



ASH WEDNESDAY March 2, 2022 - 6:15 PM

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church



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 20th 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.

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.

GATHERING

WELCOME

Stand as able

OPENING

The refrain is introduced by the cantor.

Psalm 51:1-17

Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

*Psalm
Refrain*

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

*Psalm
Tone*

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

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

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

⁴**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. R**

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

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

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

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

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

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. 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.

Please sit

WORD

READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

¹ Blow the shofar[¶] in Zion!
Sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the people of the land tremble!
For the Day of God is coming it is near
² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of fog and dense clouds. A vast and countless horde appears
like soot spread over the hills;
it is like something never known before,
nor will be seen in ages to come.

¹² “But know this,” says God:

“Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

¹³ Tear open your heart,
not your clothes!”

Return to God your God,
who is gracious and deeply loving as a mother,
quick to forgive, abundantly tender-hearted
and relents from inflicting disaster.

¹⁴ Who knows? God may come back, relent,
and leave a blessing behind
grain and drink offerings
for God your God.

¹⁵ Sound the shofar in Zion!

Order a fast!

Proclaim a solemn assembly!

¹⁶ Gather the people!

Purify the community!

Assemble the elders!

Gather the children

even infants at the breast!

Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom
and the bride her canopied bed!

¹⁷ Let the priests, the ministers of God,
stand weeping between the portico and the altar
and say, “Spare your people, God!

Don’t let your heritage become an object of ridicule,
a byword for the Nations!

Don’t let the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Glory 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.

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 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. ⁶But 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.

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 God who is in secret; and God 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Stand as able

HYMN

Restore in Us, O God

#328

**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.

Come forward to reclaim the dust with which you were formed.

Come forward to recognize your need for the God who created you and for the savior who desires to wash you clean.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who would like to participate should come down the middle aisle to the lighted cross.
The Ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

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

After all who desire ashes have received them, the pastor continues.

Stand as able

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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Strengthen and encourage all those who hold the church's doors open for the ones who have felt excluded. Continue using us to heal the wounds the church has unintentionally and intentionally caused to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. In the coming weeks, the lands around us will burst open with the joys of Spring. Roses will awaken in bloom and bees will buzz again. Help us to slow down and watch the resurrection of Spring more carefully this year, reminding us of the certainty of your promise of resurrection for us.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Renew the world's desire for peace, O God. Our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress. Bring peace to Ukraine. Deliver your people safely from the violent and abusive hands of power, greed, and evil. Spare their lives. Guide our world leaders as they navigate this horrifying situation.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit. Finally end this COVID nightmare. Send healing to all those overcome by illness or grief. Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm your sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Strengthen our call to serve you alongside those on the margins of society. Help leaders and parishioners to see more clearly the meaningful ways our ministry can unfold and develop in a post-pandemic world. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your work of healing and restoration.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Remind us this night of how radical your Gospel is to this world. Our actions tonight are unusual. We stand together marking our foreheads with ashes and proclaiming the coming of our death so that it can lead to resurrection. When we leave this place and the ashes have been washed away, leave your mark upon us so the world might see that in Christ, life is just as inevitable as death.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Other intercessions may be offered.

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

MEAL

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All are encouraged to remain at your seats and extend a sign of peace by waving, bowing, making the peace sign, placing your hand over your heart, or sending a text.

Please Sit

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. Holy and generous host,
**you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

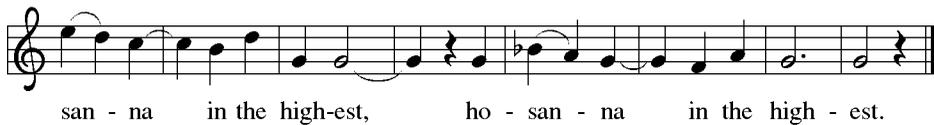
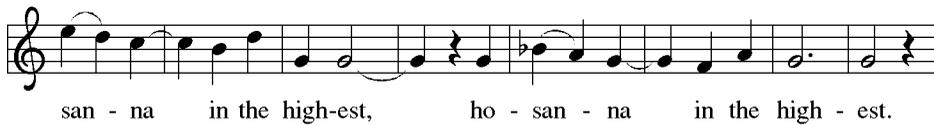
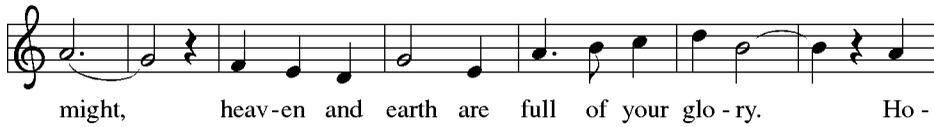
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:



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.**

Please sit

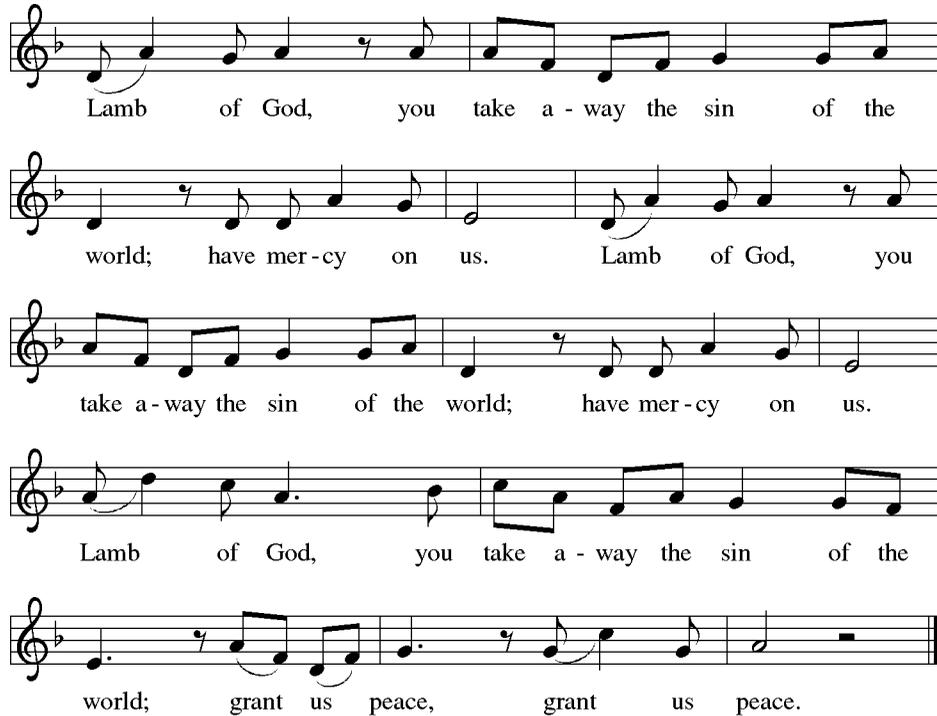
COMMUNION

Worshipers will come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive the bread and wine and then return to their seats to consume the elements.

All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's love and grace.

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.

HYMN

Change My Heart, O God

#801

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

ANTHEM

Create in Me, O God, a Pure Heart
by Johannes Brahms

Adult Choir

Stand as able

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

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed Jesus,
in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.
Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.

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. Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

Restore in Us, O God
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AT TONIGHT'S WORSHIP

Presiding Minister and Preaching	Susan Crowell
Assisting Minister	Patrick Preacher
Pianist/Choir Director	Jim Parham
Cantor	John Park
Lector	Calvin Harmon
Prayers	Ida Blalock
Ushers	Kay Cook Chris Wannemacher Laura Wannemacher
Greeters	Mark Allen Penny Bostain Bonnie Farmer Linda Morgan Melanie Wessinger Donice Winslow
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

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
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and Children's Ministries

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