



Luther Memorial Church

Ash Wednesday

SERVICE OF THE WORD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 | 7:30 PM



You are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:19

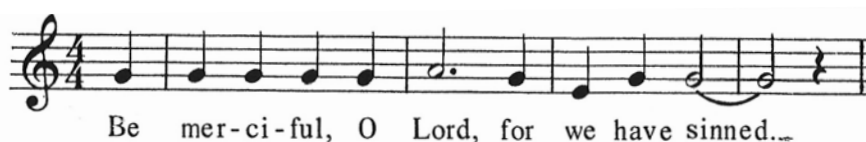
Ash Wednesday
HOLY COMMUNION
FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | 7:30 PM

GATHERING

The ministers enter in silence.

OPENING PSALM 51:1-17

The choir and congregation alternate in the singing of psalm verses, beginning with the choir.



Choir: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Choir: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness,
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt,
And cleanse me from my sin.
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Choir: My offences truly I know them;
My sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
What is evil in your sight I have done.
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Choir: A pure heart create for me, O God,
Put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
Nor deprive me of your holy spirit.
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Choir: Give me again the joy of your help;
With a spirit of fervor sustain me,
O Lord, open my lips
And my mouth shall declare your praise.
Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

All: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Please stand.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Gracious God, our 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 Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

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 — 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. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?’”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #320 The Glory of These Forty Days

SECOND READING *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

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

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

killed; as 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.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

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 your Father in heaven. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father 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. But 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. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY #321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent — and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please sit.

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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your grace that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

To receive ashes, come to the Columbarium by the center aisle and stand before the ministers. The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Return by the side aisle.

Sung by all.

1* 2

Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to
dust you shall re - turn.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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

... Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet your neighbor:

Peace be with you.

MEAL

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING “Out of the Depths” *De profundis* | Marc-Antoine Charpentier

The text may be found at Hymn # 600

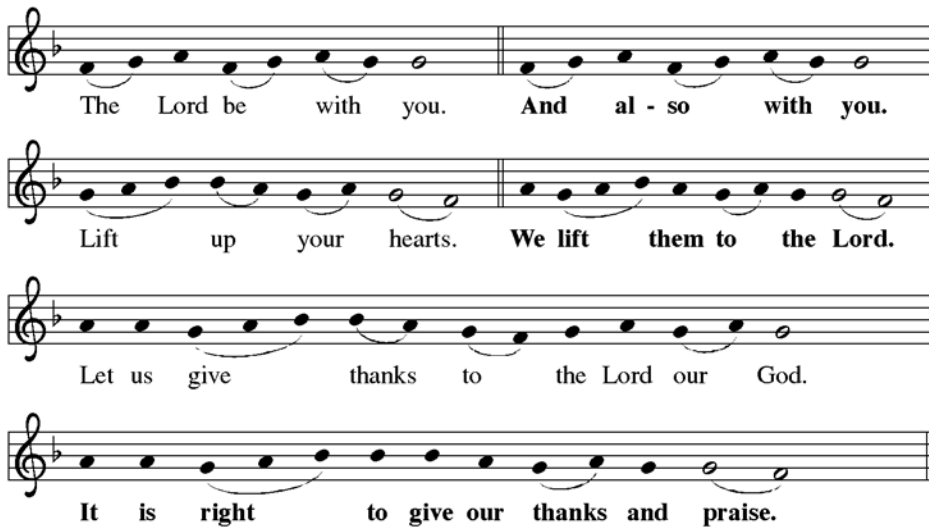
Please stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

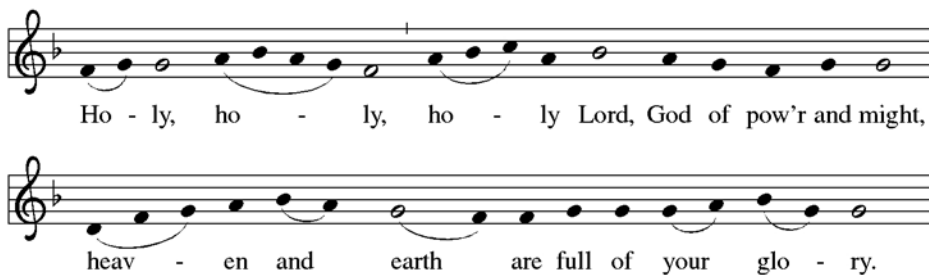
God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We give you thanks, Father... both now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

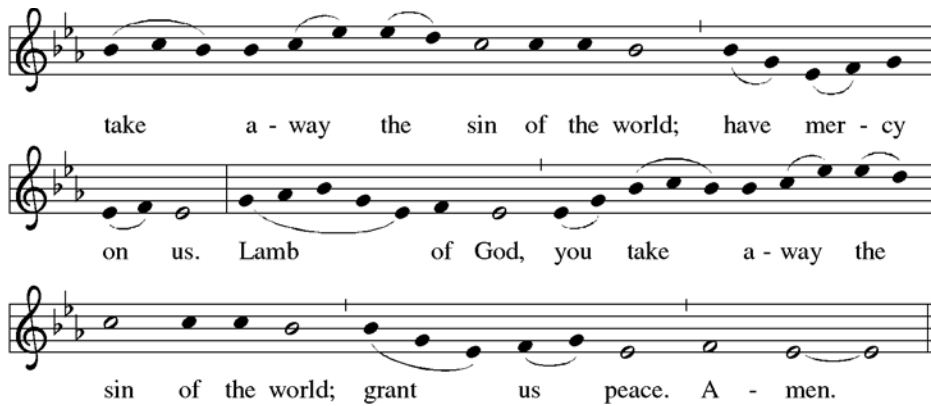
Please sit.

THE COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. We receive the Body of Christ (bread) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received in one of two ways: by drinking from the chalice, or by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.

COMMUNION SONG Lamb of God

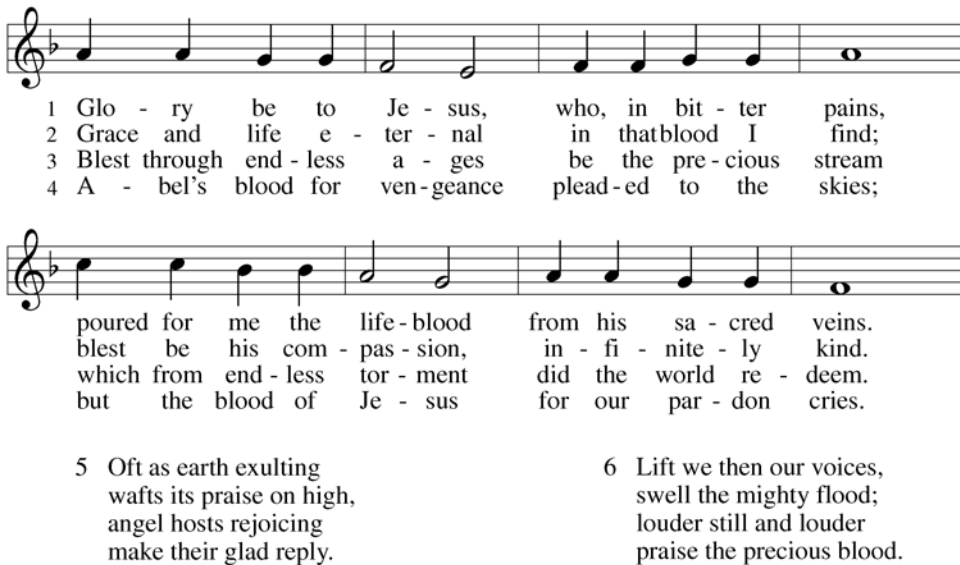
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



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. A - men.

HYMNS AT THE COMMUNION
#601 Savior, When in Dust to You

LBW #95 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, who, in bit - ter pains,
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal in that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance plead - ed to the skies;
poured for me the life - blood from his sa - cred veins.
blest be his com - pas - sion, in - fi - nite - ly kind.
which from end - less tor - ment did the world re - deem.
but the blood of Je - sus for our par - don cries.
5 Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high,
angel hosts rejoicing make their glad reply.
6 Lift we then our voices, swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder praise the precious blood.

Text: Italian, 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: WEM IN LEIDENSTAGEN, Friedrich Filtz, 1804–1876

#592 Just As I Am, without One Plea
#326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Please stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; 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.

Thanks be to God.

The ministers and the people depart in silence.

Blessing the Dust For Ash Wednesday

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners

or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

Jan Richardson

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDING	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHING	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Vicar Alex Linn
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Vicar Alex Linn, Phyllis Pleuss, Mary Powell
LECTOR	John Pleuss
SACRISTAN	Dan Ruge
USHER	Jeff Van Fleet
AUDIO	Lee Powell

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