



February 14th, 2024

**ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 P.M. WORSHIP**



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Lifting Up, Reaching Out**

WELCOME TO HOLY TRINITY!

We are so glad you are joining in our worship. Whether this is your first time or you are a regular participant, we are happy to welcome you today.

Ashes in Public?

In today's gospel Jesus cautions us against public acts of piety — on the one day of the year we leave worship with a visible smudge on our foreheads, reminding everyone we see that we have been to church. What are you supposed to do, wipe the ashes off before stepping outside? Do you leave them on only to have the cashier at the grocery store say, "You've got something on your forehead"?

Of course Jesus does not tell us to refrain from all acts of public piety. What Jesus seems concerned with is the *why*, not the *what*. Why do you pray in public? Why do you give alms? Why do you fast? If appearing faithful is a way to build yourself up before others, then it is not faithfulness but hypocrisy. On the other hand, if praying over a meal in a restaurant is something you do because praying at meals is part of your faith, by all means bow your head and pray.

As the season of Lent begins each year, God's people are invited to take on three great disciplines: prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. You hear the invitation to prayer, fasting, and alms-giving in the reading from Joel. Jesus' words in the gospel remind us that our acts of faithfulness always come as a response to God's gifts. Remembering this gives a note of humility to all we do. Piety is not something to brag about. Piety is not something to be proud of. Piety is but acknowledgment of the one who first gave us everything.

Finally, Paul makes it clear, as if there were ever any question: we only become righteous in Jesus. We know grace only because Jesus becomes our sin. This is the grounding for everything we do throughout the holy days of Lent.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me.....ELW 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me: all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me, walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual, arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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GATHERING PRAYER

P 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.

C Amen.

PSALM 51

Read by all

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴Against 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.

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

- ¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat 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.

⁶¹As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

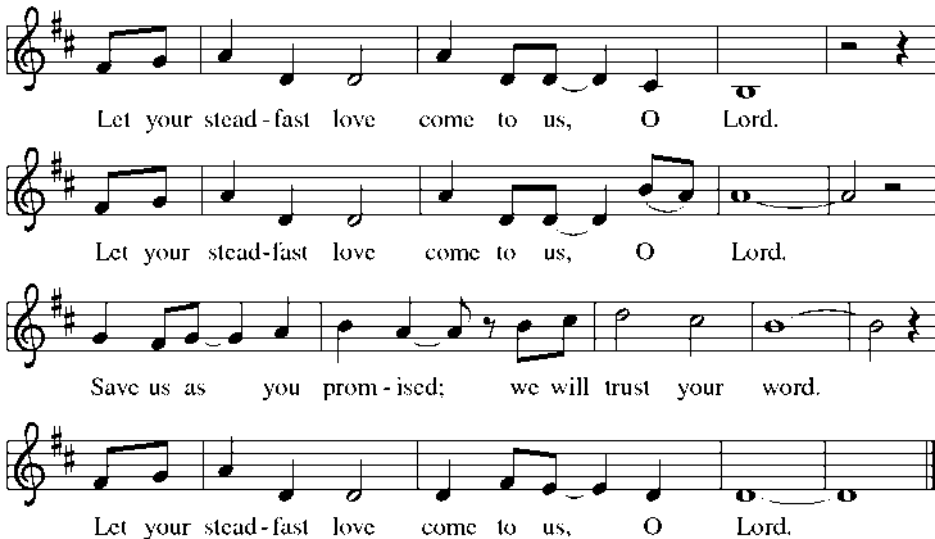
- A Word of God, word of life.
C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

In the Garden..... Austin D. Miles
arr. Kevin McChesney
Christus Bells

LENTEN VERSE.....ELW S189

Please stand as you are able



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

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

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

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

P The gospel of the Lord.
 C Praise to you, O Christ.

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION.....Pastor Mike Gutzler

MESSAGE HYMN
Bless Now, O God, the Journey.....ELW 326

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

Continued on next page

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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INVITATION TO LENT

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister may invite the assembly into the discipline of Lent.

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

P 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.

P Most holy and merciful God,

C **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.**

P 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, O God.**

P 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.

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

- P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
- C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
- C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
- C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- C **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- C **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C **Amen.**

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

- P Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

HYMN

Change My Heart, O God.....ELW 801

(Repeat as Needed)



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa

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

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

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

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P 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.

C **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please stand as you are able

A 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.

A brief silence.

A You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war (*regions in conflict may be named*). Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Watch over our military and members of agencies serving to keep us safe and free. Bless, strengthen, and defend them with your heavenly grace, give them courage in the face of peril, and grant them a sense of your abiding love and presence wherever they may be throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Watch over all your children, Lord, including any who have not felt welcomed by the members of your church. Help us to truly be a Reconciling in Christ congregation: a welcoming and safe community for all. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church (*especially Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, whom we commemorate today*). Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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

C **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas,
wells and springs we bless and magnify you.
You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from
the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.
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.
Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your
salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this
feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the
love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy
Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C **Amen**

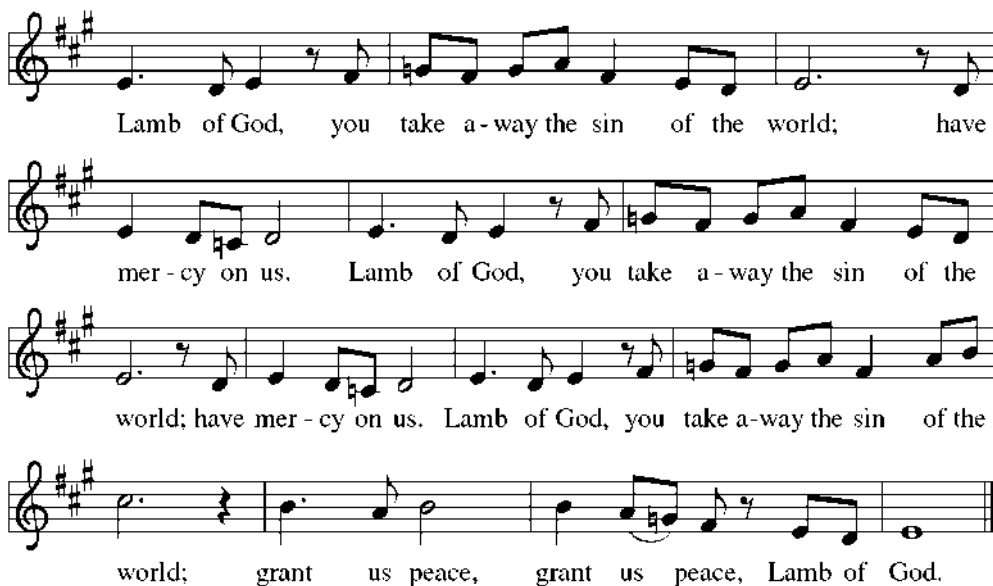
LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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. 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come.
C **Amen**

LAMB OF GOD.....ELW S191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you.

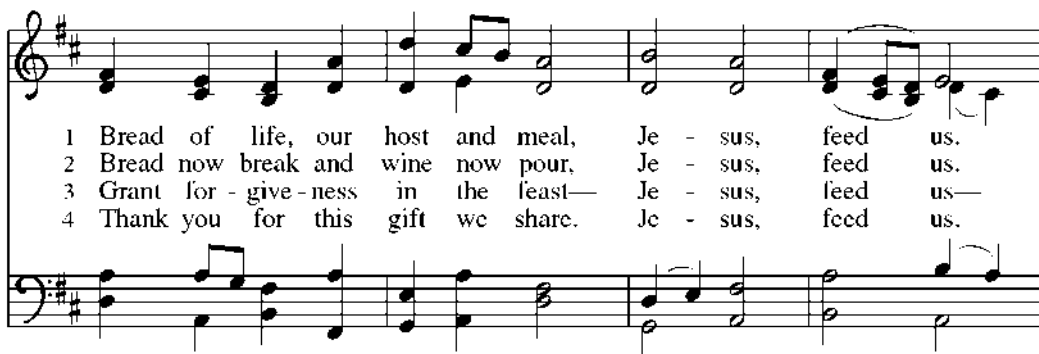
C Amen.

P The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal.....ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards

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COMMUNION HYMN

Nothing Can Trouble.....ACS 1033

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

Text: Teresa of Avila, 1515–1582; adapt. Taizé Community

Music: NADA TE TURBE, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able

P 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.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and  give you peace.

C **Amen.**

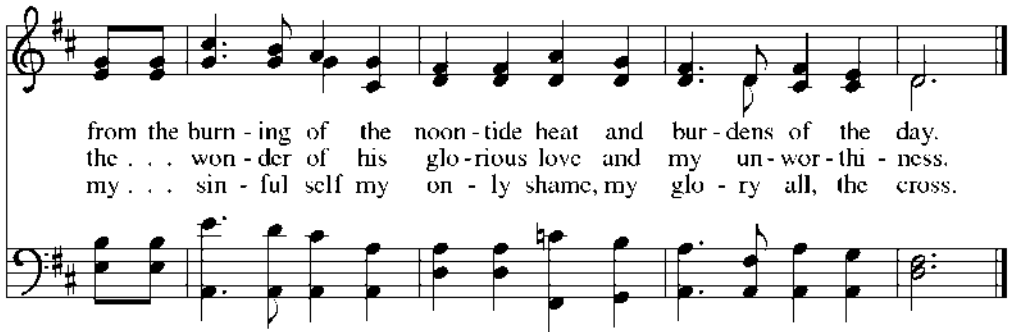
SENDING HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus.....ELW 338

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Share your bread.
- C **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE *O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde groß*.....J.S. Bach

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Presiding/Preaching Minister | Pastor Mike Gutzler |
| Assisting Minister | Vicar Allison Vincent-Beckman |
| Tech Team | Ben French and Jeff Taylor |
| Musicians | Josh Brown, Director of Music & Cantor |
| | Greg Bloy, Organ |
| | Erika Johnson, Director of Handbells |
| | Christus Bells |

HYPOTHERMA WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, February 25 thru March 2
Sign ups still available

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

March 24	Palm Sunday	10am
March 28	Maundy Thursday	7pm
March 29	Good Friday	7pm
March 31	Easter Sunrise	6:30am
	Easter Service	10am



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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