

# **ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 14, 2024  
7:00 PM



## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

### **Invitation to Lent**

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## Confession of Sin

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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 have 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 judgments, 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.**

**Gathering Hymn:** Our Father, We have Wandered—WOV 733

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

For all readings, please see the Celebrate insert

**First Reading:** Joel 2:1-2,12-17

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

Psalm 51:1-17

Read responsively

**Second Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music:** Choir: Ah, Holy Jesus

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the sixth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Message

Hymn of the Day: Just as I Am , Without One Plea

LBW 296

### Imposition of Ashes

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.*

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

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

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

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

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.**

**Prayers of intercession:** Please see the Celebrate insert

### Offering Prayer:

P: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

### Great Thanksgiving

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.

### Preface for Lent

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 the 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:



## **Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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 for the 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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.

Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.  
**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

With all your saints and your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.  
**C: Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**



### Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### Music during Communion

### Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray.

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.**

### SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Dismissal

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Sending Hymn::** O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days                      LBW 99

### Postlude

#### Our worshiping community this evening:

**Pastor:** Rev. Angela Hammer

**Musicians:** Linda Holt and JP Welliver

**Worship/Communion Assistant:** Karen Stump    **Lay Reader:** Mike DeLong

**Live Streaming:** William and Beverly Hoffman

Wednesday Community Lenten Suppers (6PM) and Services (7PM)

February 21—St. Paul's UCC

February 28—Zion UMC

March 6—Krall's Mennonite

March 13—St. Luke Lutheran

March 20—Trinity UMC (Kleinfeltersville)