



ASH WEDNESDAY

Grace Lutheran Church

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

12:15 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 17, 2021

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the season in which we “put away” our Alleluias and meditate on our Lord’s cross. Ashes remind us of our sinfulness and mortality, but the sign of the cross and the promise of resurrection offers us hope in the midst of despair.



PRELUDE *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*.....arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME TO GRACE

PSALM 51.....Laurel Sanders

This is a musical arrangement of Psalm 51, the great penitential psalm that we associate with Ash Wednesday. Reproduced below for your contemplation is the NRSV text of Psalm 51:1-17

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.
- ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit it within me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

- ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

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 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 judgements, 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.

GOD FORGIVES US

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(6:30) FIRST LESSON.....Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow 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—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?'"

(6:30) SECOND LESSON.....2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in

heaven.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (*spoken*)

SERMON.....Pastor Schul

HYMN *The Glory of These Forty Days*.....ELW # 320

The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is
seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to
judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrect
tion of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(6:30) OFFERTORY MUSIC

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake.....Farrant
Adult Choir

*During the offertory, take a moment to thank God for all that
God has provided to you. Ask God to reveal how God is
calling you to share your time, treasures, and talents.*

(6:30) OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in
our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that
we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*spoken*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all
places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through

our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(spoken)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

C: 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.

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

C: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

P: The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

You may now consume the communion wafer. As you do so, communion music reflect upon how Christ has come to you in Holy Communion and the many ways Christ comes to you in the ordinary course of each day. Please take the wafer baggie home; it can be recycled.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.....arr. David Johnson

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND BLESSING

P: 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 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.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As the sending hymn begins, the ushers will direct all cars toward the traffic circle, where the pastors will apply ashes to your hand in a no-contact fashion via a cotton swab. While remaining in your car and fully masked simply make a hand available to the pastors when it's your turn. Contemplate the words you will hear: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

SENDING HYMN *Just As I Am, without One Plea*.....ELW # 592

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

POSTLUDE *Savior, When In Dust to You*.....arr. Gerald Near



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
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 Nathan Glocke.....Adult Choir Director
 Cynthia Mills.....Organist
 Pat Lloyd & June Miller.....Pianists
 Joan Kovalchik.....Flute
 John Palmgren.....Sound Technician

The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

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 ELW 592 – Just As I Am, without One Plea

LENT 2021 CALENDAR

6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer

Each Wednesday, beginning on February 24, 2021, the pastors will lead a 15 minute contemplative evening prayer service by candlelight. You can access the service by going to our website, www.glcpa.org and clicking on the blue triangle on the right hand side of the page. It will take you to our YouTube channel, “Grace Lutheran State College, PA.” At the top you will see Worship videos and the first category will say “Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer.” You can join us “together in spirit” at 6:30 or whenever you want to be embraced by God’s mercy, grace and peace. And whenever you do, why not light a candle with us?

WEDNESDAY AUDIO BIBLE STUDIES

Each Wednesday, at 7:00 a.m. a new audio discussion of the upcoming Sunday’s Bible lessons is led by the pastors via our “Pocketful of Grace” podcast . You can tune in and listen by going to our website, www.glcpa.org and clicking on Sermons in the upper right hand corner. Just below the picture of the cross on that page you will see “Listen to Grace Podcasts here!” Click HEAR PODCASTS and catch up with prayers, questions and discussion. You can also listen to this podcast by visiting our Faith Formation website, www.glcfaithformation.org, on our Facebook page. Or use any of the podcast platforms to find “Pocketful of Grace.”