



*Ash Wednesday*  
*March 2, 2022*

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES AT 7 P.M.**

We are honored that you are joining our worship today. We hope to make you feel welcome whether you are visiting with us for the first time or have been worshipping with us for years.

**Welcome**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

## **Worship Aids**

In this worship bulletin, worshipers are invited to stand at the places marked with an \* and bold type denotes the congregation's response.

Everything you need to participate in worship is found in this bulletin, except for the hymns which are found in the back third of the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship under your seat. You are encouraged to join us in praying, singing, sharing the peace, and receiving ashes as you feel moved.

Assisted hearing devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

## **Children in Worship**

We welcome all children to worship with us—including full participation in Holy Communion. Whether talking, crying, laughing, or singing, the sounds of children in worship are joyful sounds of praise. God put the wiggle in children, and we rejoice! Our Prayground in the sanctuary and our unstaffed nursery are open for quiet, supervised play. Activity bags are available in the narthex.

Children's bulletins are also available.

## **A Note About Our Livestream Service**

Tonight's service is livestreamed. Most rear-row seats are out of view of the camera, but we cannot guarantee that any seat is off camera. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

## **A Few Requests**

We ask that you silence your cell phone or electronic devices.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service.

Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

## INTRODUCTION

*The world in which we live often refuses to apologize and denies death, yet we worship today with the purpose of confessing our sin and recalling our mortality. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer that invites us into the discipline of Lent - fasting, prayer, and acts of service.*

## + GATHERING +

*We gather in silence.*

## \*GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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.**

**+ WORD +**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

## FIRST LESSON

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 the LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether the LORD will not turn and relent, and leave behind a blessing, 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?' "

L: Word of God. Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51: 1-17 *read responsively,*  
*assisting minister/congregation.*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your  
steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my  
wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is  
evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right  
in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep  
within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be  
clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my  
salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your  
righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would  
give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will  
not despise.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake God 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 God, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For God 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!

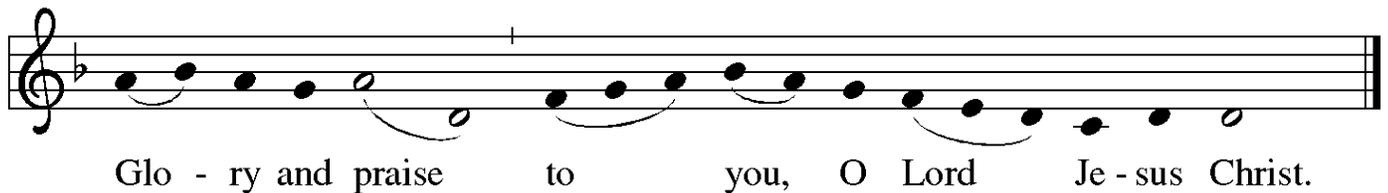
We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-2 NRSV, emended

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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.**

MEDITATION

Pr. Adrienne Meier

HYMN OF THE DAY

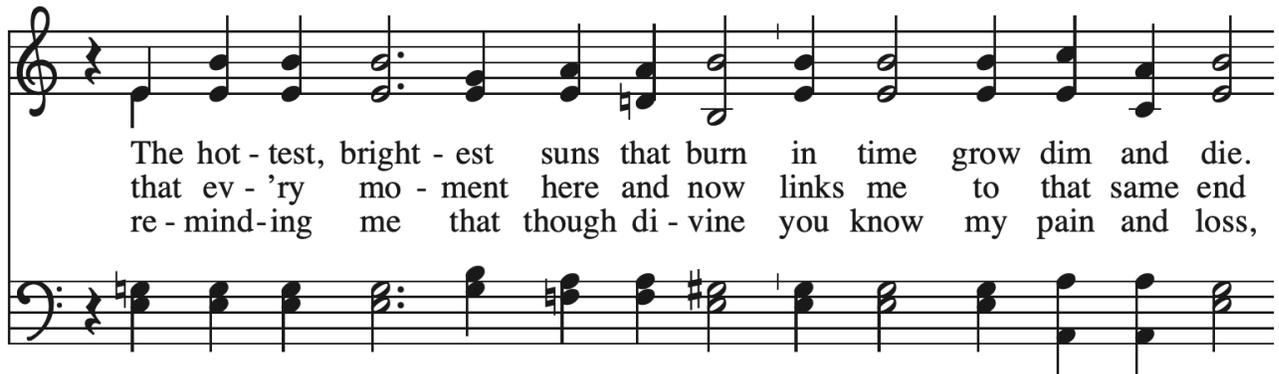
All Things of Dust to Dust Return

*All Creation Sings #920*

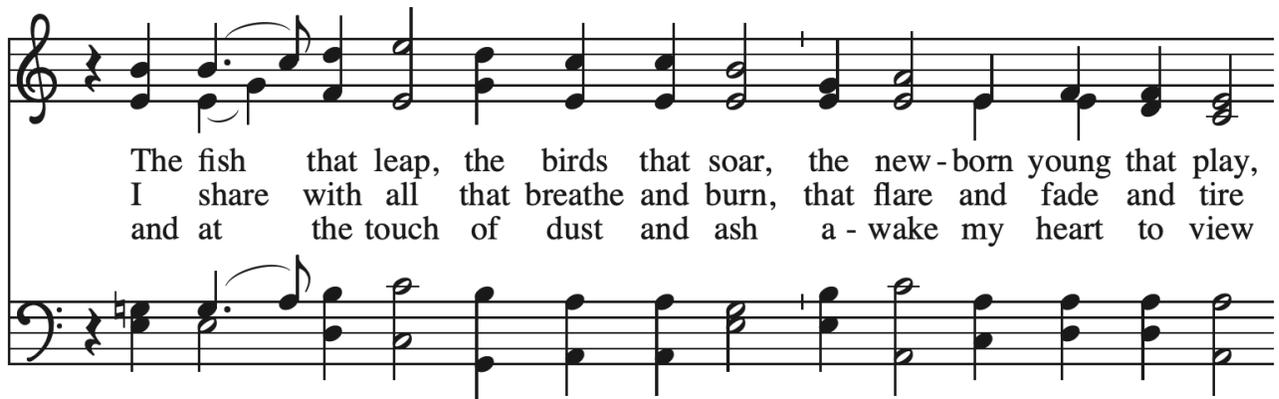
# All Things of Dust to Dust Return



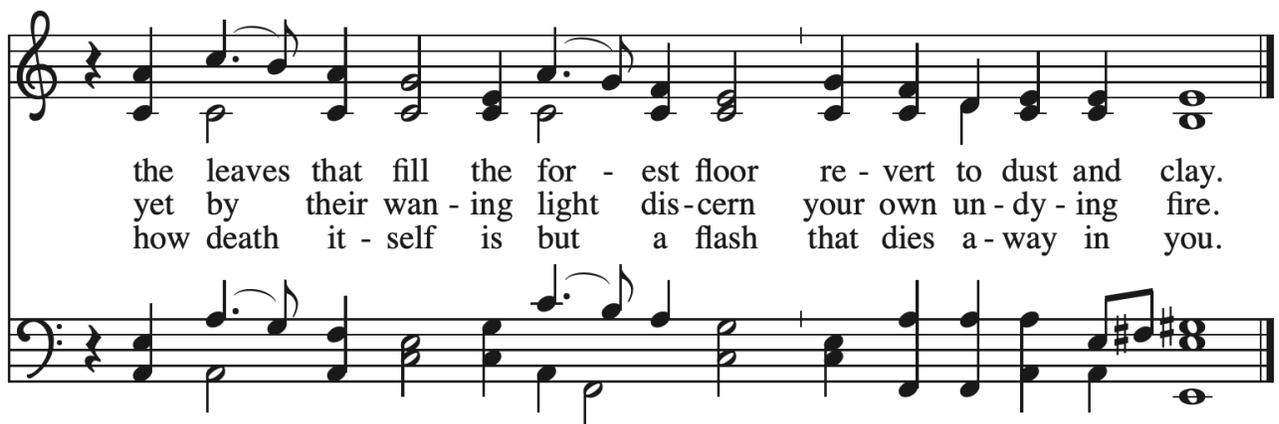
1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.  
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend  
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.  
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end  
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,  
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire  
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.  
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.  
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585

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## INVITATION TO LENT

P: 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—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving 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.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

P: Accomplish in us, O God, 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 Savior,

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

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER ASHES

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*As you are ready, come forward by the side aisles to receive ashes. After those who desire ashes have received them, the minister continues*

P: Accomplish in us, O God, 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 Savior,

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

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Each petition ends:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Concluding petition:*

A: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.*

## CHORAL OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Carl Mueller

## + SENDING +

### \* SENDING PRAYER

P: 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 our Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:Amen.**

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete.*

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, +bless you this day and always.

**C:Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW#599

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the remaining four lines. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides harmonic support for the vocal parts. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,  
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.  
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

## DISMISSAL

A: 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

+++

*We depart in peace to continue our worship  
in lives of witness to Christ's love  
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

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## **ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Office Hours 9 a.m.- 4:30p.m.  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
[stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)

*Partners in ministry with*  
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*In covenant with*  
**LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY  
AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian,  
Campus Pastor  
[lutheran@indiana.edu](mailto:lutheran@indiana.edu)  
Phone: (812) 333-2474  
[lcmiu.org](http://lcmiu.org)

Rev. Adrienne Meier,  
Pastor  
[pastor@stlconline.org](mailto:pastor@stlconline.org)

Rev. Lecia Beck,  
Minister of Youth  
and Christian Nurture  
[christiannurture@stlconline.org](mailto:christiannurture@stlconline.org)

Erica Whichello,  
Parish Administrator  
[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

Mike Powell,  
Director of Music and Organist

Dr. Dale Heidebrecht,  
Interim Adult Choir Director

Melissa de Graaf,  
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU  
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,  
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**