Ash Wednesday Lowering Our Defenses



Atonement Lutheran Church 9121 Old Harford Rd + Parkville, MD 21234 (410)-668-3886

March 5, 2025 – 7 pm

Welcome!

Welcome to worship! We are glad that you have joined us today. Our service is printed for you in its entirety in this worship folder. If you need anything, please speak to an usher at the entrance of the sanctuary.

- **Restrooms** are located near the entry to the sanctuary.
- **Infants Room** If you have a young child or nursing infant and are in need of an infantroom, you will find it to the far right as you enter the sanctuary.
- **The Guest Registry** is found on the wall to the left as you enter the sanctuary. We would appreciate a record of your visit! You may also indicate in the registry if you would like to stay in touch.
- **Our Communion Practice** We believe that gathering at God's altar to receive Holy Communion is a testimony of the confession and commitment we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so that all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice. Thank you.
- Foundations Class If you are interested in learning more about what we teach and believe, please ask the usher or the pastor about our no-obligation Foundations Class which covers the basic teachings of our biblical faith.
- **Prayer before worship** Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise. Amen.

Acknowledgements

Nick Carne Dan Meister Bob Pieper Tim Carne Mark Fostervold Ellen Cammarata Pastor Koelpin Musician HymnSoft Usher Communion Assistant Streaming Greeter Preacher

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+ Order of Worship +

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of lent, reminding us of our mortality and calling us to repent. The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful is what gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (c. A.D. 160-215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. Ashes can remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite of Christian burial – "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...) – words that will someday be spoken over us all.

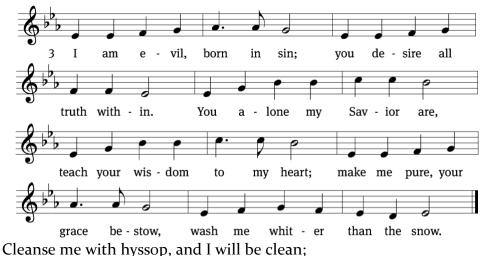
Remain seated

Psalm 51

- M Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
- C according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- M Wash away all my iniquity
- C and cleanse me from my sin.
- M For I know my transgressions,
- C and my sin is always before me.
- M Against you, you only, have I sinned
- C and done what is evil in your sight.

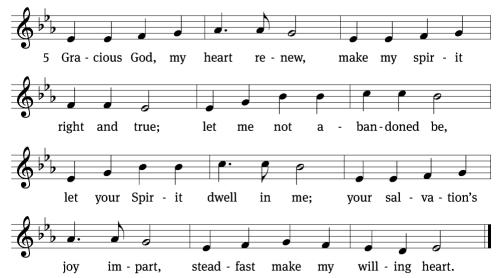
ALL Sing:

Μ



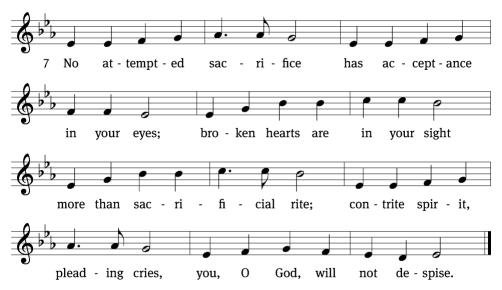
- C wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- M Let me hear joy and gladness;
- C let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- M Hide your face from my sins
- C and blot out all my iniquity.

ALL Sing:



- M Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
- C so that sinners will turn back to you.
- M Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,
- C and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- M Open my lips, Lord,
- C and my mouth will declare your praise.

ALL Sing:



Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead. Text and tune: Public domain

Confession

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.

Most holy and merciful Father,

C we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we 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 us, 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 us, Lord.
- M We have placed our wants before your will.We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.We have merited your punishment now and forever.
- C Have mercy on us, Lord.
- M We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C we confess to you, O Lord.

M Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people, our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C we confess to you, O Lord.

M Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C we 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 us, 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 us, Lord.
- M For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
- C forgive us, Lord.
- M Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
- C Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Ashes can remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite of Christian burial – "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust..." – words that will someday be spoken over us all.

All those who desire may come forward at the direction of the usher to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead.

- M Accomplish in us, Lord, 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,
- C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

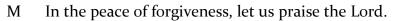
Absolution

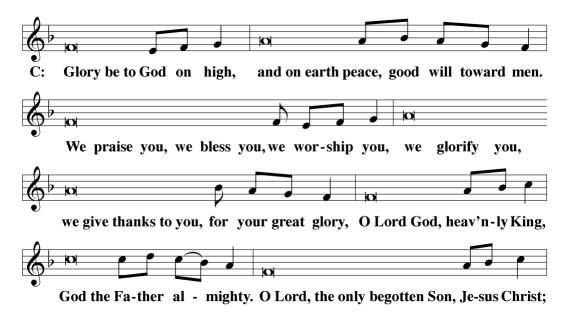
M Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole

world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

- C Amen.
- M 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.

+ Prayer and Praise +







Prayer of the Day

M The Lord be with you.



M Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated

+ The Word +

First Lesson

2 Samuel 12:1-13

The Lord sends the prophet Nathan to call King David to repentance. Nathan lowers David's defenses by telling the king a story about an immoral rich man.

The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor.² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

⁴ "Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him."

⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

¹¹ "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.' "

¹³ Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."

M The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

God sends ambassadors to make his appeal to sinners, imploring them to be reconciled to God.

²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you,

and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

- M The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

Verse of the Day

"Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love."

Alleluias are omitted during the season of Lent.

Stand

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

To lower the defenses of those who are self-righteous, Jesus tells a parable about what makes us righteous in God's eyes – trusting in God's great mercy.

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³ "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴ "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

M The Gospel of the Lord.



Nicene Creed

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day 304 | Jesus Sinners Does Receive



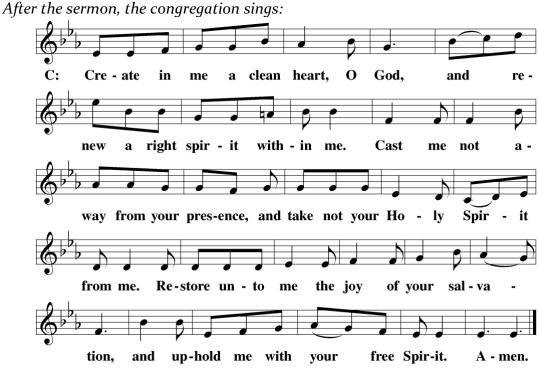
6 Oh, how blest it is to know, Were as scarlet my transgression, It shall be as white as snow By your blood and bitter passion, For these words I do believe— Jesus sinners does receive. 7 Jesus sinners does receive. Even I have been forgiven.
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to him I cleave— Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: MEINEN JESUM LASS ICH NICHT (78 78 77) Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699, alt.

+ SERMON + Lowering Our Defenses

Stand



Be seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

- M Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.
- C Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.
- M Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.
- C Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

+ The Sacrament +

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

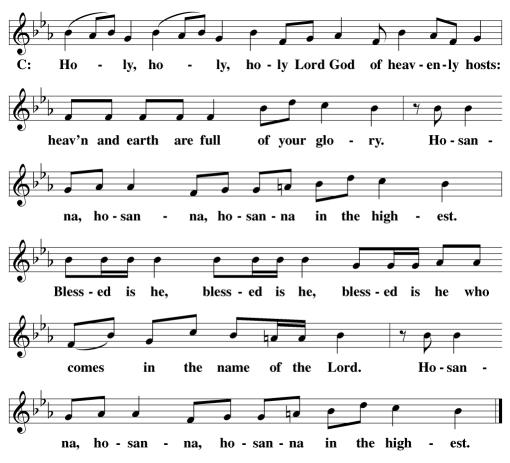
M The Lord be with you.





M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy - Sanctus



Words of Institution

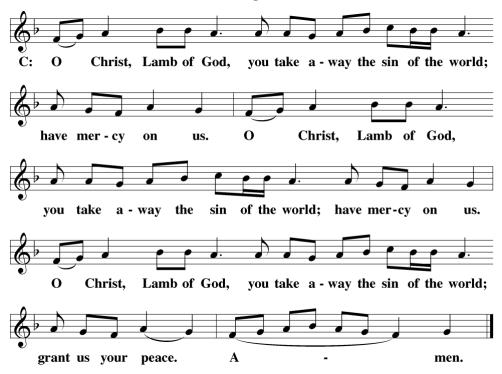
M Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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.



O Christ, Lamb of God – Agnus Dei



Be Seated

Distribution

We believe that gathering at God's altar to receive Holy Communion is a testimony of the confession and commitment we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our Lutheran denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so that all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice. Thank you.

Distribution Hymn 339 | Today Your Mercy Calls Us



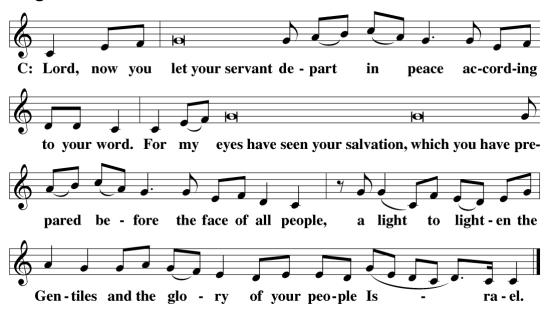
Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857.

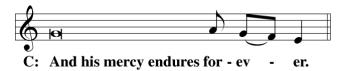
+ Thanksgiving +

Stand

Song of Simeon – Nunc Dimittis



M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

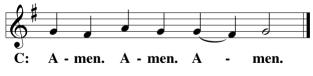


M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



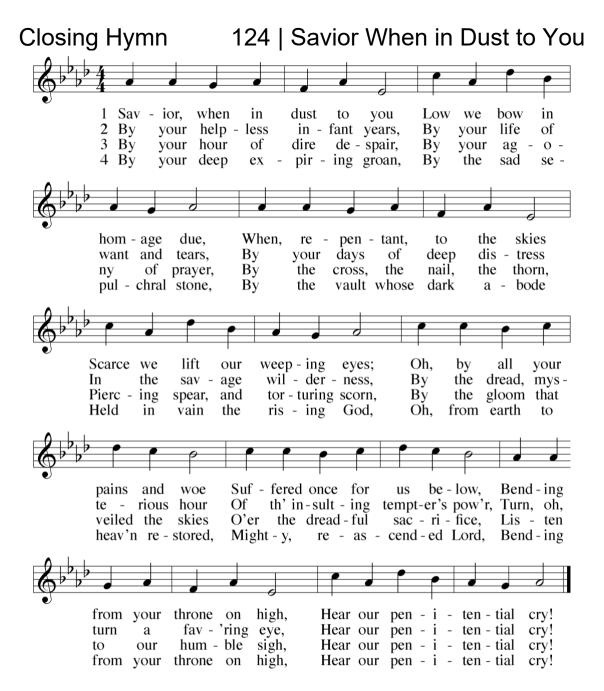
Blessing

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.









Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, abr., alt.

Tune: SPANISH CHANT (77 77 D) Spanish melody, 17th century, adapt.

Announcements

Reminders

- **Daylight Saving's** Be sure that your clock "springs forward" one hour this coming Sunday!
- Henry K. Care Package Remember to bring the snacks or cards you would like to send this Sunday.
- Sunday School This Sunday after Worship.

Lent & Easter Worship Schedule

- March 9 Lent 1
- March 16 Lent 2
- March 23 Lent 3
- March 30 Lent 4
- April 6 Lent 5
- April 13 Palm Sunday
- April 17 @ 7 pm Holy Thursday
- April 18 @ 7 pm Good Friday
- April 20 @ 7 am Easter Dawn
- April 20 @ 10 am Easter Day

Volunteer Schedule

Date	Streaming	Music	Usher	Communion Assistant	Greeter
3/9	Dan M.	Angie C.	Gil P.		Mary Q.
3/16	Audrey S.	Ellen C.	Tim C.	Dan M.	Kathy K.
3/23	Mark F.	Dan M.	Matt W.		Karen M.