

# St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

10:00 am & 7:15 pm Services

## *Ash Wednesday*

**Introduction to the Day:** On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

*Ashes in worship carry dual symbolism: they are a reminder of our mortality and a sign of repentance. Certain scripture texts, such as this one from Genesis 3:19, come to mind: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” These words are spoken as the sign of the cross is marked with ash on our foreheads. They remind us that we belong to the creation in all its fullness – both living and finite. We also read in Job 42:6: “I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes. “Ashes call us to lifelong repentance and conversion. When we repent, we turn our face to a new voice and begin walking in a new direction. All of these implications are carried in our Ash Wednesday worship, brought to life by way of rich liturgy, honest confession, and strong proclamation.*

## *Gathering*

Prelude

*Just As I Am* arr. by Rolin R. Mains

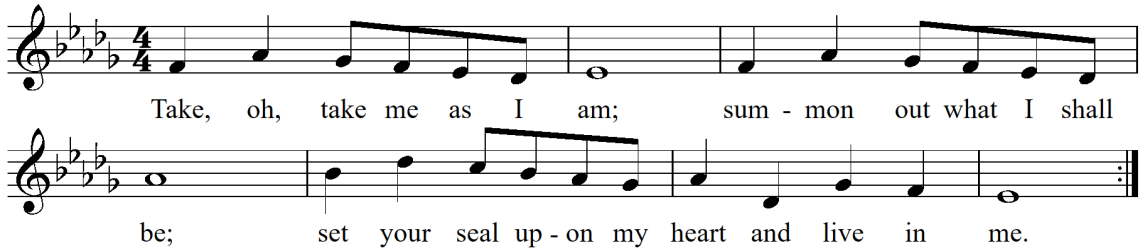
*Please stand as you are able.*

Call to Worship

Brothers and sisters in Christ, every year during the time of Lent to Easter, we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to practice with discipline daily repentance and compassion, our daily dying and rising in union with Christ. We begin this season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Call to Confession

## Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



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## Ash Wednesday Confession with Psalm 51

Let us make confession to our God.

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness, in your great compassion blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.**

But if we are sorry and penitent of our sins, God, our faithful God will forgive us.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

**Make me hear of joy and gladness that the body you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

With the Lord there is a fullness and redemption in peace.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of light.

**I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you. Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God**

of my salvation. Open my  
your praise.

lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim

### The Imposition of Ashes and Communion

As children of Adam and Eve,

**we are dust and to dust we shall return.**

As people who believe in the cross, which makes us free,

**we are destined to live in everlasting bliss.**

Because of the cross, death and its ashes are no more.

**And because of Christ, all who believe will be saved.**

Loving God, you create us from the dust of the earth; may these ashes be for us a sign of  
our penitence and our mortality, and a reminder that only by the cross do we  
receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*Those desiring to receive ashes as a sign of frailty, repentance and renewal may come forward,  
to receive ashes. The ashes are applied with the words: Remember that you are dust, and  
to dust you shall return. Your response is: **Amen.***

Anthem 10:00

*Steal Away* by Bill Ingram - The EmBELLishments

Hymn

**#608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling**

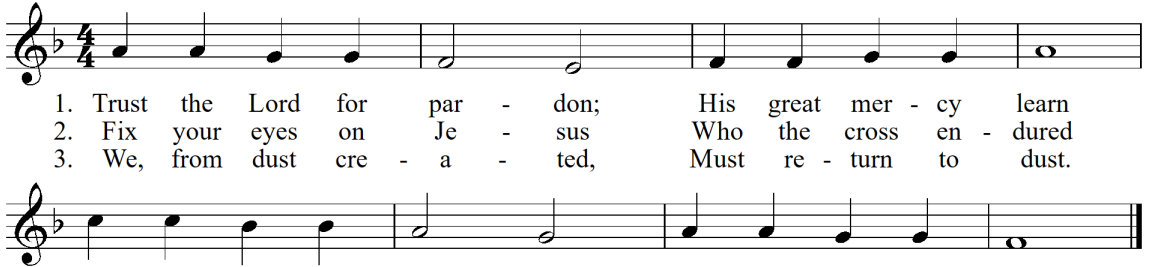
*Please stand as you are able.*

Forgiveness

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore  
declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Response

**We from Dust Created**

And his lov - ing - kind - ness. To your God re - turn.  
 That the world's sal - va - tion Thus might be se - cured.  
 Thus in Christ, Our Sav - ior, Place we all our trust.

Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 2001 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Tune: Wem in Leidenstagen, 65 65. Music: Friedrich Filitz, 1847.

## Prayer of the Day

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.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Word

## First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

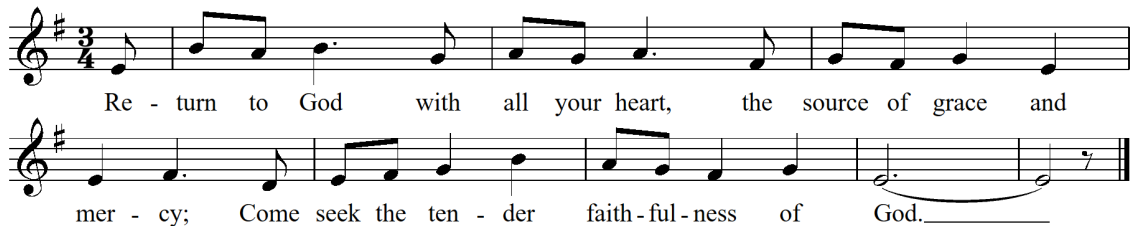
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Gospel Acclamation

**Return to God with All Your Heart**



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Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

*Please stand as you are able.*

Hymn of the Day

**#745 Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright**

*(Prayer Cards will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)*

Profession of Faith

**Apostles' Creed**

**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 resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

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

...Merciful God,

**Receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## Meal

Musical Offering 10:00

*Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen* arr. by Bill Ingram  
- The Embellishments

7:15

*All Things of Dust to Dust Return* by John Ferguson  
- Senior Choir

*Please stand as you are able.*

Offertory

### When Grains of Wheat Fall

1. When grains of wheat fall in the ground, live;  
2. With Christ we die; with Christ we live;  
New To life with in their death is found.  
To Christ our ran - somed lives we give.  
When grapes are crushed, there flows new wine.  
With grate - ful hearts, our gifts new in hand,  
So Be - from Christ's death flow gifts Christ di - vine.  
fore the cross of Christ we stand.

Text: Arden Mead. Copyright: © 1999 Creative Communications. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Tune:  
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Offertory Prayer

God of mercy, we offer you our hearts of dust. We offer up the empty places within our hearts. Fill them with new hearts, hearts that love with no fear as freely as they are loved. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the

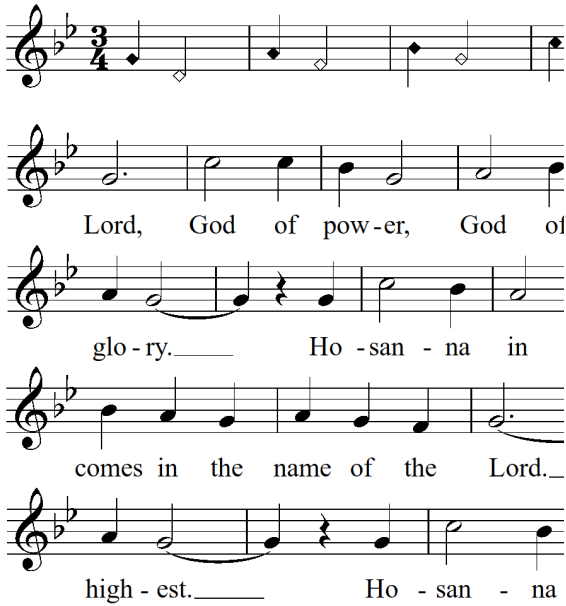
desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your, mercy and join with saints and angels forever praising your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy**



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## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

**We prepare our hearts to receive this meal.**

*Please be seated.*

Call to Communion

**#481 Come to the Table**

Distribution Hymn

**#592 Just As I Am, without One Plea**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his love and grace.

**Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. O Christ, you took on mortal clay. You became dust, even as we are dust. And then you broke your clay body for us. You became as one of us to show us compassion and love. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

**Amen.**

## *Sending*

Blessing

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Be with us in compassion as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Sending Hymn

**#320 The Glory of These Forty Days**

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Der Am Kreuz – On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

*A healing service will follow directly after the postlude.*

*10:00 in the Sanctuary, 7:15 in the East Chapel*

**FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 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—  
<sup>2</sup>a 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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    <sup>13</sup>rend 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.  
<sup>14</sup>Who 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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
    <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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?'"

or Isaiah 58:1-12 [not printed]

**Psalms 51:1-17****SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians**

**5:20b—6:10** [not printed]

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

[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 Father in heaven.

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

<sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>But 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.

<sup>16</sup>"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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so 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.

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

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11.

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Tracks 1 and 2

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