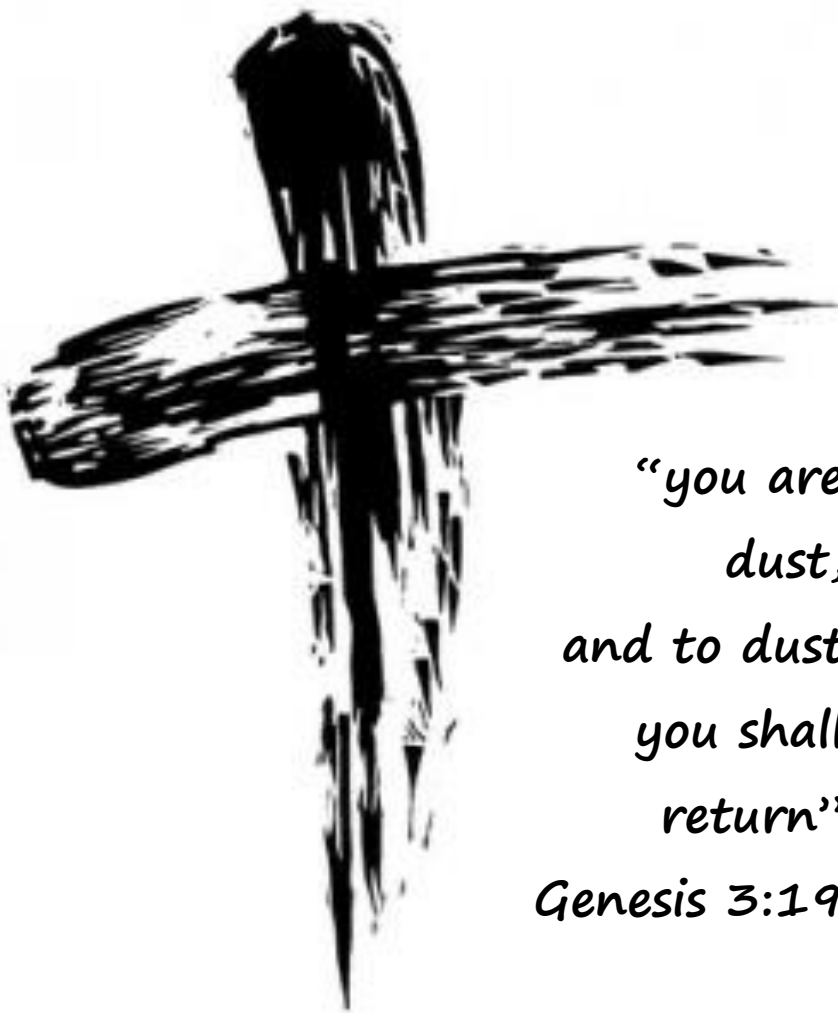


Ash Wednesday
14 February 2024



*“you are
dust,
and to dust
you shall
return”
Genesis 3:19*

Faith Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is something of a “wake-up call,” especially when one hears the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The original name for this day – “Day of Ashes” – was a reference to the ancient Christian practice of sprinkling or rubbing ashes on the forehead as a sign of one’s mortality. The same gesture appears in the baptismal liturgy: a cross is traced on the forehead of the person being baptized. In this simple gesture, the person is claimed by Christ.

There is no more solemn and appropriate action on this day than to distribute ashes to all who gather for the beginning of the Lenten season. Here the sign of the cross is traced without discrimination on young and old, men and women alike. Here the cross is the sign of salvation that all believers share. It is the sign of death – and of glorious resurrection.

Remember that the receiving of ashes is an individual choice. If you prefer not to receive the imposition of ashes, please remain seated during this part of the service. During this time, it is always appropriate to read from the Psalms which can be found in the front of the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal following page 338. A suggested Psalm for Ash Wednesday is Psalm 46.

Worship with Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 3

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW with numbers at the bottom of the pages.
The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome and Announcements

HYMN #606 “Our Father, We Have Wandered”

PENITENTIAL RITE

Psalm Antiphon: “Create in Me a Clean Heart” (Hymn #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.**

Psalm 51 (Read responsively.)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Psalm Antiphon: “*Create in Me a Clean Heart*” (Hymn #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.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

**Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

**For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Psalm Antiphon: “*Create in Me a Clean Heart*” (Hymn #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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

There is a time of silence for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust you holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen

P: As Christ was raised from death by the glory of God the Father, may we too walk in newness of life.

Sing stanzas to the tune of "Abide with Me" (Hymn #629)

**♪ Unto the Lord with broken hearts return.
Turn from your sins, and true repentance learn.
Grace and compassion flow from heav'n above,
For God is slow to anger, filled with love.**

**Create in me a heart made clean from sin.
A steadfast spirit, Lord, renew within.
Your Holy Spirit ne'er remove from me,
But in your saving joy, Lord, make me free.**

**Here we behold the dust from which we came;
We shall return at last unto the same.
Look we to Christ, who chose our dust to share,
Our life and resurrection to prepare.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who wish to receive ashes, please come forward at the direction of the usher. After all return to their place, the service continues.

P: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: 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 obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12 (*Read responsively.*)

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

**Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.**

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

**Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?**

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

**Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?**

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

**Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.**

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

**The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.**

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10

Since God is making his appeal through us; 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.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

“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.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – Pastor Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Silence for meditation.

HYMN #712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation and a world in need.

Each petition ends: P: Hear us, O God., **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(page 144)*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right....and join their unending hymn:

♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

COMMUNION

*Please observe silence during Holy Communion.
All are welcome at the Lord's Table.
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

P: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN #802 “Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

DISMISSAL

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please leave the sanctuary in silence.

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Pianist: Rachel Boussetot

Acolyte: Grant Hoffmann

Communion Assistant: Sharyl Banowetz

Ushers: Herb and Diane Wilhelm; Adam and Rebecca Wilhelm

Altar Ministry: Herb and Diane Wilhelm

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Midweek Lenten Services



Wednesdays – February 21 and February 28

Faith Lutheran Church

6:15 pm Meal

7:00 pm Worship



Wednesdays – March 6, March 13, and March 20

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church

6:15 pm Meal

7:00 pm Worship