



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

February 14, 2024



Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God’s grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Christian’s 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and tomb, preparing for the celebration of Easter. The 40 days are reminiscent of several biblical events: Jesus’ fast at the beginning of his ministry; Moses’ stay on Mount Sinai at the giving of the Law; Elijah’s fast on his way to the mountain of God.

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian’s Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance. The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (AD 160-215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite for Christian burial: “...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...,” words that will someday be spoken over all of us. The imposition of ashes has never been an exclusively Roman Catholic practice and today is observed widely by many Christian branches.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Paul Jenkins

Today’s Focus: God graciously calls and leads sinners to repentance.

We Come into the Presence of God

PASTOR'S GREETING AND INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

REMAIN SEATED

PSALM 51

Be gracious to me, God,
according to your mercy.
Erase my acts of rebellion
according to the greatness of your compassion.
² Scrub me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.

³ For I admit my rebellious acts.
My sin is always in front of me.
⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and I have done this evil in your eyes.
So you are justified when you sentence me.
You are blameless when you judge.
⁵ Certainly, I was guilty when I was born.
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.
⁶ Since you desire truth on the inside,
in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom.
⁷ Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean.
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness.
Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins.
Erase all my guilty deeds.
¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God.
Renew an unwavering spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence.
Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation.
Sustain me with a willing spirit.
¹³ I will teach rebels your ways,
and sinners will turn to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
the God who saves me.
My tongue will shout for joy about your righteousness.
¹⁵ LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

(Continued on Next Page)

¹⁶ For you do not delight in sacrifice,
or I would give it.
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
¹⁷ The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.
A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.
¹⁸ As it pleases you, do good for Zion.
Build up the walls of Jerusalem.
¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with righteous sacrifices,
burnt offerings and whole offerings.
Then bulls will be offered up on your altar.

Silence for meditation

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, become like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, to ask our Father for forgiveness, and to commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

STAND

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own grievous fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

(continued on next page)

M: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy for those more prosperous than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

(continued on next page)

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Be Seated

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion. The minister applies ashes to the forehead of each in the form of a small cross, saying:

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Stand

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

HYMN 385 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me. All my wants to him are known;
and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–c. 1870, alt.
Tune: GETHSEMANE (77 77 77) Richard Redhead, 1820–1901.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON AND SERMON TEXT

Joel 2:12-17

Even now, declares the LORD,

return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and grief.

¹³ Tear your heart and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in mercy,
and he relents from sending disaster.

¹⁴ Who knows?

He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.

¹⁵ Blow the ram's horn in Zion.

Set aside a day for fasting.
Call a solemn convocation.

¹⁶ Gather the people.

Consecrate the assembly.
Bring together the elders.
Gather the children, even those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the temple porch and the altar.

Let them say:

Have compassion on your people, O LORD.
Do not subject the inheritance you have given us to the scorn of the nations.
Do not make us notorious among the nations as an object of ridicule.
Why should they say among the peoples,
“Where is their God?”

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 3:1-3

The Christians in Sardis are reminded to repent and to prove their faith with works “complete in the sight of my God.”

To the messenger of the church in Sardis write:

The one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this:

I know your works. You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what is left, which is about to die, for I have found that your works are not complete in the sight of my God. ³Therefore remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and repent! If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come upon you.

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus warns against faith-crushing greed. The measure of our life is not wealth, but God’s grace in his Son.

Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.”

¹⁶ He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷ He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹ And I will tell my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.’”

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’

²¹ “That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY: 304 Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does 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 Are not by the
 4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
 5 I, a sin - ner, come to you 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;
 Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
 in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
 Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
 Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
 Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By your blood and bitter passion,
 For these words I do believe—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
 Even 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 does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) *Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtsches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt,
 1699, alt.

SERMON

Text: Joel 2:12-17

Theme: Return to the Lord with All Your Heart

OFFERING

Please take a moment to register using the black notebook found in your pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sin, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand the incomprehensible love he showed in suffering and dying for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and ability to proclaim boldly the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 376 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Lenten Suppers

Through the following five Wednesdays of Lent (February 21 and 28, March 6, 13, and 20), we will have potluck suppers. Doors will open at 5:30, with supper at 6:00 and a brief Lent devotion at 6:30. Beverages, tableware and silverware will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass if you can. But even if you can't, please come anyway!

VBS Planning Meeting – Saturday, February 24 at 9:30 am

It's time to begin planning for this summer's Vacation Bible School! At this meeting we will set the VBS dates and choose our curriculum. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to learn more, please reach out to Pastor or Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com, 617-821-3126.

Sunday School Spring Service Project – Today through February 28

Through Sunday, February 28, Trinity's Sunday School kids are collecting baby items to donate to Birthright of Woodbridge. These will help new moms facing difficult pregnancies or with little support from their families and friends. Items needed include baby clothing (newborn to 12 mo), toiletries (baby shampoo, lotion, etc), diapers (unopened), baby towels, bibs, and burp cloths. See the bulletin board in the narthex for a more complete list. Please place all donations in the bin provided in the narthex by February 28. Thank you for helping us support moms who choose life for their babies!

Wine and Word Bible Study – On Break Until March 7th

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying the book of Revelation with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Excess Funds Team Members Wanted

Last year, Trinity was again blessed with extra offerings by the generous hearts God has given our members. Pastor Jenkins and Treasurer Jim Strock are seeking Trinity members to join them on an Excess Funds Team that will work to determine the amount of excess offerings from 2023, and to make a recommendation on how they should be used in God's kingdom.

Women's Bible Study on Esther

The remaining dates for the Women's Bible Study on Esther are:

March 9 at 9:00 am (Chapter 5)

April 13 at 9:00 am (Chapter 6)

May 11 at 9:00 am (Chapter 7)

The Women's Bible Study meets at Trinity. We are discussing the book "Esther: Providential Persian Queen" by Lou Ann Mokwa. Please join us anytime!

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during Worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.