

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer, our sins brought your punishment. Our transgressions made your pierced hands necessary. Bless us tonight and throughout the season of Lent as we sincerely repent of our sinful lives and seek to serve you. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY: This is the first day in the season of Lent, receiving its name from the ancient Christian tradition of receiving ashes to signify inner repentance. This practice finds its roots in the Old Testament, where people would “put on sackcloth and ashes” as a sign of sorrow and mourning. In typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are called to the altar during the worship service, and the pastor marks their forehead or hand with ashes in the sign of a cross. As he does this, he quotes Genesis 3:19, saying, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.”

The practice of imposing ashes on this day is a visible sign of the true purpose for Ash Wednesday: repentance. As we begin the Lenten journey in observing Jesus' suffering and death, we do so knowing that it was our sins he bore. To prepare ourselves to see our Savior shed his blood, we spend time, especially today, in godly sorrow over our sins and all we have done wrong. We remember that the wages of our sin is death, and that one day we will return to the dust from which our race was made. In such sorrow and repentance, we then are properly prepared to see how Jesus has paid for our sins by giving his life on the cross.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

Order of Worship



Hymn: *Savior, When in Dust to You*

CW 393 sts 1-3



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due,
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,



when, re - pent - ant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,



O, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, O turn a fa - v'ring eye, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Please remain seated after the hymn.

GATHERING RITE FOR LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know perfect peace with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to hear him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to take the punishment of death that we deserve. God made Jesus, "who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

M: During the 40 days of Lent, “we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.” (*Hebrews 12:2*) The time of Lent reminds us that “to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” (*Philippians 3:10*) As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle against sin.

Silence for meditation and self-examination.

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: I confess to you and to my brothers and sisters that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone.

M: 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 me, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on me, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness - the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

C: I confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,

C: I confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: I confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: I confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that you have planted in us,

C: I confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive me, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive me, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive me, O Lord.

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear me, Lord, and be merciful; Lord, be my help.

(Psalm 30:10)

(6:30pm) Choir Anthem

Arise, My Soul Arise

Arr. by D. Forrest

Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears:
The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears:
Before the Throne, my Surety stands. My name is written on his hands.

Five bleeding wounds he bears, received on Calvary,
They pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me:
“Forgive him, O, forgive,” they cry, “nor let that ransomed sinner die.”

My God is reconciled, his pard’ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child, I can no longer fear;
With confidence I now draw nigh, And “Abba, Father,” cry.
Arise, my soul, arise!

Please stand.

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

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

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

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

Absolution

M: The almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him only through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Job 40:1-2; 42:1-6

Too often, we put God on trial for his actions and ways, just as Job did. Like Job, we must acknowledge our place instead is to repent in dust and ashes to turn to the Lord for forgiveness.

¹The LORD said to Job:

²“Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?
Let him who accuses God answer him!”

¹Then Job replied to the LORD:

²“I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.

⁴“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you shall answer me.’

⁵My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus’ dinner in Bethany included signs of the coming sacrifice he would make.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn: Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 394



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, sin - ners, ru - ined
2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, come de - filed, with -
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, wound - ed, par - a -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'tis a soul - re -



by the fall; here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
out, with - in; from in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
lyzed, and blind; here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



flows to you, to me, to all, in a full, per -
from the lep - ro - sy of sin, wash your robes and
here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
break his cov - e - nant of blood, signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, o - pened when our Sav - ior died.
make them white; you shall walk with God in light.
will re - store; they that drink shall thirst no more.
deem - er died, sealed when he was glo - ri - fied.

“God on Trial—Accusations”

Offering



Connect Card

Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess once again that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment.

Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: **Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Time for silent meditation.

- M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.
- C: **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: **Amen.**

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.



Hymn: The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

CW 677 sts. 1-3, 5, 8



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, we cel - e -
2 He blot - ted out with his own blood the judg - ment
3 That this for - ev - er true shall be he gives a
5 A pre - cious food is this in - deed, it nev - er
8 Help us sin - cere - ly to be - lieve that we may



brate with one ac - cord; it is our com - fort
that a - gainst us stood; he full a - tone - ment
sol - emn guar - an - tee; in this his ho - ly
fails us in our need, a heav'n - ly man - na
wor - thi - ly re - ceive your sup - per and in



in dis - tress, our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
for us made, and all our debt he ful - ly paid.
sup - per here we taste his love, so sweet, so near.
for our soul un - til we safe - ly reach our goal.
you find rest. A - men! They who be - lieve are blest.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: Christ, the Life of All the Living CW 396 sts. 1-2, 6-7



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of
2 Thou, ah! Thou hast tak - en on thee bonds and stripes, a
6 Thou hast suf - fered great af - flic - tion and hast borne it
7 Then, for all that wrought my par - don, for thy sor - rows



death, our foe, who, thy - self for me once giv - ing
cru - el rod; pain and scorn were heaped up - on thee,
pa - tient - ly, e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion,
deep and sore, for thine an - guish in the gar - den,



to the dark - est depths of woe: through thy suf - f'rings,
O thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst thou my
ful - ly to a - tone for me. Thou didst choose to
I will thank thee ev - er - more, thank thee for thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
soul de - liv - er from the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
groan - ing, sigh - ing, for thy bleed - ing and thy dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
for that last tri - um - phant cry and shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Silent Prayer and Dismissal

Those who do not wish to participate or observe the imposition of ashes are invited to leave at the direction of the ushers after Pastor's announcements. Those desiring to stay are invited to silently read Psalm 51 below to prepare to receive the ashes.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

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

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

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

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

Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

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

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Imposition of Ashes

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in fellowship with him, to love all people, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore,

God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward in the direction of the ushers. Parents may bring their children forward at their discretion.

If you would like to receive the ashes on the back of your hand instead of your forehead, please hold out your hand. Once you receive the ashes please return to your seat.

The pastor or attendant applies the ashes to the forehead or hand in the form of a small cross, saying,

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

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

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

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

Absolution

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Silent Prayer and Dismissal

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Jessica Klatt

Choir Director: Luke Dorn



Midweek Lenten Services: *God on Trial*

The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

Wednesday, February 21st — Sympathy

Wednesday, February 28th — Truth

Wednesday, March 6th — Misconceptions

Wednesday, March 13th — Testimony

Wednesday, March 20th — Restraint

Holy Thursday, March 28th—Respite

Good Friday, March 29th— Evidence

Easter Sunday Dawn, March 31st (7am) — Hymns and Communion

Easter Sunday Festival, March 31st (9 & 10:45am) —

Resurrection Reality—All will be Made Alive

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

