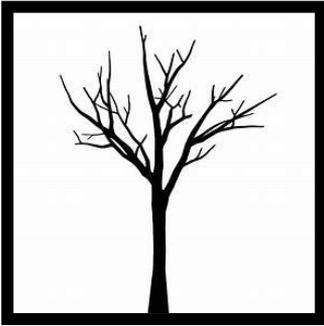
(12:00 p.m.) Rynde Dial

(7:00 p.m.) Beth Fischer

Ushers

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

(7:00 p.m.) Mike Oates, 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.

LENTEN WORSHIP AND SUPPER SCHEDULE

Sermon Series: “Lord, Teach Us To Pray”

Note:

Maundy Thursday Services, and Good Friday Services will be identical.

Wednesday, February 18 Ash Wednesday Services 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.
[no meal] Message: “And When You Pray”

Wednesday, February 25 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper [WELCA Meal Group A
to host]
Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m. Message: “Our Father Who Art In Heaven”

Wednesday, March 4 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper [WELCA Meal Group
B to host]
Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m. Message: “Hallowed Be Thy Name”

Wednesday, March 11 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper [Lutheran Church
Youth to host]
Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m. Message: “Thy Kingdom Come”

Wednesday, March 18 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper [Lutheran Men in
Mission to host]
Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m. Message: “Thy Will Be Done”

Wednesday, March 25 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper [Congregational
Potluck Meal]
Lenten Service – 7:00 p.m. Message: “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread”

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday
[no meal] Maundy Thursday Worship Services 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Message: “Forgive Us As We Forgive Others”

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday
[no meal] Good Friday Worship Services 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m.
Message: “Lead Us Not Into Temptation, But Deliver Us
From Evil”