

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry

300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC
919-942-2678 | holytrinitychapelhill.org



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026 — 12:00pm In-person

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministries is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Eno, Lumbee, Shakori, Skaruhreh/Tuscarora peoples, and we acknowledge their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called and continue to call this land their home.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Savior, When in Dust to You

arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Dust I Am

Mark Miller and Lindy Thompson



Dust I am, to dust I shall re - turn, have
mer - - - cy, O Lord. Dust I am, to
dust I shall re - turn, have mer - cy, O Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

A moment of silence is observed.

WORD

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,**

**so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

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

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

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ 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.

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

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

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

HOMILY

Pastor Will Rose

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,
 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,

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,
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,
 by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,

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,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,
 oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,

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!
 lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
 bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
 Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

INVITATION TO LENT

ELW p. 252

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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

ELW p. 252

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, 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

Dust I Am

Mark Miller and Lindy Thompson

Dust I am, to dust I shall re - turn, have

mer - - - cy, O Lord. Dust I am, to

dust I shall re - turn, have mer - cy, O Lord.

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.

As ashes are placed upon your forehead, the following may be spoken:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

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.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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PRAYER

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 above all that we may 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.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

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.

POSTLUDE

Change My Heart, O God

arr. Mark Hayes

Thank you for worshiping with us today!

The Communion Assistant is Kat Collins and the usher is Kat Collins.

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In case of emergency, please call either Pastor directly.
www.holytrinitychapelhill.org
Instagram: @unc_lcm @htlc_youth @holytrinitychapelhill
Facebook: Holy Trinity Lutheran – Chapel Hill
YouTube: Holy Trinity Chapel Hill

Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry!

We are so glad you chose to worship with us, and we hope you experience the love and grace of God in our midst. Please fill out the “Worship Record Sheet” to record your attendance and explore ways to engage with our community of faith by using the QR code or paper sheet. Please sign up for our weekly Email Newsletter by visiting our website at www.holytrinitychapelhill.org, and subscribe to our YouTube channel at “Holy Trinity Chapel Hill”. Let us know if you have any prayer requests and how we can support you in your faith journey, either by talking to a Pastor or a Stephen Minister.



Reconciling In Christ

Jesus reached across all boundaries to make God’s love known, and in our baptismal covenant we are called to “serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth (ELW pg. 236).” As a Reconciling In Christ church, we at Holy Trinity welcome people of every age and ability, race, culture, religion, class, marital status, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Children and Worship

We welcome children in worship and invite them to participate throughout the service. Children are invited to check out our Exploration Station in the Narthex and fill up a Busy Bag for activities during worship. If your child needs some time away from the service, there is a “Cry Room” (glass room near the Sanctuary, towards the Rosemary Street entrance) that’s staffed during the academic year. The service is able to be heard through speakers in the Cry Room. There is also a Nursery room in the back hallway (behind the organ) where children can play with parental supervision.

Holy Communion

At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Believing in the real presence of Christ, HTLC practices Eucharistic hospitality: The Risen Christ welcomes all, therefore all are welcome to commune here. Receive the bread first, then the individual glasses containing (red) wine or (white) apple juice. Allergen-free communion wafers are available at the station in front of the altar. Those desiring not to commune may fold their hands to receive a blessing. Please let an usher or pastor know if you need communion brought to you at your seat.

Offering

In response to God’s unconditional love, we offer “what God has first given us; ourselves, our time and our possessions... in feeding the world with God’s love (ELW pg. 107).”

There are many ways to give at Holy Trinity: online through our **website**, **mailing in** your offering, placing your offering in our **offering plates** in our Worship Center, automatic **bank withdraws**, through the **QR code** in this worship bulletin, **text to give** at (833) 309-0136, or by **Venmo**, our **handle is @htlclcm** (Charity - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church). All contributions via text or Venmo will go to the HTLC general budget fund. Thank You!

Lutheran Campus Ministry at Holy Trinity

LCM is a community where ALL are welcome. We seek to accompany students as they encounter increased complexities in life, faith, relationships, and academics here at UNC. If you are (or you know) a student who is interested in getting connected with Campus Ministry, please get in touch with Pastor Katie by emailing her directly, or by using the QR code above to fill out the Worship Record Sheet. Mark “student” and/or “grad student,” leave an email/phone number, and Pastor Katie will reach out!