

+SERVICE OF PRAYER
AND PREACHING+

+ASH WEDNESDAY+ 22 FEBRUARY 2023+



Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

Hymn

608 Lord, to You I Make Confession



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
 3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
 4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
 seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
 res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
 deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,



Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
 Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
 Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
 Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
 sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
 lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Kneel, stand, or sit, as you are able.

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **hear us.**
- P** God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
- P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- P** God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have

laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

The rite continues with the imposition of ashes.

Sit

The Imposition of Ashes

The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. Using the right thumb, the pastor places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:

**Remember, o man, that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.**

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence. There is no statement of dismissal.
After all have received the ashes, the service continues with the Service of Vespers.*

Hymn

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

Return to the LORD

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
¹⁴Who 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?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
 and say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
 and make not your heritage a reproach,
 a byword among the nations.
 Why should they say among the peoples,
 "Where is their God?"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
 and had pity on his people.
¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
 "Behold, I am sending to you
 grain, wine, and oil,
 and you will be satisfied;
 and I will no more make you
 a reproach among the nations."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 51:1-13

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your | steadfast love,*
 according to your abundant mercy
 blot out my trans- | gressions.

²**Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
 and cleanse me | from my sin!**

³For I know my trans- | gressions,*
 and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

⁴**Against you, you only, have I sinned
 and done what is evil | in your sight,*
 so that you may be justified in your words
 and blameless in your | judgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
 and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.

⁶**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
 and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.**

- ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean; *
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and | gladness; ***
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins; *
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, | O God; ***
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your | presence; *
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation; ***
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- ¹³Then I will teach transgressors | your ways; *
and sinners will re- | turn to you.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore 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.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Responsory

P We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

P We have an advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Stand

Ten Commandments

- ☐ You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

- ☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come 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.



Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Sit

Hymn

614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said



1 "As sure - ly as I live," God said, "I would not
2 And so our Lord gave this com - mand: "Go forth and
3 "All those whose sins you thus re - mit I tru - ly
4 "What you will bind, that bound shall be; What you will



see the sin - ner dead. I want him turned from
preach in ev - 'ry land; Be - stow on all My
par - don and ac - quit, And those whose sins you
loose, that shall be free; To My dear Church the



er - ror's ways, Re - pen - tant, liv - ing end - less days."
par - d'ning grace Who will re - pent and mend their ways.
will re - tain Con - demned and guilt - y shall re - main."
keys are giv'n To o - pen, close the gates of heav'n."

- 5 The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.
- 6 When ministers lay on their hands,
Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
He who by grace the Word believes
The purchase of His blood receives.
- 7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be
For absolution full and free,
In which You show Your richest grace;
From false indulgence guard our race.
- △ 8 Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As was, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally!

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Stand

Prayer

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for the Word

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C Amen.

Hymn

427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67

Text and tune: Public domain

In Adam We Have All Been One

Alec Wyton (1921-2007)

Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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Lenten Midweek Services

Vespers - Wednesday, March 1st @7pm – The Creed
Vespers – Wednesday, March 8th @7pm – The Lord’s Prayer
Vespers – Wednesday, March 15th @7pm – Holy Baptism
Vespers – Wednesday, March 22nd @7pm – Confession
Vespers – Wednesday, March 29th @7pm – Sacrament of the Altar
Vespers – Wednesday, April 5th @7pm

Lenten Suppers will be held in the Assembly Room at 6pm before service.

A Snippet From 1517

Hurts So Good: Our Dirty Little Secret on Ash Wednesday

What is really good for the soul is not so much confession as absolution.

If confession is us telling the truth about ourselves to God, then absolution is God telling us a truer truth about ourselves.

We’re in trouble when we start feeling good about feeling bad. It happens frequently on Ash Wednesday. We file forward toward the pastor, who stands there with a dirty thumb upstretched, as if hitchhiking his way toward Holy Week. We take a knee for the finger-painting rite. Every brow is crisscrossed with the greyish fruit of fire.

As the liturgy unfolds, we have plenty to say about the law and sin. And we repent. Lord, do we repent. More sin than you can shake a stick at. We haven’t loved God like we should. We haven’t loved our neighbors as ourselves. These are not your vanilla-flavored, every other yawning Sunday confessions. On Ash Wednesday we tend to lay it on thick. Get all personal.

And the thing is, we sort of get into it. “These confessions are good for my soul,” we say to ourselves. The more bad stuff we confess, the worse we feel about ourselves; and the worse we feel about ourselves, the closer we must be to God, right?

Let me let you in on a dirty, little secret: there’s something inside all of us that enjoys fessing up to wrongdoing, because we assume thereby we have repaired the bridge between God and us. And we couldn’t be more wrong.

Christ’s cross crosses the chasm between you and God.

The old adage, “Confession is good for the soul,” is true, but only half true. What is confession, after all? Nothing more than telling the truth. To confess, “I am a sinner,” or even specifically to admit, “I’ve been stealing from my company,” is no more a profound truth than saying, “There are clouds in the sky.” These are all simple facts. To confess, in the Christian sense, is to echo God’s words, to say back to God what he has already said to you. The Lord says, “You are a sinner. You’ve sinned in these particular ways,” and we confess, “I am a sinner. I’ve sinned in these particular ways.”

On Ash Wednesday, we're being honest with God and with ourselves. And while honesty is praiseworthy, it does nothing to cross the chasm between us and the God against whom we have sinned. We can confess and feel terrible about our sins all day long, but none of that brings us any closer to the kind of healing we desperately need.

What is really good for the soul is not so much confession as absolution. If confession is us telling the truth about ourselves to God, then absolution is God telling us a truer truth about ourselves.

Confession says, "I have sinned," but absolution says, "Your sin is no more." But it's better than that. Your sin doesn't just vanish; it appears on the body of the man who bore that sin for you. It is peeled away from you and stuck to very soul of the one who, in your stead, bore not an ashen cross upon his forehead but a cross of wood upon his body. Christ's cross crosses the chasm between you and God. He repairs the damage. It is his confession that is good for your soul, for he confesses, "I love you. I lay down my life to save your own. I forgive you. I heal you. Mine you are, now and forever. In my scars are written the song of an undying love for you."

As we sit in our pews this Ash Wednesday, feeling good about feeling bad, thinking that by my confession and repentance alone we are making things right between us and God, we are deeply and dangerously wrong. The cross of ashes upon our foreheads points us, finally, to the truth, because it betokens the Christ of the cross, in whom we are made deeply and beautifully right.

Because of him, and him alone, we learn to love Lent for all the right reasons. In Jesus we are reconciled to the Father, adopted as his children, and on our brows is written the very name of the Lord himself ([Revelation 22:4](#)). *Chad Bird, 2016*

Why We Wear Ashes

Since ancient times, God's people have used ashes as a sign of humble repentance (e.g. Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Daniel 9:3; Matthew 11:21; Luke 10:13). This tradition was carried on by the early church and remains an important tradition today. When one willingly goes up to a pastor and receives ashes on his/her forehead, they are admitting that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation. They are admitting that they have sinned not only against their neighbors, but against God Himself. The ashes demonstrate that without God, all people are spiritually dead. The ashes remind the wearer of their need to repent and confess in order to be turned back to God. The ashes demonstrate our pleading that the Lord would purify us. The ashes serve as a tangible and visible sign of our failure to love God as much as He loves us. Ashes also tell us the good news of the Gospel! You see, ashes aren't just smeared randomly or haphazardly across people's foreheads. The ashes are given in the shape of the cross. In receiving the ashes, we remember that our Lord Jesus took on the fullness of our humanity. He who was sinless became our sin. Jesus the Christ was crucified on a cross. He was crucified for you. Then Jesus conquered death itself through His resurrection. He was resurrected for you.