

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026



PRELUDE

We arrive from many places as music gathers us into one shared moment in the Spirit.

WELCOME STATEMENT

Everyone is invited into God's story and the life of this community.

PROCESSIONAL

"Out of the Depths I Cry to You"

ELW 600

We journey together as a people called into God's story, walking in the way of Jesus.

GREETING

God names us as beloved and draws us into community.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We tell the truth about our lives and hear again that grace comes first.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses..

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

—
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

—
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

SONG RESPONSE

"Restore in Us, O God"

ELW 328

Our voices and hearts respond to God's grace, joining creation in song and praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for hearing God's word.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Created 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.

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

A reading from Joel.

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—
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.

Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.
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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
 and the bride her canopy.

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?' "

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

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

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

**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.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

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

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

A reading from Second Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

(The Assembly stands for the gospel.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us, O Lord”

ELW Setting 1, pg. 103

We sing in joy, welcoming the promises of God's love revealed in Jesus.

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

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

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

Jesus said to the disciples: “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.

“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.

“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. 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.”

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

HOMILY*Rev. Phillip Potaczek*

We hear God's promise proclaimed to us, and the Spirit works in our hearts to make it real.

(The Assembly stands.)

HYMN OF THE DAY**“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”****ELW 599**

We respond to the promises of God in song.

INVITATION TO LENT

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth...through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION HYMN

“Savior, When in Dust to You”

ELW 601

Sung during the imposition of ashes.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Once all have received ashes, the Presider and Assembly continue:

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.**
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We entrust all into God's care.

After each prayer petition, please respond: Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great!**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In the wilderness of Lent, God meets us with mercy.
From that mercy, generosity is born. We offer our gifts and ourselves as signs of hope in a hurting world.

OFFERING/ OFFERING MUSIC

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW 803

We return our gifts to God, offering ourselves for the life of the world.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, make 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.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We lift our hearts and give thanks for God's life-giving work.

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

PREFACE

We remember God's faithfulness and join heaven and earth in praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 1, pg 108

We join the song of heaven and earth, proclaiming God's glory and holiness as we prepare to receive Christ's presence at the table.

S108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We recall the story of Jesus and ask the Spirit to make us one.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.....with this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With Martin Luther and your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

We pray as Jesus taught, trusting God for what we need.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of grace, receiving Christ's presence as nourishment for the journey.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

ELW 592

Singing in response to God's gift, we enter more deeply into the presence of Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ask for strength to live what we have received.

God of our salvation...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We share news and opportunities to live God's love together as a community.

BLESSING

God's promise goes with us into whatever comes next.

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity; God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

ELW 319

With hearts lifted, we turn toward the world as Christ's people.

SENDING

We are sent to love, serve, and live the story we have shared.

Our Eucharist has ended. **Now it must be lived.**

Go in peace. Believe the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

As worship concludes, music strengthens and inspires us for the journey ahead.

*****Trinity at a Glance*****

- **Worship Assistants are needed for February and March.** If you would like to help serve in this capacity, please sign up by Java Junction in the Worship Assistant book.
- **Join us for Soup Suppers during Lent** on Wednesdays at 6 pm, followed by Lenten Evening Prayer (including music from Holden Village) at 7 pm. All are welcome! *If you are bringing soup, please arrive at 5:45pm to set up your food.* Thank you!
- **First Communion Class Registration has started!** To register please contact the office at 815-434-0596 or by emailing Pastor Phil at pastorphil@trinitylutheranottawa.com. Individuals who have not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion who are aged 7 or older are invited!
- **Please stop by the Giving Tree** in the narthex and pick up a tag or two for Mission/Outreach's next project. **We are collecting items for PADS Move-Out Kits.** These kits are given to clients who are leaving the shelter to help them get started as they move on. Thank you so much for your generosity!
- **First Communion Classes** are scheduled for **9am-9:50am on Sunday, March 15th & March 29th, 2026.** We meet in Fellowship Hall, beneath the Sanctuary. **First Communion Sunday is Sunday, April 12th, 2026.**
- **Palm/Passion Sunday** will start off our Holy Week at **10am Sunday, March 29th.**
- **On April 2nd at 7 pm,** we will come together for **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion...**and again at **7 pm April 3rd** our Triduum observances continue with **Good Friday Evening Prayer.**
- **The church will be closed on Holy Saturday** but we look forward to celebrating the resurrection of Christ at 10 am on the morning of Sunday, April 5th. Stay tuned for more details.
- There is a **Lost and Found** bin by the coat rack in the Sanctuary. There is also a ring found and held in the office. If items are not claimed, they will be donated to the garage sale. If the ring is yours, please call the office 815-434-0596 or send an email to tlcoffice@trinitylutheranottawa.com.
- **We have a couple of 2026 calendars left (\$20). Profits go to the Growing Project.** Please contact the office during regular business hours if you would like one. Marj Nelson 815-973-1286 and Kate Reed 815-830-2061 also have copies available.
- **CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:**
 - Jan Income =19,831.07 (Income YTD = \$19,831.07)
 - Jan Expense = \$21,528.20 (Expense YTD = \$21,528.20)
 - Income Less Expense = -\$1,697.13 (Income Less Expense YTD = -\$1,697.13)
 - Loan Payment = \$406.68
 - Principal Payment = \$0
 - Left On Loan = \$0

● **THIS WEEK @ TRINITY:**

- **Monday (2/16):** *President's Day*
 10a Drum Fit (Community Room)
 10a Staff Meeting (Office)

- **Tuesday (2/17):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 4:30p Property Committee (Conference Room)
 7p TRMS Board Meeting (Community Room)

- **Wednesday (2/18)** *Ash Wednesday*
 No Bible Study
 6p Soup Supper (Fellowship Hall)
 6:30p Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
 7p Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

- **Thursday (2/19):** 10a Sit Fit (Community Room)
 6p TRMS Parent Information Night
 7p Church Council Meeting (Board Room)

- **Friday (2/20):** 7a Sunrise Rotary (Fellowship Hall)

- **Saturday (2/21):** *National Sticky Bun Day!*

- **Sunday (2/22)** 9a Sunday Session
 9a Affirmation Class
 10a Holy Communion (SoulShine)

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE -

Please sign up using the binder at the back of the aisle.

<p><u>Wednesday, February 18, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: Ushers: Lector: <i>Jane Goetz</i> Communion Assistants: Altar Guild: Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>	<p><u>Sunday, February 22, 2026</u> Crucifer/Acolyte: <i>Pearl Manning</i> Ushers: Lector: <i>LouAnn Gayan</i> Communion Assistants: <i>Sue Williamson</i> Altar Guild: <i>Cindy Komater, Diane Wahl</i> Video Tech: Music Directors: <i>Matt Makeever & Mary Heider</i> Altar Flowers:</p>