



Ash Wednesday

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 14, 2024

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service can be found in the blue hymnal beneath the chair in front of you. Projections are also provided on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and empty tomb. The emphasis is repentance – turning from sin to Jesus for forgiveness and a new life.

WHY “Ash” Wednesday?

After Adam and Eve sinned, God told them, “From dust you came, to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). In Bible times, dust and ashes were used as a sign for sorrow and repentance (Job 42:6, Jeremiah 6:26, Matthew 11:21). Already by the middle of the second century (AD 150), there is evidence of Christian churches imposing ashes on the forehead as a reminder of our mortality and our need for a Savior. The ashes come from the previous year’s Palm Sunday palm branches to remind that Jesus is the blessed Savior who comes in the Name of the Lord to free us from sin and death!

DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES?

The Imposition of Ashes is not commanded in Scripture. It does not bring you closer to God, nor does it earn His approval. It is simply a vivid reminder of our mortality and our need for a Savior. Only those should participate who freely wish to. Children are welcome to participate at the discretion of their parents.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN OFFERINGS

The offerings from our Wednesday Lenten services will go toward our Peace Lutheran School tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance Fund is entirely funded by individual gifts and supports member students who desire to send their children to Peace but cannot afford tuition. The School Board receives these applications and approves financial support based on need and the funds available in the Tuition Assistance Fund.

USHERING DUTIES – 7TH & 8TH GRADE

As we have for more than 20 years, once again we are employing our 7th and 8th graders for the ushering duties for the Wednesday service throughout the Lenten season. They have been trained for these roles. We are grateful to God for those young people and love to involve them in the most important thing we do as a congregation.

A WORD ABOUT FASTING

Many Christians “give up” something for Lent. This doesn’t gain us heaven or make us more righteous (Colossians 2:23; 1 Timothy 4:1-5).

On the other hand, some Christians like to do this

- 1) as a way of taking something seriously. It is doubtful in the face of tragedy or serious regret that you’d gorge yourself on food. To the contrary, you may not feel like eating at all. Fasting is a way of setting the tone for ourselves to be serious about prayer or repentance.
- 2) as a means of consciously crucifying the flesh by deprivation (1 Corinthians 6:12-13a; 8:8) as opposed to living for gluttony. For example, if you really love ice cream but give it up for Lent – each time you suffer a pang for ice cream, it is a reminder of the much greater suffering of Christ for your sake.
- 3) as a way of enhancing the Easter celebration. Food doesn’t bring us closer to God, but to have ice cream once again on Easter Sunday is simply a way to enhance the celebration. (That’s the ancient fast/feast concept.)

You are NOT less of a Christian if you don’t do this. The Apostle Paul says, “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” (Romans 14:5).

Please stand when presider indicates

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ☩Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 1-2¹



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

¹ Psalm 51 is one of King David's great Psalms of repentance and the appointed Psalm for Ash Wednesday.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 3-4

- 3 I am evil, born in sin;
you desire all truth within.
You alone my Savior are,
teach your wisdom to my heart;
make me pure, your grace bestow,
wash me whiter than the snow.**
- 4 Broken, humbled to the dust
by your wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice
and in gladness hear your voice;
from my sins, O hide your face,
blot them out in boundless grace.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-19

Even now, declares the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and grief.
¹³Tear your heart and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in mercy,
and he relents from sending disaster.
¹⁴Who knows?
He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.
¹⁵Blow the ram's horn in Zion.
Set aside a day for fasting.
Call a solemn convocation.
¹⁶Gather the people.
Consecrate the assembly.
Bring together the elders.
Gather the children, even those nursing at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the temple porch and the altar.

Let them say:

Have compassion on your people, O LORD.

Do not subject the inheritance you have given us to the scorn of the nations.

Do not make us notorious among the nations as an object of ridicule.

Why should they say among the peoples,

“Where is their God?”

¹⁸The LORD is zealous for his land,
and he will take pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD will respond to them:

I am sending you grain, new wine, and fresh oil,
enough to satisfy you fully.

Never again will I subject you to scorn among the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 5–6

**5 Gracious God, my heart renew²,
make my spirit right and true;
let me not abandoned be,
let your Spirit dwell in me;
your salvation’s joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.**

**6 Sinners then shall learn from me
and to God restored shall be;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
and my tongue shall sing your love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall praise accord.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

²Psalm 51, like all of Scripture, makes it clear the Lord works repentance in our hearts. Believing hearts are a creation of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. Faith that recognizes our sin and our Savior is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-10).

SECOND READING

Revelation 3:1-3

To the messenger of the church in Sardis write:

The one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says this:

I know your works. You have a reputation for being alive, but you are dead. ²Wake up, and strengthen what is left, which is about to die, for I have found that your works are not complete in the sight of my God. ³Therefore remember what you received and heard. Hold on to it and repent! If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come upon you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 7-8

**7 No attempted sacrifice
has acceptance in your eyes;
broken hearts are in your sight
more than sacrificial rite;
contrite spirit, pleading cries,
you, O God, will not despise.**

**8 Prosper Zion in your grace
and her broken walls replace;
then our righteous sacrifice
shall delight your holy eyes;
freewill off'rings, gladly made,
on your altar shall be laid.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

Please stand

GOSPEL

Luke 12:13-21

Someone from the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴But Jesus said to him, “Man, who appointed me to be a judge or an arbitrator over you?”

¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out and be on guard against all greed, because a man’s life is not measured by how many possessions he has.”

¹⁶He told them a parable: “The land of a certain rich man produced very well. ¹⁷He was thinking to himself, ‘What will I do, because I do not have anywhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸He said, ‘This is what I will do. I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and goods. ¹⁹And I will tell my soul, “Soul, you have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink, and be merry.” ’

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your soul will be demanded from you. Now who will get what you have prepared?’

²¹“That is how it will be for anyone who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH³

Selected portions of The Augsburg Confession, Article XII: “Repentance”

Our churches teach that there is forgiveness of sins for those who have fallen after Baptism whenever they are brought to repentance. The Church ought to impart Absolution to those who return to repentance (Jeremiah 3:12).

Now strictly speaking repentance consists of two parts.

One part is contrition, that is, terrors striking the conscience through the knowledge of sin.

The other part is faith, which is born of the Gospel (Romans 10:17) or the Absolution and believes that for Christ’s sake, sins are forgiven. It comforts the conscience and delivers from terror.

Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruit of repentance (Galatians 5:22-23).

Please be seated

³ The presentation of the Augsburg Confession, the foundational Lutheran Confession, on June 25, 1530, marks the “birth” of the Lutheran Church.



1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I
 2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My
 3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -
 4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant



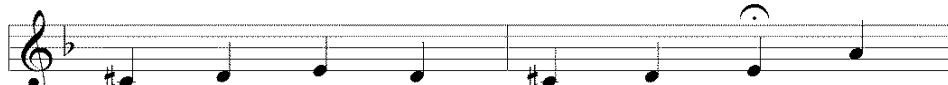
cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than
 heart's di - verse af - fec - tions. Why do I love the
 pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or
 me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -



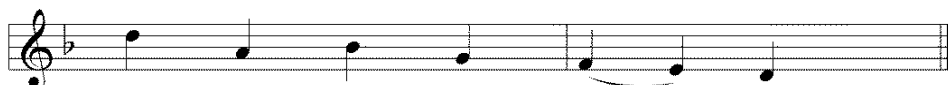
I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You
 things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now
 re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With
 fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This



know me as I real - ly am: How
 prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O
 you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You
 world must know what I have learned, That



much is truth, how much is sham; Why
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who
 speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And
 you be - stow what none has earned: The



should you heed my plead - ing?
 else but you can help me?
 I am sure you love me!
 joy of full for - give - ness!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: NEWHOPE (87 87 887) G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 © 2006 G. A. Hennig. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Now!

Please stand

PRAYER

Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Special Prayers

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and +give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN

All Men Living Are But Mortal | CW 840:1-4

*At the conclusion of the hymn, the keyboardist will play through one more verse quietly.
Those who do not wish to stay for the imposition of ashes may dismiss themselves at this time.
Please see the worship folder cover for an explanation of the imposition of ashes.*

Ash Wednesday Confessional Rite

INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father,

**we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own 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, Lord.

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 the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.
We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.
We have merited your punishment now and forever.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,
our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than
ourselves

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us

we confess to you, O Lord.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and
suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice
and contempt for those who differ from us,

forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

During the Imposition of Ashes we will sing the hymn below. Come forward at the usher's direction. If you wish to receive ashes on the hand, please hold your hand out for the minister. The minister applies ashes to the forehead or hand of each penitent in the form of a small cross, saying:

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

IMPOSITION HYMN

Abide with Me | CW 783

Please stand

Accomplish in us, Lord, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to 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 turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image | CW 405

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
that life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures have no pow'r to hide your face.
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.; Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr. Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758 Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN WORSHIP

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