



Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023

7 p.m.

We hope you feel welcome here.

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, racial equity, 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, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Everything needed to participate in today's worship is found in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) located under the seat in front of you. Worshipers are invited to stand as you are able at the places marked * and to respond when indicated with bold type. We gently remind you to silence all electronic devices.

Our youngest worshipers and their parents may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the sanctuary or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Assisted hearing devices and complete-service, large-print bulletins are available from an usher. The blue chairs with arms are reserved for people with mobility limitations. Ushers can remove chairs to place a wheelchair.

We hope you know Holy Communion is for you. At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.

This evening's service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

We hope you know we pray for you.

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; prayer requests made before the service begins will be included in the Prayers of the People.

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 +

***GATHERING LITANY**

ACS#921

Leader



1 In all af - flic - tion
 2 With great en - dur - ance
 3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship
 4 With hum - ble spir - it
 5 By speech that's truth - ful
 6 To cease op - pres - sion
 7 By lov - ing jus - tice
 8 With gen - tle kind - ness

Assembly



1 In all af - flic - tion
 2 With great en - dur - ance
 3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship
 4 With hum - ble spir - it
 5 By speech that's truth - ful
 6 To cease op - pres - sion
 7 By lov - ing jus - tice
 8 With gen - tle kind - ness

All



re - turn, re - turn to God.

*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. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of 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, 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.

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 90:1-10,12

¹Mother of the mountains, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**²Before the mountains were born,
or you writhed the land and the earth into
birth,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn mortal flesh back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, you who are woman-born.”

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like
yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.**

⁵You sweep them aside; they are an illusion;
In the morning flourishing and in the evening
wilting and withering.

**⁶In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful
indignation.

**⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our hidden sins in the light of your
countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**

**yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to Wisdom.

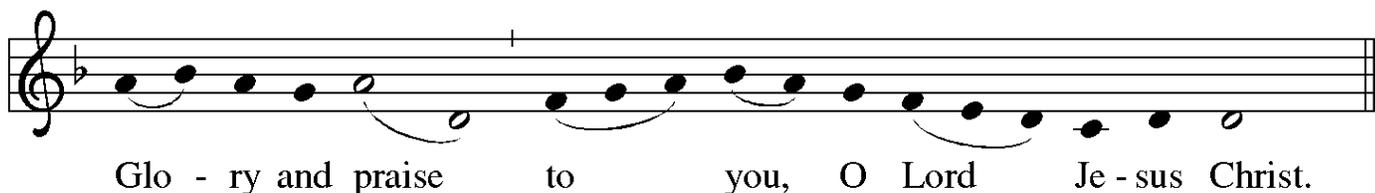
SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:45-49, emended
Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. The first person was from the earth, made of dust; the second person is from heaven. As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 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 creator 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 creator 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 creator who is in secret; and your creator 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 creator who is in secret; and your creator who sees in secret will reward you."

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION

Pr. Adrienne Meier

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

ELW#321

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

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.

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

A brief silence.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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 especially Elif, Jan, Caretta, Roger, Paula, Audrey, Deborah, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Jan, Evelyn, Margrethe, Helen, Jacky. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew this congregation, O God. Bring to and through the waters of this font those who seek you. Make us a place of honest proclaim and widening welcome. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: 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,
C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

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

Lamb of God

F. Melius Christiansen

+ 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. Turkish is provided on the next page.

**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.**

Göklerdeki Babamız,
Adın kutsal kılınsın.
Egemenliğin gelsin.
Gökte olduğu gibi, yeryüzünde de senin istediğin
olsun.
Bugün bize gündelik ekmeğimizi ver.
Bize karşı suç işleyenleri bağışladığımız gibi,
Sen de bizim suçlarımızı bağışla.
Ayartılmamıza izin verme.
Bizi kötü olandan kurtar.
Çünkü egemenlik, güç ve yücelik sonsuzlara dek
senindir!
Amin

***BENEDICTION**

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

C:Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

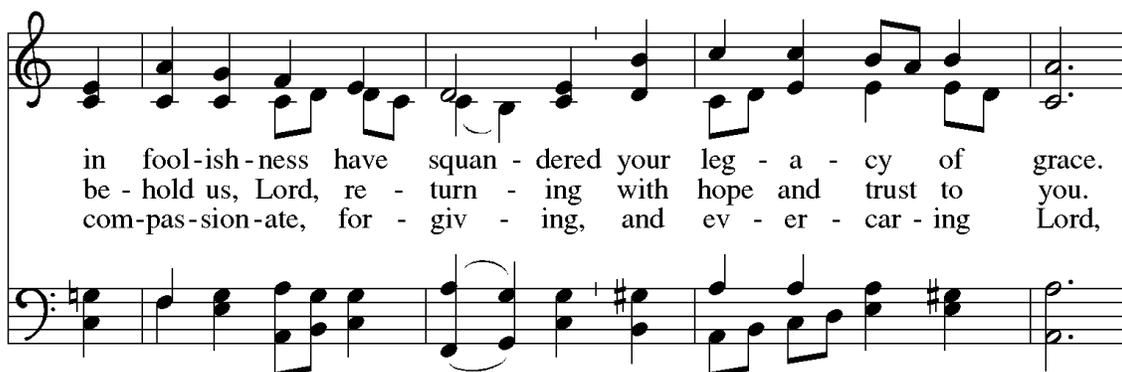
Our Father, We Have Wandered

ELW#606

Our Father, We Have Wandered



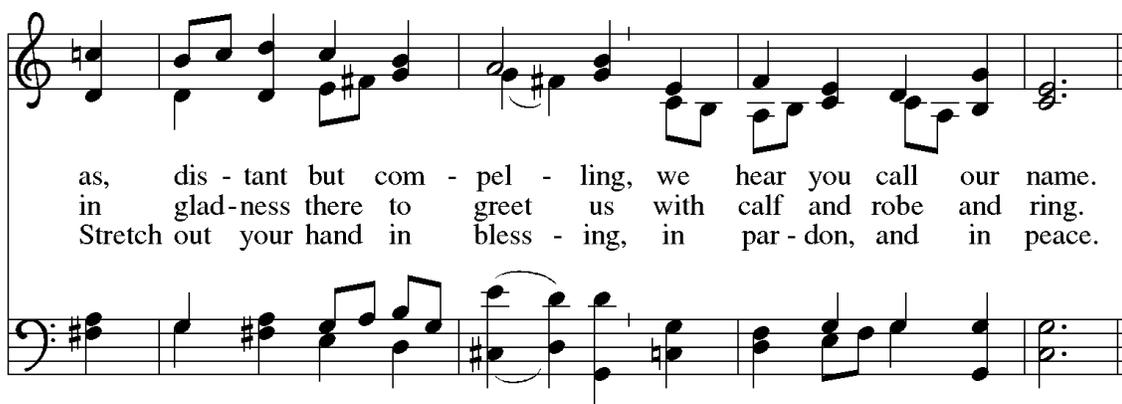
1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



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.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

*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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Today's Worship Leaders

Altar care: Mary Sasse

Acolyte: Julianna Drake

Lord's Prayer Leader: Noelle Drake

Council Coordinator: Dawn Bakken

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**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!**