

Ash

**Wednesday
Service**

March 2, 2022

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

March 2, 2022
7 pm - Ash Wednesday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

Welcome!

Enter with Prayer – Worship in Awe – Leave to Serve.
All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

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.

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.

PRELUDE . . . Myrna Emata Diaz

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: “Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12)

All: Roll up your sleeves.

L: Let down your guard.

All: Come in from the storm.

L: Make yourself at home.

All: Pull up to the table.

L: Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath.
Return to God with all your heart.

All: May it be so.

HYMN . . . “Savior, When in Dust to You” v. 1, 2

Text: Robert Grant - Tune: Joseph Parry – ELW #601



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

SINGING BOWL

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.

KYRIE (sung twice)



L: In preparation, present yourselves before God.

Silence for Reflection

L: Come in your brokenness, acknowledging where you have fallen short of God's expectations and of your own.

All: **The brokenness that hinders me, I lay before you.**

L: Come in your pain, acknowledging your hurt and accepting how you have hurt others.

All: **All the pain I have in my life—the pain I have caused and the pain I feel—I lay before you.**

L: Come in your weakness, acknowledging your lack of confidence to do what is right.

All: **The weakness that holds me captive, I lay before you.**



KYRIE (sung twice)



L: Come in your fear, acknowledging your failure to seek justice.

All: The fear that binds me, I lay before you.

L: Come in your hesitancy, acknowledging your resistance to God's call.

All: My hesitancy in doing your will, I lay before you.

L: Come in your failings, acknowledging what you have done and left undone.

All: The hollowness that saps my strength and leaves me lifeless, I lay before you.

KYRIE (sung twice)



L: All that we are, all that we have done, all that we confess, we lay before you, O God.

**All: Relieve the weight of the burden I lay before you.
Amen.**

SINGING BOWL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

All: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God at the margins,

All: We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

P: Like a hen who gathers her chicks,

All: God embraces us in tender care.

P: Like manna in the desert,

All: God feeds us with surprising mercy.

P: Like a loving parent,

All: God runs to meet us again this day,

P: forgiving our sins for the sake of Christ,

All: leading us from death into life. Amen.

Be Seated

REFLECTION . . . *Pastor Tim*

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: We continue with the Imposition of Ashes:

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.

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward
and kneel at the communion rail.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC . . . *Myrna Emata Diaz*



After all who desire ashes have received them,
the minister leads the congregation in the
conclusion of the imposition.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM . . . “*Speak to Me in Ashes*”

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION . . . “The Lord Is My Light”

(sung twice)



The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust.

GOSPEL . . . Matthew 6: 1- 21

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

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. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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. But 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. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also

forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

RESPONSE . . . *“The Lord Is My Light”* (sung twice)



The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion:in God I trust, in God I trust.



HYMN . . . “Our Father, We Have Wandered” vs. 1, 3



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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

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


Be Seated

THANKFUL OFFERING

Please Stand



OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
we, your ser-vants, bring our off-'ring not of voice a-lone, but heart;
con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.

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 PRAYERS

L: Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

All: **receive our prayer.**

L: Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

All: **receive our prayer.**

L: Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

L: Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

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

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: Hear us, O God.

All: receive our prayer.

L: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: O God, it is our blessing to be able to thank you, and it is also our joy. We come this day acknowledging the brokenness of creation through the hunger of our siblings and yet, in trust, we lift up this small loaf before your grace remembering the words of the ancient liturgy which said:

All: As the grain of the broken bread, once scattered over the mountains, was gathered together and made one, so may your people be built up from the ends of the Earth and gathered into your kingdom.

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 Jesus. 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.

ASH  WEDNESDAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation which is most familiar to each of us.

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.

Be Seated

Holy Communion is open to all.

Come forward up the center aisle to receive the individually packaged elements from Pastor Tim, then return to your seat down the side aisles before opening them. Separate and remove the clear top seal to access the wafer, then remove the foil layer to access the grape juice. The ushers will come around to collect the empties.

COMMUNION HYMN . . . "Eat This Bread"

Text: Taizé Community - Tune: Jacques Berthier - ELW #472

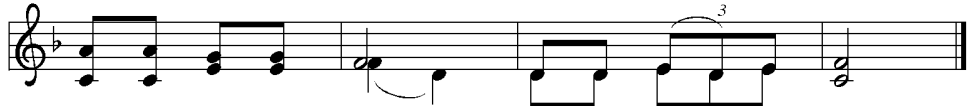


COMMUNION HYMN . . . “Ubi Caritas et Amor”

Text: Taizé Community– Tune: Jacques Berthier - ELW #642



U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,



u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.
Where true char - i - ty God is dwell - ing there.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

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: Lord, 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

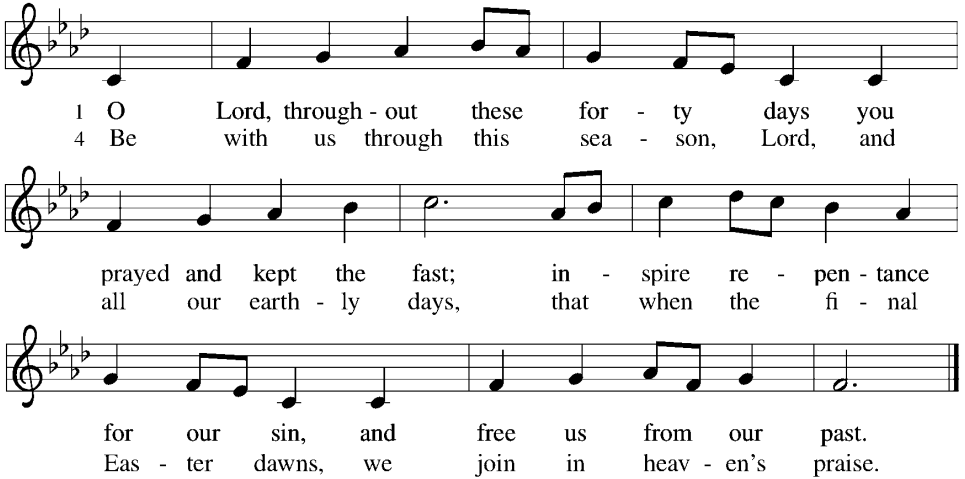
COMMISSIONING

P: Go forth to begin again. Go to walk this journey of faith with Jesus Christ, knowing that God's grace goes with you.

All: We will go in peace. Amen.

SENDING OUT . . . "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" vs. 1, 4

Text: Claudia Hernaman - Tune: A. Davisson - ELW #319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and
prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal
for our sin, and free us from our past.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

DISMISSAL

L: After a fire, after its warmth and light are gone, after its fuel burns away, ash remains.

All: This simple substance, reminder of flame, marks us with hope: the hope of warmth and light renewed, the hope of barriers consumed. Let our Lenten journey begin.

