

ASH  
WEDNESDAY



CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA  
MARCH 2, 2022



## WORSHIP GUIDE

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Peachtree City, Georgia

## Ash Wednesday

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. Let the people of God reflect on the meaning of our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Miriam

### ↑ CALL TO FASTING AND REPENTANCE

based on Joel 2

- P** Blow the trumpet! Sound the alarm!  
The Lord said: "It isn't too late; you can still return to me with all your heart. Don't rip your clothes to show your sorrow; instead, come with broken hearts."  
Sound the trumpet! Call the people together.
- A** God's people have been called to GATHER.
- C** **From great-great grandparents to newborn babies, all are welcome.**
- A** God's people have been called to REPENT.
- C** **From those who wear their faults on their sleeves, to those whose secret hearts are broken, all are welcome.**
- A** God's people have been called to be RECONCILED to God.
- C** **From those who have turned away, to those whose pain whispers in the night, all are welcome.**
- P** Return to the LORD, you God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."
- C** **God of holiness: Your day comes near and we tremble, not out of fear, but from awe and gratitude.**

### ↑ HYMN: *The Glory of These Forty Days*

*ELW Hymn 320*

- 1 The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.**

*from PSALM 51*

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- C** **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- P** For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;**
- P** so you are right in your verdict and you are justified in your judgment.
- C** **Indeed, you delight when truth is deep within me.**
- P** Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. ▶**

- P** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.**
- P** Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so sinners will be restored to you.
- C** **O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- P** For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. Save your people, Lord God!
- C** **The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken heart, God will not despise.**

**HYMN: *The Glory of These Forty Days***

*ELW Hymn 320*

- 4 **Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you.  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.**

### GREETING

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** *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.
- C** **Amen.**

### ↑ THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

—*Phillips Version*

- P** Listen for the Word of God from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6.
- C** **Glory to you, O God.**

**[J**esus said to the disciples:] “Beware of doing your good deeds conspicuously to catch other people’s attention or you will miss the reward of your Heavenly Father.

<sup>2-4</sup> “Instead, when you do good to other people, don’t hire a trumpeter to go in front of you—like those play-actors in the synagogues and streets who make sure that people admire them. Believe me, they have had all the reward they are going to get!

No, when you do your good deeds to help people in need, don’t even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be secret. Your Father who knows all secrets will reward you.

<sup>5-13</sup> “And then, when you pray, don’t be like the play-actors. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at street-corners so that people may see them at it. Believe me, they have had all the reward they are going to get.

<sup>16-18</sup> “Then, when you fast, don’t look like you are miserable like a play-actor in a theatrical production! For they deliberately disfigure their faces so that people may see that they are fasting. Believe me, they have had all their reward.

No, when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face so that nobody knows that you are fasting—let it be a secret between you and your Father. And your Father who knows all secrets will reward you.

<sup>19-21</sup> “Don’t pile up treasures on earth, where moth and rust can spoil them and thieves can break in and steal. But keep your treasure in Heaven where there is neither moth nor rust to spoil it and nobody can break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, you may be certain that your heart will be there too!”

- P** The Gospel of Our Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

↑ **HYMN:** *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

*ELW Hymn 325*

**1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**CONFESSION OF SIN AS WE BEGIN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY**

**P** Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us to redeem us and make us new.  
In these forty days, let us honestly confess our sin.  
God begs that we turn from words, acts and all obstacles which keep us from being God's people.  
Let us bring our brokenness to God, who desires to make us whole.  
Let us come to God and receive God's promise of mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Holy and Compassionate God,  
**C** **for too long we have travelled our own ways,  
for too long we have sought to satisfy our own desires.  
We have trusted the falsehoods of the world,  
and relied on powers which would consume our souls.  
We have sought healing from impostors,  
and rejected the one who was broken for our wholeness.  
Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy. Your love, O Lord, overflows our deepest hopes.  
Let our hearts be a sanctuary for your spirit and let our lives abound in service to others;  
where your forgiveness is sure, and your welcome is clear. Amen.**

**P** Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care.  
Like manna in the desert, God feeds us with surprising mercy.  
Like a loving parent, God runs to meet us again this day, forgiving our sins  
for the sake of ☩ Christ, leading us from death into life.  
Let our spirits reflect the one we call our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

**RESPONSE:** *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake*

Sanctuary Choir

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive what is past,  
and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen.*

Text: from John Bull's Christian Prayers and Holy Meditations (1568). Music: Richard Farrant (c. 1535-1580) Text and music are in Public Domain.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P** People of God, the Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**  
**P** People of dust, lift up your hearts to God. **C** **We lift them up to the one who created us.**  
**P** People of ashes, give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **Let us offer praise and thanks to the one who restores us to life.**  
**P** God of Creation, now is the right time to praise you;  
now is the right time, and in every moment, to sing your praises.  
You formed us to live in joy and peace with you,  
but we tore your heart when we chose our desires over your dreams for us.  
We prefer to splash in sin's mud puddles than to be cleansed in your living waters.  
cleanse our hearts and prepare us with joy for the paschal feast, that,  
renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** 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.

## THE 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.**
- P** Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
- C** **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## INVITATION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND COMMUNION

- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. —*from Psalm 103:8-13*

## SHARING COMMUNION (AND ASHES) WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors, assistant, and musicians commune, please join them at home  
by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:  
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

*If you desire to receive **ashes**, you may use ashes you have prepared at home.  
Apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:  
“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION/ASHES: *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

*ELW Hymn 319*

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**
- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.**
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.**
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
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## PASTORAL BLESSING

**BENEDICTION**

- ☞ May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.
- ☞ **Amen.**

**↑ CLOSING HYMN: *Eternal Lord of Love****ELW Hymn 321*

- 1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire, moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.**
- 2 So daily dying to the way of self, so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod, knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.**
- 3 If dead in you, so in you we arise, you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,  
so into life and glory shall we wake.**

Text: Thomas H. Cain, b. 1931-2003

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**↑ SENDING**

- ☞ Marked with the cross of Christ for fruitful living,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God!**

Pastor Fritz Wiese, *Celebrant*Pastor Miriam Beecher, *Preacher*David Beecher and Sanctuary Choir, *Musicians*Carol Jensen-Linton, *Altar Guild*