

“...pray to your Father who is unseen...”

Matthew 6:6b

Artwork by Abby Johnson

ASH WEDNESDAY

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Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt

Pastor Jean R. Schmidt

ASH WEDNESDAY

We gather today in a spirit of repentance and confession. We begin our Lenten journey toward the center of our faith Jesus' death and resurrection.



As part of our worship, we will offer you the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead.

This ancient ritual gives Ash Wednesday its name.

On Palm Sunday loud hosannas greeted Jesus as King.

Those words have turned to ashes in our mouths as we realize we fail to follow and to trust that same King.

In the Old Testament, people wore sackcloth and put ashes on their heads to publicly express their repentance and sorrow over their sin. Such confession of sin brought forgiveness and renewal to their lives.

The ashes also symbolize our mortality. We proclaim in the funeral liturgy, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." We all will die and return to the dust from which we came. When we acknowledge that death will come, we remember to live more fully *now* in the grace God gives us.

We impose the ashes in the form of a cross. In our baptism, the pastor put a cross on our brow as an invisible brand that identifies to whom we belong. This cross of ashes makes that mark visible and witnesses that we belong to God.

All are invited to participate in this ancient act today to help deepen your sense of repentance and confession.

- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵O LORD, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
**in your great compassion
blot out my offenses.**

***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.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

"BLESSING THE DUST" by Jan Richardson

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

People may come forward to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

HYMN

"Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am"

#814

(While people come forward, congregation continuously sings hymn.)



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

*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.

***HYMN** "Out of the Depths I Cry to You" **#600**
(Pastor sings verse 1, Congregation joins on remaining verses)



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

READING Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout 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. ²Yet 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. ³“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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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? ⁶Is 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? ⁷Is 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? ⁸Then 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. ⁹Then 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, ¹⁰if 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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²Your 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.

***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.

HOMILY

*HYMN

"Take My Life, That I May Be"

#583

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas | *Last time*



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da_a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que_a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



Refrain/Estribillo
 pul - so de tu_a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

***HYMN**

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

#811

On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,
 that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.
 Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
 is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

***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.

HOLY COMMUNION *All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Both wine and grape juice are available – grape juice glasses are circled in purple. Gluten free wafers are also available.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

#592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

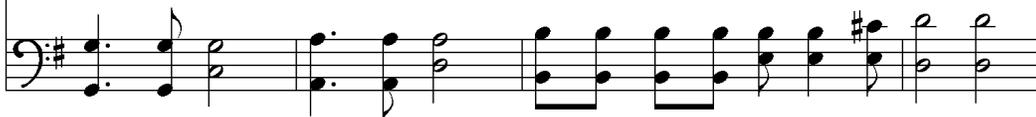
"Eat This Bread"

#472

Refrain



"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
 OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.



Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.



***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Senior Choir

(OR)

***SENDING SONG**

"Our Father, We Have Wandered"

#606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

***DISMISSAL**

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

Thanks be to God.

Worship Leaders

Pastor Jon Schmidt
Pastor Jean Schmidt

Organist

Linda Berg

Handbell Director

Laurie Noelke

WE THANK - Joey Barnett for filling in as choir director while Eric Sorenson is in Arizona. Joey is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire, a member of the Coulee Chordsmen, and teaches Elementary Music in Black River Falls. We appreciate his willingness to substitute! Please welcome him if you get the opportunity.



Midweek Lenten Worship Wednesdays in March + 6 PM

Holden Evening Prayer

Led each week by a member of the choir ...

with the drama series ...

The Holidays of Lent

OFFERING: No offering is collected during our worship this day; however, we do welcome your support of our ministries and thank you for your gifts. Together we make a difference in the lives of others.

Offering plates are available as you leave the sanctuary. For online giving go to the church website: oursaviorswestsaalem.org/giving. Or text your gift amount to 608-471-7267 and follow the instructions on the response you receive. Thank you for your generosity and support of our work together.

