



RENEW A
*right
spirit*
WITHIN ME

PSALM 51:10

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

331 Weldon Street
Latrobe, PA 15650
724-537-4450 www.trinitylatrobe.com
Pastor Jess Felici & Pastor Jason Felici
Pastor Emeritus Jeffrey Schock

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

Welcome to Worship!

The **worship bulletin** is intended to help guide us through our worship. Sections in **bold** print are for congregation response. Throughout the bulletin you will note two symbols that denote when the congregation is invited to stand (▲) or be seated (▼) as your body allows. **Large print copies** of our worship service and **wireless sound enhancers** are available.

We believe our risen Lord Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine of **Holy Communion** and we extend our Lord's invitation to all who are baptized to share in this meal. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please contact an usher if you need **communed in the pew**.

A **large print copy** of our worship service and **wireless sound enhancers** are available in the front narthex.



Kindly note: The periods of silence before, during, and after the service are meant to encourage meditation. You may wish to read through some of the prayers and psalms in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Psalm 51, Psalm 63, and Psalm 71, are especially appropriate.

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

8:00am (Livestream @www.trinitylatrobe.com) & 7:00pm

Service of Holy Communion
(ELW Setting 2)

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.

Silent Prayer

(as the pastors enter the sanctuary silently, please stand or remain seated as your body allows)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

▲ Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

▼ First Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The book of Joel is a sermon in the context of natural disaster. A plague of locusts have decimated the crops, raising the specter of famine to come. Since God is the ruler of nature as well as history, the response to this wonder is fervent prayer and renewed commitment.

¹Blow 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—
²a 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; ¹³rend 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, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between 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 51:1-17 (Leader/Assembly: spoken)

This is the greatest of the penitential psalms. Tradition has it that it was composed by David in repentance for his adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband Uriah.

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

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

³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **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.**

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

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

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

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

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

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³ Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴ **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶ **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

▼ Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

Paul's opponents in Corinth emphasized their ability and power. Paul, however, boasts only of his similarities to the crucified Christ, whose ambassador he is. The quote in 6:2 is from Isaiah 49, in which God not only rescues Israel from exile, but sends the rescued out with the Good News to the whole world.

^{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. ^{6:1}As 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, truthful 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.

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

▲ Gospel Acclamation



Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

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

The Sermon on the Mount begins with Jesus's affirmation that his followers are blessed; they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He goes on to make the 10 Commandments even more radical than they seem. This passage immediately follows, and includes disciplines which the church has traditionally emphasized in Lent.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.”

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

▼ Sermon

Pastor Jess Felici

▲ Hymn of the Day

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

ELW #592

▲Invitation to 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.

Amen.

Confession of Sin (*please kneel or remain seated as your body allows*)

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

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, pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

(continued)

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, 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

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

▼ *You are invited to come forward to receive the ashes.*

During this time, you may join the choir in singing “Ashes” on page 9.

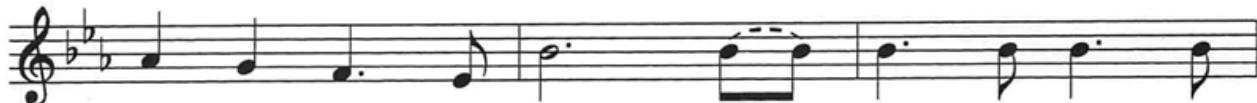




1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the good we've failed to
 2. We of - fer you our fail-ures, we ____ of - fer you at -
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let ____ heal - ing come to
 4. ♫ Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who ____ made us like him-



1. do. We rise a - gain from ash - es, to cre -
 2. tempts, the gifts not ful - ly giv - en, the ____
 3. pain, though spring has turned to win - ter, and ____
 4. self. ♫ Thanks be to the Son, who ____



1. ate our - selves a - new. If ____ all our world is
 2. dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our stum - bl - ings di -
 3. sun - shine turned to rain. The ____ rain we'll use for
 4. saved us by his death. ♫ Thanks be to the



1. ash - es, then ____ must our lives be true, an ____
 2. rec - tion, give our vi - sions wid - er view, an ____
 3. grow - ing, and cre - ate the world a - new from an
 4. Spir - it who cre - ates the world a - new from an



1-4. of - fer-ing of ash - es, an of - fer-ing to you.

▲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.

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 the People (*please kneel or remain seated as your body allows*)

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

▲ The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(share God's peace with one another and then be seated)

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

▼ Gathering of Gifts

- ◆ *As we move to the time in our worship where we offer our gifts to God's church, a portion of your offering supports providing governance support. Whether interpreting constitutional matters or untangling legal processes, your offering helps to provide these services to congregations and synod ministries as needed.*



If you prefer, scan the QR code to give online. You may then place a giving card from the pew in the offering plate as it passes by.

▼ Anthem

“Lenten Proclamation”

Chepponis

Choir

▲ Offertory

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #188

2 b

111

Music score for 'Create in me a clean heart' in G minor, 4/4 time. The first line consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right' are written below the notes. The second line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat, with lyrics 'spirit within me. Cast me not a - way from your'.

continued

presence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

▲ Offering Prayer

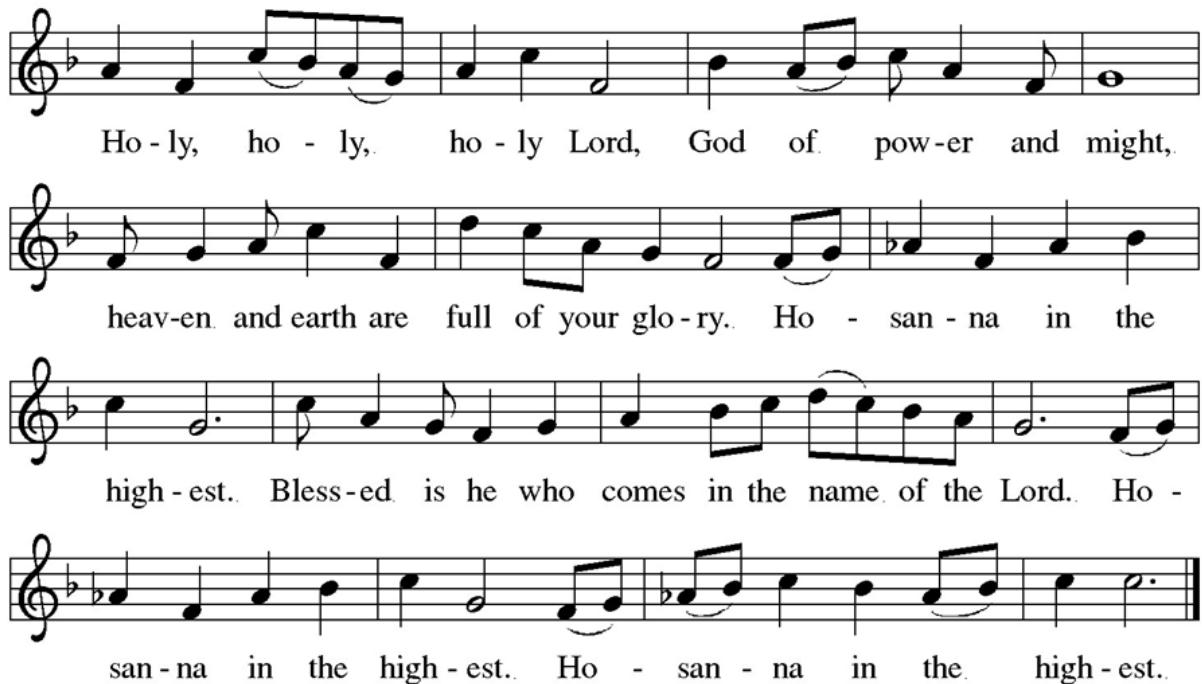
Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

▲ Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

▲Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

▲Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

(continued)

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.

▲Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

(continued)

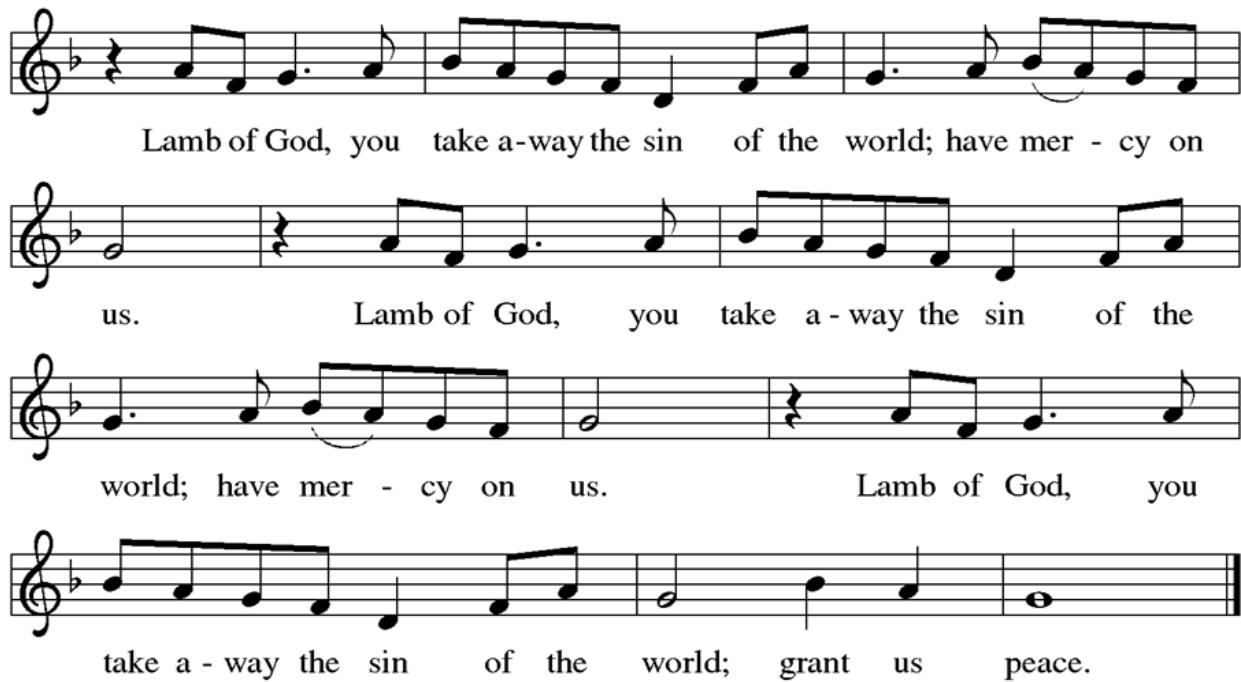
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

▲ Invitation to Communion

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

▲ Lamb of God



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.

▼ Distribution of Communion

To receive communion, please come down the center aisle, take a cup from the tray and gather at the altar rail. Receive the bread into your hand. Wine will be poured into your cup. The communion wine is gluten free. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. For those unable to receive wine, communion cups with water are available. Leave the altar rail, place your cup on the tray and return to your pew via the side aisles. If you would like to receive communion in the pew, please contact an usher. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

▲ Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

▲ Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of our salvation, **we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

▲ Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God the Father, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.

Amen.

▲ Sending Hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” **ELW #319**

▲ Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

Let us depart in silence and prayer.

Serving Today

Preaching:	Pastor Jess Felici	Presiding:	Pastor Jason Felici
Director of Music:	Debbie Morley		
Lectors:	8:00am: Donna Showalter	7:00pm:	Cheryl Morgan
Liturgical Deacons:	8:00am: Jane Lawson, Sandy Redinger		
	7:00pm: Kathy Ferlin, Rose McLain		
Ushers:	8:00am: Sandy Kisick, Linda McDowell, Mark & Kathy Jones		
	7:00pm: Don & Kasha Loveridge, Tom & Beth Dlugos		
Acolytes:	8:00am: Emma F.	7:00pm:	Mallory H., Kaden S.

LENTEN MORNING DEVOTIONS WITH HOLY COMMUNION

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY MORNINGS AT 8:00AM DURING LENT. **OUR JOURNEY BEGINS TOMORROW, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH**

PLEASE NOTE: IF THERE IS A SCHOOL DELAY OR SCHOOL CANCELLATION, OUR SERVICE WILL BE CANCELLED.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

OUR MID-WEEK VESPER SERVICES DURING LENT BEGIN NEXT WEDNESDAY, **FEBRUARY 25TH AT 6:30PM.**

Hypocrites in Good Company

Critics of Christianity often point out that Christians are hypocrites. Christians publicly espouse a certain set of rules for living—including care for creation, serving God and neighbors in need, and loving our enemies—and, just as publicly, fail to live up to those rules every day and in every way. Pastor Tony Campolo often tells the story of people who say they don't want to go to church because of all the hypocrites. He reassures them that they should feel right at home. Church is for real people, and real people fail to do and say the right things—real people are hypocrites. Campolo argues that the Christian ideal is to know you're a hypocrite and earnestly work at being less hypocritical. All the same, we don't want to be hypocrites or show-offs. We question the motives behind our public and private spiritual practices; we question our neighbors' motives too. In today's gospel we hear about fasting cheerfully and praying in secret. And yet, as we leave the church building we bear a public and very noticeable sign of faith right on our foreheads. Lent begins with a bold, visible, unmistakable reminder of who we are: simultaneously mortal dust and baptized children of God. Simultaneously saint and sinner. Simultaneously hypocrites and earnest, hopeful Christians.

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