



ASH
WEDNESDAY



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Ash Wednesday

March 5th, 2025

The Season

In the Church Year, we have come to the season of Lent. The word Lent comes from an old English word for spring: “lengthen,” when the days grow longer. For over 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the begging 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. Ashes 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.

The Service

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in which we joyfully receive Christ’s body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament we also give public confession of our complete unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church, or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune. If you are a guest visiting with us today, please refrain from communing until you have spoken with our pastor. The congregation reads the portions in bold print.

Prayer before Worship

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Timothy Henning

Organist: Coralee Henning

The congregation gathers in silence. You are invited come forward before the service to trace a cross with ashes on the banner as a sign of repentance and trust in Christ.

Ash Wednesday Confessional Rite

Psalm 51



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my
3 I am e - vil, born in sin; you de - sire all
4 Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by your wrath and



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace
truth with - in. You a - lone my Sav - ior are,
judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your
teach your wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, your
and in glad - ness hear your voice; from my sins, O



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.
grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
hide your face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

- 5 Gracious God, my heart renew,
make my spirit right and true;
let me not abandoned be,
let your Spirit dwell in me;
your salvation's joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.
- 6 Sinners then shall learn from me
and to God restored shall be;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
and my tongue shall sing your love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall praise accord.
- 7 No attempted sacrifice
has acceptance in your eyes;
broken hearts are in your sight
more than sacrificial rite;
contrite spirit, pleading cries,
you, O God, will not despise.
- 8 Prosper Zion in your grace
and her broken walls replace;
then our righteous sacrifice
shall delight your holy eyes;
freewill off-rings, gladly made,
on your altar shall be laid.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introduction to Confession

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.

Confession

Most holy and merciful Father,

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.

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, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives
we confess to you, O Lord.

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

we confess to you, O Lord.

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
we confess to you, O Lord.

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

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and
contempt for those who differ from us,
forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

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

Sentences

Accomplish in us, Lord, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

The Word

Stand

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Be seated

I am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

Sunday School 6:30 pm

First Reading

2 Samuel 12:1–13

¹The 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. ²The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³but 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.”

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

⁷Then 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Why 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. ¹⁰Now, 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. ¹²You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’ ”

¹³Then 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

Psalm 130F



1 From depths of woe I cry to thee, Lord, hear me,
2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail to blot out
3 There - fore my hope is in the LORD and not in
4 And though it tar - ry till the night and till the
5 Though great our sins and sore our woes, his grace much



I im - plore thee. Bend down thy gra - cious
my trans - gres - sion; the best and ho - liest
mine own mer - it; it rests up - on his
morn - ing wak - en, my heart shall nev - er
more a - bound - eth; his help - ing love no



ear to me, my prayer let come be - fore thee.
deeds must fail to break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
faith - ful word to them of con - trite spir - it
doubt his might nor count it - self for - sak - en.
lim - it knows, our ut - most need it sound - eth.



If thou re - mem - b'rest each mis - deed, if each should
Be - fore thee none can boast - ing stand, but all must
that he is mer - ci - ful and just; this is my
Do thus, O ye of Is - rael's seed, ye of the
Our shep - herd good and true is he, who will at



have its right - ful meed, who may a - bide thy pres - ence?
fear thy strict de - mand and live a - lone by mer - cy.
com - fort and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.
Spir - it born in - deed; wait for your God's ap - pear - ing.
last his Is - rael free from all their sin and sor - row.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2

²⁰We 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. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

Luke 18:9–14

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh

CW 982



1 With bro - ken heart and con - trite sigh, a trem - bling
2 I bow my head by sin dis - tressed, with deep and
3 Far off I stand with tear - ful eyes nor dare up -
4 No gifts, no deeds that I have done can for a
5 And when, re - deemed from sin and hell, with all the



sin - ner, Lord, I cry. Your par - d'ning grace is
pain - ful guilt op - pressed, the cross of Christ my
lift them to the skies, but you can all my
sin - gle sin a - tone. To Cal - va - ry a -
ran - somed souls I dwell, my joy - ous song shall



rich and free— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
on - ly plea— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
an - guish see— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
lone I flee— O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!
ev - er be: God has been mer - ci - ful to me!

Text: Cornelius Elven, 1791–1873, alt. Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Psalm 51:7 We Rely on God's Grace

Stand

The Second Article (Redemption)

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Offering: *God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.*



The Sacrament

Stand

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,	as we forgive those
hallowed be your name,	who sin against us.
your kingdom come,	Lead us not into temptation,
your will be done	but deliver us from evil.
on earth as in heaven.	For the kingdom, the power,
Give us today our daily bread.	and the glory are yours
Forgive us our sins,	now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

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

Distribution

Personal Prayer before Communing

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Personal Prayer after Communing

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know, 7 Jesus sinners does receive,
 were as scarlet my transgression, even I have been forgiven.
 it shall be as white as snow And when I this earth must leave,
 by your blood and bitter passion, I shall find an open heaven.
 for these words I do believe: Dying, still to him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners does receive. Jesus sinners does receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace,
 from the law I stand acquitted.
 Christ has purchased my release
 and my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699
 Text and tune: Public domain

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go † in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you 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.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

In Adam We Have All Been One

CW 565 sts. 1, 4-6



1 In Ad - am we have all been one, one
4 O Sav - ior, when we loved you not, you
5 Send us your Spir - it, teach us truth to
6 Then shall our song u - nit - ed rise to



huge re - bel - lious man; we all have fled that
loved and saved us all; O great Good Shep - herd
purge our van - i - ty; from fan - cied wis - dom,
your e - ter - nal throne, where with the Fa - ther



eve - ning voice that sought us as we ran.
of man - kind, now hear us when we call.
self - sought ways, O Sav - ior, set us free.
ev - er - more and Spir - it you are one.

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976, alt.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-1993

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Setting One from Christian Worship

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Lenten **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

REFLECTIONS ON REPENTANCE

Services: Wednesdays @ 3:30 pm & 6:30 pm
Soup Suppers each Wednesday: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

March 12th: Removing Our Guilt – Pastor
Rohrback

March 19th: Realizing Our Need for Repentance –
Pastor Loescher

March 26th: Recognizing against Whom We Sin –
Vicar Wendland

April 2nd: Revealing Our Sinful Nature – Pastor
Woldt

April 9th: Remembering God's Perfect Demands
– Pastor Bode

Holy **WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

April 17th: Holy Thursday
1:00 pm & 6:30 pm Service with Holy
Communion

April 18th: Good Friday
1:00 pm Service of the Seven Words
6:30 pm Tenebrae (Darkness)

**April 18th: Easter Sunday - The Festival of
the Resurrection**

6:00 am Sunrise Service
7:00-8:00 am Easter Breakfast
8:30 am & 10:30 am Festival Worship

