

Trinity Lutheran Church
292 Orange St., New Haven, CT
TrinityLutheranNH.org – (203) 787-6521
Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 7:30 p.m.



The congregation gathers in silence for prayer.

✠ Psalm 51:1-17 (Read Responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

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.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

✠ Exhortation to a Holy Lent & Litany of Penitence **Insert**

Imposition of Ashes

Ashes will be distributed at the altar rail. Those who wish may come forward and kneel at the railing, receiving this sign of mortality and repentance, and hearing the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" Genesis 3:19.

After all have received ashes,

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 Lord, **bring us with all your saints the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ Prayer of the Day

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

✠ Gospel Acclamation – "Return to the Lord" pg. 63

✠ The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

✠ Hymn of the Day: **LBW No. 91**

" Savior, When in Dust to You"

Sermon Pastor Mills

✠ The Prayers of the Church

✠ The Exchange of the Lord's Peace

✠ Offering

✠ Offertory "What Shall I Render" pg. 67

✠ Offertory Prayer pg. 67

✠ The Eucharistic Prayer pg. 69

✠ The Lord's Prayer pg. 71

✠ "Lamb of God" pg. 72

Distribution of Holy Communion

✠ Post Communion: "Create in Me a Clean Heart" pg. 75

✠ Post Communion Prayer pg. 74

✠ Benediction pg. 74

✠ Recessional Hymn: **LBW No. 296**
"Just as I Am"

✠ Dismissal pg. 74

✠ - Please stand

The Imposition of Ashes

The imposition of ashes on a person's forehead or on the palm of their hand is an ancient custom, practiced in the Old Testament as a sign of repentance and mourning, and continued by early Christians. The ashes signify our own repentance, (turning away from our sin and towards God), and the humble recognition of our mortality, God's reminder that we were made from dust, and to dust we shall return (Genesis 3:19). Yet, the ashes are also a sign of hope, promise, and of our new creation by God. "For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." (Romans 6:5)

Lent at Trinity

Saturday: Evening Worship, March 14 at 5 pm
(No Worship Sunday, March 15 due to Parade)

Sundays: Intergenerational Fellowship Time, 9 am
Worship with Holy Communion, 10:15 am

Thursdays: Downtown Bible Study on Rev. at 6 pm

Lenten Vespers: TBD, Thursday in March at 7 pm

Lenten Service Project: Gathering Easter Basket supplies for children at Christian Community Action

✠ The Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

P: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Litany of Penitence

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Amen.