



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17, 2021 - 6:15 PM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

*As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love.*

*We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.*

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of their grandparents, by Roy and Kay Cook.





## THE ASHES OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Have you ever wondered what Ash Wednesday is all about? That name was given to this day because of the church's ancient practice of imposing ashes in the form of a cross on the forehead of the worshipers as a sign of personal absolution following public penitence.

Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient customs and practices. In Old Testament times people often covered their heads with ashes as a sign of mourning, grief and humiliation. Ashes have long reminded humanity of our total dependence upon God for life, for one day our earthly bodies shall become in the words of the burial service, "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday, the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water as a sign of Baptism. Baptism is a primary emphasis of Lent. Water both stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive; so the ashes also tell of both death and renewal.

The first Ash Wednesday Service was held in the sixth century in Gaul. It carried over to the Roman Church and into the Lutheran Church at the time of the Reformation. Not until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century did the imposition of ashes disappear from Lutheran churches. Beginning with the Lutheran/Roman Catholic dialogues in the early 1960's, Lutherans took a new look at the imposition of ashes. Many Lutheran churches have reintroduced this traditional practice. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* makes provision for the imposition of ashes as a part of the liturgy for this day.

## GATHERING

## WELCOME

## OPENING

*The refrain is introduced by the cantor.*

Psalm 51:1-17

*Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.**Psalm  
Refrain*

Piano Have mer - cy on me, O God,  
ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love. \_\_\_\_\_

*Psalm  
Tone*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.** ☩

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.** ☩

- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. ☩**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise. ☩

#### GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Gracious God,  
out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.  
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.**

## WORD

READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness

and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

you shall cry for help, and the LORD will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,

and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;


you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, — for - ev - er gra - ci - ous and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixth chapter.

### **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from God in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and God 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. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to God who is in secret; and God who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by God who is in secret; and God who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.**

**O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.**

**Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.**

**Three personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,

**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.**

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, O God.**

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

At the very beginning,

God scooped up the dust of the earth and molded it into human beings, breathing divine breath into those creatures of dust.

Over time though, we dust creatures have forgotten who we are and whose we are.

We believed a serpent in the Garden of Eden who said we could become like God.

We believed that the gold calf Aaron made could guide us in the wilderness.

We believed the builders of Babel

who thought by our own hands we could be greater than God.

We have covered up with leaves and clothes.

We have stopped taking time to walk with God in the gardens of the world God created.

But God does not stop finding ways to meet us.

God spoke through a burning bush, a whisper, a cloud pillar, the laws given to Moses, and then ultimately through Jesus Christ.

By living a perfect sinless life,

Jesus exposed our lies of self-sufficiency.

Our sinful pride is brought into the light.

Our dusty nature is right there on the surface.

Reclaim the dust with which you were formed.

Recognize your need for the God who created you and for the savior who desires to wash you clean.

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Worshippers may mark their foreheads with an ashen cross or simply trace the baptismal cross on their forehead using these words:*

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

## DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES

### Dust and Ashes



1 Dust and ash - es touch our face,  
2 Dust and ash - es soil our hands,  
3 Dust and ash - es choke our tongue



mark our fail - ure and our fall - ing. Ho - ly Spir - it, come,  
greed of mar - ket, pride of na - tion. Ho - ly Spir - it, come,  
in the waste - land of de - pres - sion. Ho - ly Spir - it, come,



walk with us to - mor - row, take us as dis - ci - ples,  
walk with us to - mor - row, as we pray and strug - gle  
walk with us to - mor - row, through all gloom and griev - ing



washed and wak - ened by your call - ing,  
through the mesh - es of op - pres - sion.  
to the paths of res - ur - rec - tion.

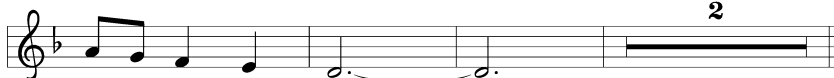
#### *Refrain*



Take us by the hand and lead us, lead us through the des - ert



sands, bring us liv - ing wa - ter,



Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

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.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered in our homes on this Ash Wednesday, we pray for the church and for all in need.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world.

Let us pray for our congregation.

Let us pray for the health of plants and animals.

Let us pray for all who care for the earth.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world.

Let us pray for an increase of justice in our land.

Let us pray for a spirit of concord throughout our society.

Let us pray for the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed.

Let us pray for the end of this pandemic.

Let us pray for all who are sick or suffering.

Let us pray for all who today will die.

Let us pray for the desires of our hearts.

Let us pray for teachers and students.

Let us pray for our queer siblings.

Let us pray for an increase of love in our hearts.

Let us thank God for all who have gone before us in the faith.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## MEAL

### PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

☞ **Peace be with you.**

### OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Hide Not Thou Thy Face* - Richard Farrant  
Adult Choir

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure;  
for we confess our sins unto thee, and hide not our unrighteousness.  
For thy mercy's sake, for thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins,  
deliver us from all our sins, for thy mercy's sake, for thy mercy's sake  
deliver us from all our sins, deliver us from all our sins.

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

#188

**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 unto me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Let us pray. Faithful God,  
**you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us in this meal,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

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 gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



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

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.*

*Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

*Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words, "The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

#599

**Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin;  
from selfish passions set me free and make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, by anxious thoughts oppressed;  
let me your loving servant be and taste your promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see and share your joy at last.**



The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you + that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

#811

**On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,  
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.  
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Restore in Us, O God*  
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## SERVING TONIGHT

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Susan J. Crowell

Lectors

David Troutman  
Patrick Preacher

Cantor

Amanda Cook

Pianist

James C. Parham, III

## CHURCH STAFF

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James C. Parham, III  
Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Mandi T. Whitley, Deacon  
Director of Youth  
and Children's Ministries

Kay M. Cook  
Office Manager

Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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