

# Welcome to Tree of Life Lutheran Church



February 14, 2024 ~ Ash Wednesday  
Joint service with St Paul's Methodist Church

Leader in regular type, **congregation in bold type**

↑ means stand as you are able

Restrooms are located by the kitchen, in the nursery or at the end of the piano wing of the sanctuary.

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## We Gather as God's People

*Please assemble in silence for reflection.*

### ↑ INVOCATION

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

**Have mercy and hear us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the +Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ↑ PSALM: Psalm 51:1–17

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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

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

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

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

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

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

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

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

### ↑ PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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, 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.**

## We Hear God's Word

### FIRST READING: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Blow 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 — <sup>2a</sup>a 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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend 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. <sup>14</sup>Who 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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather 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. <sup>17</sup>Between 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.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10


<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For 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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as 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.**

## ↑ LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Composed by D. D. Dillard*

Voice   
LET YOUR STEAD - FAST LOVE COME TO US O LORD \_\_\_\_\_

  
SAVE US AS YOU PRO - MISED WE WILL TRUST YOUR WORD \_\_\_\_\_

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**“There Your Heart Will Be”**

**Pr. Linda Ray**

↑ **HYMN**

**“Savior When Dust to You” Verse 1 and 4**

**RED HYMNAL #601**

## 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.

*The congregation may stand or kneel as able.*

## ↑ CONFESSON OF SIN

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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, we pray. **Amen.**

*The ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*  
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After the imposition of ashes, the confession of sin concludes:*

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 INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the Church, and cleanse the hearts of all your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply what is needed for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Lead all nations to uphold liberty and justice; protect those who serve for our protection in our armed forces; and rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You care for all people, loving God. Bring healing to the sick, and rest to the weary. Be with all whom we now name aloud or in our hearts... *Silence for personal petitions.* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You are the fount of all love, compassionate God. Bless those who celebrate romantic love on this day, and bless those for whom this day is a challenge. Grant that all people might know that they are never alone, because you love them unconditionally. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to worship and serve you, abiding God. Inspire St. Paul's and Tree of Life to share the Good News of your Son's death and resurrection, both in our individual ministries and in our work together. Unite us in serving our neighbors in Odessa and beyond. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who now rest in your eternal glory. Remind us of our mortality, and sustain us in the assurance of the resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

## ↑ PEACE

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

# We Share God's Holy Meal

**OFFERING**

**"Give Me Jesus"**

**arr. Shockley**

*Sung by the St. Paul's Choir, accompanied by Jin Kyong Seo*

↑ **OFFERTORY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

↑ **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Let us pray together: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we  
receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

*The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day. The congregation responds:*



## ↑ SANCTUS

Composed by D.D. Dillard

Voice

HO - LY HO - LY HO - LY LORD GOD OF POW'R AND  
MIGHT HEA - VEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLO - RY HO -  
SA - NA IN - THE HIGH - EST BLESS - ED IS HE - WHO  
COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD HO - SA NA IN THE  
HIGH - - - - EST

## ↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### ↑ 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.

# ↑ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. **Thanks be to God.**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Wine and white grape juice are in the individual cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

## COMMUNION

Composed by D.D. Dillard

LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD \_\_\_ HAVE

5 MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU

10 TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD \_\_\_ HAVE MER - CY ON US MER - CY ON US

15 MER - CY ON US LAMB OF GOD YOU TAKE A - WAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD

20 GRANT US PEACE

## COMMUNION HYMNS

“Let Us Break Bread Together”  
“Come to the Table of Mercy”

RED HYMNAL #471  
RED HYMNAL #481

## ↑ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## God Sends Us in Mission

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ↑ BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### ↑ HYMN

**“Softly and Tenderly”**

**RED HYMNAL #608**

#### ↑ DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

## Serving in Worship

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Presiding Minister:</b>                 | Rev. Robbie Ketcham, <i>Tree of Life</i>                      |
| <b>Preaching &amp; Assisting Minister:</b> | Rev. Linda Ray, <i>St. Paul's</i>                             |
| <b>Music Minister:</b>                     | Duane Dillard, <i>Tree of Life &amp; St. Paul's</i>           |
| <b>Lectors:</b>                            | Volunteer from St. Paul's<br>Gene Zaiser, <i>Tree of Life</i> |
| <b>Choir:</b>                              | Thomas Maloney, <i>St. Paul's</i>                             |
| <b>Usher:</b>                              | George Matz, <i>Tree of Life</i>                              |
| <b>Acolyte:</b>                            | Kaitlyn Yetsko, <i>Tree of Life</i>                           |

# Joint Lenten Observances Tree of Life & St. Paul's

## **Ash Wednesday Holy Communion**

7 p.m. February 14

Tree of Life, joined by St. Paul's UMC

## **Midweek Soup & Study: "Holy Lament"**

Noon on Wednesdays

**Feb. 21** at Tree of Life

**Feb. 28** at Tree of Life

**March 6** at St. Paul's

**March 13** at St. Paul's

**March 20** at St. Paul's

## **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**

7 p.m. March 28

St. Paul's, joined by Tree of Life

## **Good Friday Cross-Walk**

Noon March 29

Devotional walk from St. Paul's to Tree of Life

## **Good Friday Solemn Worship**

7 p.m. March 29

Tree of Life, joined by St. Paul's

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

11 a.m. March 30

St. Paul's, joined by Tree of Life