



February 17, 2021

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, CA 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

February 17, 2021
7 pm - Ash Wednesday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

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.

PRELUDE . . . “Ubi Caritas et Amor”

WELCOME

SINGING BOWL

With the help of the Spirit, look within. See what burdens
may be lifted, what obstacles may be removed,
what new life and promise await us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Return to me with all your heart, says the Lord.

All: We open our hearts to soulful examination.

L: Return to the Lord who is gracious and merciful.

All: We open our hearts to God’s steadfast love.

L: With your hearts open to the Lord, what do you seek?

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

HYMN . . . “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

INVOCATION

P: We turn to you, God of life, on this first day of Lent,

All: as we recall our own mortality.

P: With hearts torn open by our actions,

All: we need your guidance and your healing forgiveness.

P: Ready us to receive your mercy and grace,

All: and cleanse us of the ash of human failing,

P: that we may embrace the words you speak—

All: words that lead to eternal life. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY LITANY . . . *by Christine Sine*

L: We have chosen to fast, not only with ashes but with actions,

All: not with sackcloth but in sharing, not in thoughts but in deeds.

L: Let the ashes speak of our commitment.

All: We will give up our abundance, to share our food with the hungry.

L: We will give up our comfort, to provide homes for the destitute.

All: We will give up our fashions, to see the naked clothed.

L: We will share where others hoard, we will free where others oppress.

All: We will heal where others harm.

L: God's healing will quickly appear.

All: God will guide us always,

L: we will be like well-watered gardens,

All: repairers of broken walls, builders of sustainable cities.

L: Let the ashes speak of our commitment

All: to God's ways and God's purposes.

L: A new world coming,

All: where we will feast together, at God's banquet table.

SINGING BOWL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: We bring our burdens and our sins to you, O Christ, who bears the heavy load for us.

All: We place upon you our excuses, our shortcomings, our anger and our desire, knowing that you can remove these sins from us and restore us to life.

P: We confess that we have gone astray.

All: We confess that we have not loved you fully and have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

P: We confess that we have not fully loved even our very selves.

All: Forgive us of our sins. Help us to turn back to you.

P: Restore what has been broken, transform what has been twisted, find what has been lost,

All: so we may be the living, loving image of you in creation. In your precious name we pray. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: The Gospel truth is this: God's love and mercy are never-ending. God knows us in our inward being;

All: God cleanses us from our sins and shortcomings, and restores to us the joy of salvation.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Our ancestors in the faith used ashes as a sign of our repentance, a symbol of the uncertainty and fragility of human life.

All: Like them, we have tasted the ashes of hopelessness;

P: we have walked through the ashes of our loss and pain;

All: we have stood knee-deep in the ashes of our brokenness.

P: God of our lives, out of the dust of creation you have formed us and given us life.

All: May these ashes not only be a sign of our repentance and death,

P: but reminders that by your gift of grace in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,

All: we are granted life forever with you. Amen.

Ashes are applied to the forehead with the words:
“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

SPECIAL MUSIC . . . “Savior, When in Dust to You”

CONCLUSION OF THE IMPOSITION

P: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to be in relation with you and our neighbors.

All: In this season of repentance, restore to us the joy of our salvation and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy, in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SINGING BOWL

INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

P: Lead us in your truths, O God.

All: Teach us your ways and your paths.

P: Into whatever journey lies before us,

All: lead on, Holy Spirit; lead on.

SCRIPTURE . . . Isaiah 58:1-12

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.

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 delight to draw near to God.

“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.

Look, 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.

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?

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

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?

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.

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,
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.
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.
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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION . . . Pastor Tim

INVITATION TO OFFERING

L: All that we have comes from you Creator, and Sustainer.

All: Receive our earthly treasure, given freely for your good work in humanity's name. Amen.

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

L: Loving Creator, receive the gifts of our earthly resources and accept the gifts of our love.

All: May these earthly treasures lead others to follow your path of care for all humanity.

L: And may our heavenly treasures

All: inspire us to be your incarnation in the world. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray the prayer of the Church:

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need. O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit and support caregivers who attend to all in need. Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of all, hear the prayers of our heart said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

L: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

WORDS OVER THE ELEMENTS

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world; for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

All: We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: And now with confidence as the children of God, let us pray;

All: 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.

FRACTION RITE

P: Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

All: Let us taste the overflowing grace of God.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Eat This Bread”

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

All: may our fasting be hunger for justice,

P: our alms, a making of peace,

All: and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Creator, it is good for us to be here, for we have tasted your glory in this holy meal. Continue your goodness as we go out from here.

All: Open our eyes to see your face shining in every person, and send us to be your servants in every place, for you are the life and light of all, both now and forever. Amen.

SINGING BOWL

COMMISSIONING

P: Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Let the memory of our incomplete humanity awaken us to the wonders, joys, sorrows, and pain of life.

All: Let the ashes we wear be the ashes of transformation; of awakening to the beauty and love of seizing the moment and living it to the fullest.

P: Let it be said of us that here in this community that we lived fully, loved extravagantly and helped humanity evolve into all that God dreamed we can be! We are fearfully and wonderfully made

All: in the image of the One who is was and ever more shall be Creator, Christ and Spirit, Amen.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE . . . *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*”

Pastor: Tim Huff

Lay Liturgists: Dean Sieglaff, Karen and Kiersten Narveson

Music: Leilani Camara and Dean Sieglaff

Video Editing: Carmen Blair

Web and Social Media: Keith Hillesland and Kathy Miedema



ASH WEDNESDAY