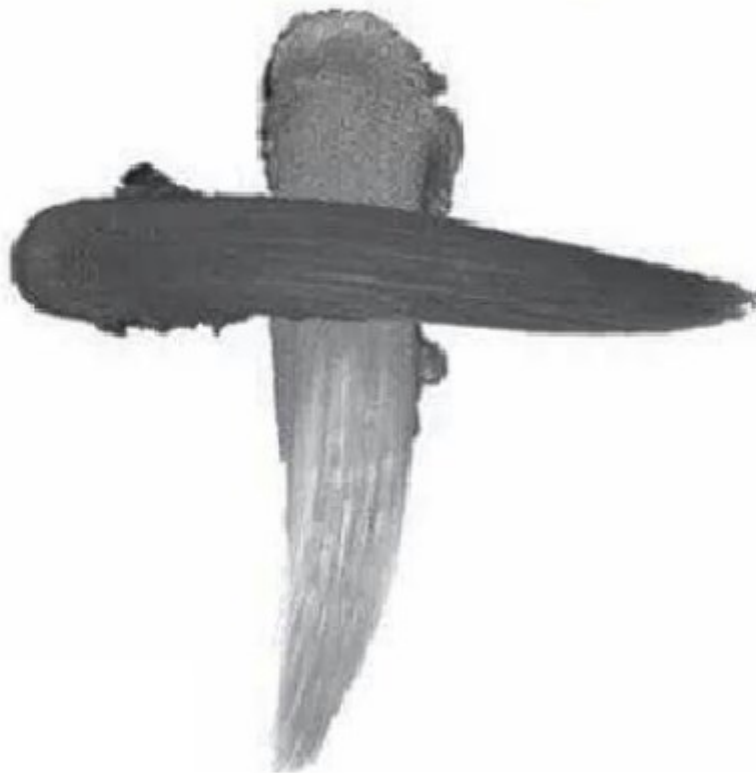


ASH WEDNESDAY



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

Ecclesiastes 3:20

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church * Peachtree City, Georgia
February 22, 2023



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

Pastor Miriam

↑ CALL TO 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! (Pause for 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 your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."

↑ HYMN: *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.**

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; paraphrased by Gilbert E. Doan Jr., born 1930
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PENITENTIAL PSALM: LORD, HAVE MERCY *based on 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.**
- A** 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;**
- A** so you are right in your verdict and you are justified in your judgment.
- C** **Indeed, you delight when truth is deep within me.**
- A** For you take no delight in burnt sacrifice. Instead, **the sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;**
- C** **a broken heart, God will not despise.**
- P** Save your people, Lord God! ▶

- C** 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 to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so sinners will be restored to you.

HYMN: *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

ELW Hymn 319

- 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.

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.**

RESPONSE: *The Glory of These Forty Days*

Sanctuary Choir

- 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.*
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;
 and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.*
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions’ might;
 and John, the Bridegroom’s friend, became the herald of Messiah’s name.*
- 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.*

Text: Latin hymn, 11th century; translated by Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, altered
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal* © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

↑ 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.
²⁻⁴ “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.
⁵⁻⁶ “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.
¹⁶⁻¹⁸ “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.
¹⁹⁻²¹ “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.**

WHY ASHES?

↑ **HYMN:** *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

ELW Hymn 777

(New) **Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;
thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!**

**1 Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."**

Refrain: **Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**

**2 Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame.
Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name. Refrain**

New Stanza text is by Rae W. Whitney, born 1927. She wrote it in 1982. In *The Faith We Sing* © 2002 The United Methodist Church, and other hymnals.

Text, Stanzas 1-2 and Refrain: Delores Dufner, OSB, born 1939 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota OneLicense #A701929

↑ **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 walked 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.**

OFFERING and MUSIC for REFLECTION

↑ **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 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

- G** **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.
- G** **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

*Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.
 You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in either the chalice of wine or the white grape juice.
 You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine.
 At home commune 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**, proceed to the altar rail, where you may kneel or stand.
 If you use ashes at home, apply them to the forehead of each person with the words:
 "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION/ASHES: *Savior, When in Dust to Thee*

Sanctuary Choir

- 1 *Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in homage due; when, repentant, to the skies scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
 oh, by all your pains and woe suffered once for us below, bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!*
- 2 *By your helpless infant years, by your life of want and tears, by your days of deep distress in the savage wilderness,
 by the dread, mysterious hour of the insulting tempter's pow'r, turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye; hear our penitential cry!*
- 3 *By your hour of dire despair, by your agony of prayer, by the cross, the nail, the thorn, piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dreadful sacrifice, listen to our humble sigh; hear our penitential cry! ▶*

4 *By your deep expiring groan, by the sad sepulchral stone, by the vault whose dark abode held in vain the rising God,
oh, from earth to heav'n restored, mighty, reascended Lord, bending from your throne on high, hear our penitential cry!*

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, altered Text is in Public Domain.

↑ PASTORAL BLESSING

↑ BENEDICTION

- ☞ With the ash of repentance, we have entered Lent. With contrite hearts, we await our Lord.
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 look upon you with favor and give you ☩ peace.
We go forth to make preparations to receive the powerful possibilities of God. Amen.
- ☞ **Amen.**

↑ HYMN OF THANKS: *Christ the Life of All the Living*

ELW Hymn 339

- 1 **Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**
- 2 **You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.**

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, altered.

↑ SENDING

- ☞ Marked with the cross of Christ for living God's possibilities.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Invite all to join in God's possibilities.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God!**

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The Worship Continues!

Pastor Miriam Beecher, *Pastor*
Rita DeNell, Cheryl Dietmeyer, Jim Hagberg, and Sanctuary Choir, *Musicians*
Carol Jensen-Linton, *Altar Guild*

