

HOLY COMMUNION

ASH WEDNESDAY

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 + 7:00 p.m.



Christians gather on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer that begins the season of Lent. On this day we confess our sin in a litany of repentance. During Lent's forty days we are invited to carry out the Lenten discipline, practices of fasting, prayer, and works of love, even as we accompany people around the world who are preparing for baptism at Easter. On this day we may receive the sign of ashes. This ancient symbol of repentance reminds us of our mortality. Returning to God's mercy and grace, marked with the cross of Christ, we make our way through Lent, longing for the baptismal waters of Easter, our spiritual rebirth.

+ + + + + + + + + +

Announcements

Gathering Music

Arise in body or spirit.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C **Amen.**

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P God at the margins,

C **We have wandered far from your home;
again and again, we lose our way.**

We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.

**We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.**

Do not remember the deeds of our past,

but turn our faces toward the future,

where your forgiveness is sure,

your welcome is clear,

and your love overflows.



A 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. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

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

A All our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

C **We confess to you, O God.**

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

C **We confess to you, O God.**

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

C **We confess to you, O God.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
C **We confess to you, O God.**

A Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
C **We confess to you, O God.**

P Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
C **Accept our repentance, O God.**

A 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, O God.**

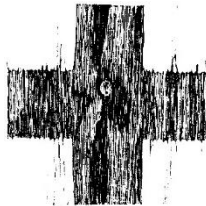
P For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
C **Accept our repentance, O God.**

A Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
C **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.
C **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

A By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord.
C **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P 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.
C **Amen.**



The Prayer of the Day

- A** Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors.
- G** **Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.**

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

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.

L A reading from **Joel**.

¹ 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—² 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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?'"

L The word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

1 Gra - cious God, my heart re - new, make my spir - it
 2 So shall sin - ners be re - stored and re - turn to
 3 Not the for - mal sac - ri - fice has ac - cept - ance
 4 Pros - per Zi - on in your grace and her bro - ken

right and true; in your pres - ence let me stay,
 you, their Lord; Sav - ior, all my guilt re - move,
 in your eyes; bro - ken hearts are in your sight
 walls re - place: then our right - eous sac - ri - fice

by your Spir - it show the way; your sal - va - tion's
 and my tongue shall sing your love; touch my si - lent
 more than sac - ri - fi - cial rite; con - trite spir - it,
 shall de - light your ho - ly eyes; free - will of - ferings,

joy im - part, stead - fast make my will - ing heart.
 lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall praise ac - cord.
 plead - ing cries, you, O God, will not de - spise.
 glad - ly made, on your al - tar shall be laid.

The Second 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**.

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

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

Arise in body or spirit. All speak the Gospel Acclamation in unison.

Gospel Acclamation Spoken

Return to the LORD, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

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

☞ The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew**.

☞ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

☞ The Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection

Arise in body or spirit.

The Song of the Day

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

The Prayers of Intercession

A Returning to the Lord with all our heart, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

(A brief silence)

A Gracious and merciful God, empower your church to be an ambassador of reconciliation in the world. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A Gracious and merciful God, restore creation to wholeness and strengthen our resolve to be good stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A Gracious and merciful God, make this the acceptable time for peace. Guide the leaders of all nations to put an end to war and violence. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A Gracious and merciful God, deliver those in need: the hungry, the afflicted, the imprisoned, and the ill, that their joy be restored. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A Gracious and merciful God, create a clean heart in all who worship here today and bless all who prepare during these forty days to be baptized at Easter. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

A Gracious and merciful God, we give you thanks for all the saints who now partake in your heavenly treasure. Lord, in your mercy.

G **Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G **Amen.**

WE COME TO THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them unto you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Proper Preface

☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the waters of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name.

☞ **Amen**

The Prayer of Consecration

☞ Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as Jesus comes to us in his holy supper.

☞ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☞ 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.

The Lord's Prayer

☞ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:

☞ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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 Communion

☞ Come to Jesus, our host, and our meal.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

The Distribution of Holy Communion

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

“The body of Christ given for you.” “The blood of Christ shed for you.”

The communicant may say: **Amen.**



Arise in body or spirit

Prayer after Communion

A Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

G **Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Post-Communion Blessing

P God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.

G **Amen.**

P The Lord be with you.

G **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

G **We lift them unto you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



The Proper Preface for Ashes

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast that, renewed in the waters of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace, knowing you first gave us life when you breathed your breath into the earth. We praise you for giving us life, even when death comes to us. We stand on the promise of resurrection for all creation that you shower upon us.

G **Amen.**

Blessing of Ashes

P Let us pray, Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for these ashes. You have called us from the dust of the earth and claimed us as children of the light. Strengthen us on our journey into life renewed. Let these ashes remind us of the life we have in you through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

G **Amen.**

The Imposition of Ashes

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

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The Blessing

- ☐ 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.
- ☑ Amen.

The Sending Song*Once We Sang and Danced*

tune of ELW 696

1. **Once we sang and danced with gladness,
Once delight filled ev'ry breath;
Now we sit among the ashes,
All our dreams destroyed by death.**
2. **All the willows bow in weeping,
All the rivers rage and moan,
As creation joins our pleading:
"God, do not leave us alone."**

3. **God, who came to dwell among us,
God, who suffered our disgrace,
From your own heart, grieved and wounded,
Come the riches of your grace.**
4. **Come, O Christ, among the ashes,
Come to wipe our tears away,
Death destroy and sorrow banish;
Now and always, come and stay.**

The Dismissal

- A** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**

Assisting Minister Vickey Argo
Lector Anna Scheck
Minister of Music Cindy Olson
Pastor Ken Scheck II +