

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 2026**  
**7pm Worship**  
**Facebook Live**



*Ash Wednesday*

# Welcome to worship at **TIERRASANTALUTHERANCHURCH**

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

## **HANDBELL PRELUDE**

**“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”** - Linker/Mc Fadden

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## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS**

### **THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

**P:** 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.

**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.

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

**P:** Most holy and merciful God,

**C:** **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.**

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, O God.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*(Those who desire to receive ashes are asked to come forward to the front. The Biblical words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" are spoken by the Pastor.)*

*During the Imposition of Ashes, the Bell Choir will play “Just As I Am, without One Plea” [Kinyon]; after which the congregation will sing the hymn - ELW 592 - “Just As I Am, without One Plea”.*

### **“Just As I Am, without One Plea”**

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,
- 4 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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P: Let us pray: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.**

P: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. The abundant grace and mercy of God be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray together:

**C: 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**

**FIRST READING** *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.*

**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 — 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, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?'"

**SECOND READING** *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.*

**2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God... As we work together with him, we urge 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.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, 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: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by 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 see—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.

## **GOSPEL**

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

**C: (Spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

“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. 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 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. 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."

P: Here ends the Reading of the Gospel.

C: **(Spoken) Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **SPECIAL MUSIC "Grace" - arr. Hayes (Choir)**

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### **THE MESSAGE BY PASTOR BOHDAN VADIS**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (stz. 1 & 2)**

- 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.
  
- 2 Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into**

heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*(A brief silence)*

A: Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, especially *Reid Bixler, Barbara Berg, James Vadis, Marianne d'Arnaud, Ellen Mize, Frank Fogg, Mike George, Diane Raines, Barbara Vann, Anastasia Balmaceda, Christine Durnell, Alexander Caragan, Armando Caragan, and Mary Peters*. Lord, please guide and protect our military personnel serving in harm's way. Bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY HYMN ELW 335 “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” (Stz. 1)

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
there's a precious fountain;  
free to all, a healing stream  
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross  
be my glory ever;  
till my ransomed soul shall find  
rest beyond the river.

### OFFERING PRAYER

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN ELW 807 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” (Stz. 1 & 3)

1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory  
fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee;  
may I still thy goodness prove.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

## **BENEDICTION**

P: 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,  $\pm$  bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Worship Assistants**

Reader: Tony Colson

Ushers: Wayne & Sharon Duke,

Altar Prep: Beckie Ryan

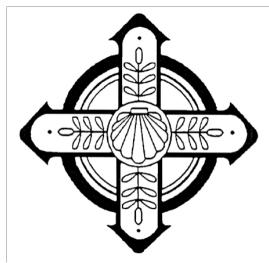
Acolyte: Luca Silvestro

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*Beneath the Cross of Jesus* Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869



## **TLC Staff**

**Senior Pastor:** Bohdan Vadis; **Administrative Assistant:** Elizabeth Duffield;  
**Bookkeeper:** Sandy Robinson; **Director of Music:** Betsy Frater; **Worship Projection Technician:** Amy Hall; **Sexton:** Aaron Russell, Sam Irons; **TLC Preschool Director:** Melissa Vargas.

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