

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

537 GRAND AVENUE  
BILLINGS, MONTANA

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021

6:30pm

### AS WE GATHER

As we begin this Lenten season, we once again hear that call to return to the Lord, our God. God says, “Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments” (Joel 2:12–13). Once again, we return from our wandering to our gracious and merciful God who has paved the way for us to be reconciled to Him through His Son, Jesus. “For our sake He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:20). Because of Jesus, our heavenly Father rewards us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

### **A Statement of our Practice of Close Communion**

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths His very Body and Blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table those who are repentant and trust Him for salvation. Because those who partake of Holy Communion unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith, which is confessed at this altar, any who are not members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the pastor. Visitors who have previously spoken with the pastor, and who received permission to commune, do not need to seek permission for subsequent visits to our altar.

### **OPENING HYMN 915 “*Today Your Mercy Calls Us*”**

*(Sung to Tune LSB 523)*

1. Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.
2. Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father’s welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.

3. Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.
4. O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

## INVOCATION

P: God the Father, in heaven,

**C: have mercy.**

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the World,

**C: have mercy.**

P: God the Holy Spirit,

**C: have mercy.**

## **Psalm 32** (*Selected verses*)

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

**C: whose sin is covered.**

P: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,

**C: and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

**C: through my groaning all day long.**

P: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

**C: my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

**C: but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the  
LORD.**

P: O Lord,

**C: have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

**C: have mercy.**

P: O Lord,

**C: have mercy. Amen.**

- P: Let us pray.  
O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*(The imposition of ashes is a custom, reminding us of our sinful human condition which brings us death. It is a reminder that we are dust, and to dust we will return. Yet it is applied in the shape of the cross, a symbol of hope through Jesus' death on the cross. All are welcome to participate, but no one is required to do so.)*

## HYMN 609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

1. Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
2. We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace  
revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
3. Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;  
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.
4. I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
5. Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
6. Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

7. Jesus sinners doth receive; Also 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 doth receive.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: O Almighty God, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

### *422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"*

1. On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it

shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

<sup>20</sup>The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

## **EPISTLE**

*Romans 6:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## **GOSPEL**

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

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they

have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when 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.”

<sup>16</sup>[Jesus said:] “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### 560 *“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”*

1. Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in Thee my life, my rest,  
Christ crucified, I come.
2. Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,  
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;  
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,  
Christ crucified, I come.
3. Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing, though it be through pain,  
Christ crucified, I come.
4. And then for work to do for Thee,  
Which shall so sweet a service be  
That angels well might envy me,  
Christ crucified, I come.

## SERMON            *“A Good Day to Die”*

### THE NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of**

**Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

### **PREFACE**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

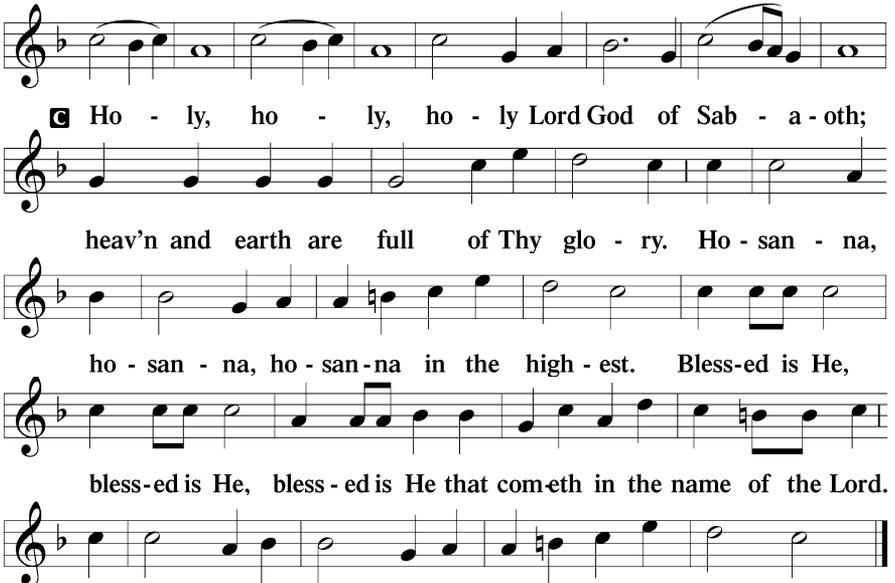
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P:** It is truly good, right, and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross. In dust and ashes, we beg forgiveness and find in Christ our only hope of salvation. In Him alone is the promise of life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

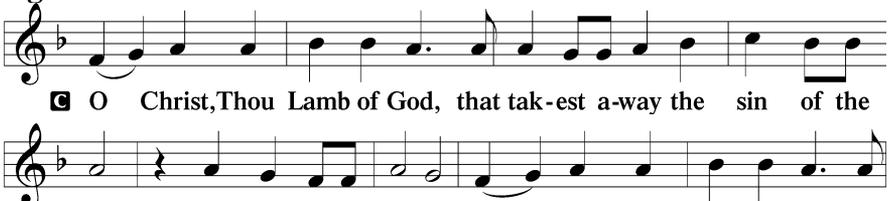
## WORDS OF OUR LORD

### THE PEACE OF THE LORD

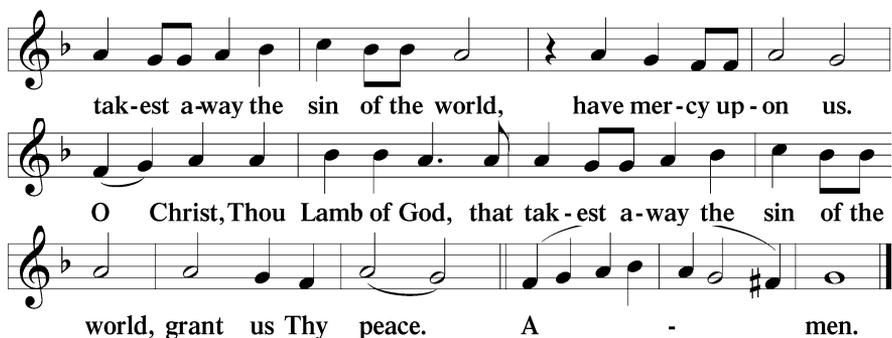
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

## Agnus Dei



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

CHOIR

*“Return to the Lord”*

*K. Kosche*

### 634 *“The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”*

1. The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
 We celebrate with one accord;  
 It is our comfort in distress,  
 Our heart’s sweet joy and happiness.
2. He blotted out with His own blood  
 The judgment that against us stood;  
 For us He full atonement made,  
 And all our debt He fully paid.
3. That this forever true shall be  
 He gives a solemn guarantee:  
 In this His holy Supper here  
 We taste His love so sweet, so near.
4. His Word proclaims and we believe  
 That in this Supper we receive  
 His very body, as He said,  
 His very blood for sinners shed.
5. We dare not ask how this can be,  
 But simply hold the mystery  
 And trust this word where life begins:  
 “Given and shed for all your sins.”
6. They who this word do not believe  
 This food unworthily receive,  
 Salvation here will never find—  
 May we this warning keep in mind!

*(Continued on the next page)*

7. But blest is each believing guest  
Who in these promises finds rest;  
For Jesus shall in love remain  
With all who here His grace obtain.
8. Help us sincerely to believe  
That we may worthily receive  
Your Supper and in You find rest.  
Amen! They who believe are blest.

### **433 “Glory Be to Jesus”**

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins!
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;  
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!
4. Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;  
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.
5. Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
6. Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**P:** Let us pray.

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again refreshed us with the body and blood of Your only-begotten Son. As You have called us by Your grace, grant that we daily turn and return to You with thanks and praise, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

### 418 *“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”*

1. O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.
2. You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God’s eternal Word.
3. Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind  
above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves, Since we have known God’s love.
4. Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven’s praise.



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