

ASH WEDNESDAY * FEBRUARY 14, 2024
WOODLAKE & HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCHES

The “+” insignia indicates when congregation will stand

GATHERING

Gathering in silence is not a common occurrence in many communities today, but just as rests in music are as important as notes sounded in musical piece, so silence is an important element in our worship, especially on reflective days like Ash Wednesday.

RINGING OF THE BELL *(please remain seated)*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The season of Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

C: Lent calls us to test the edges, to see if God is calling us beyond our comfort.

L; Lent calls some to give up something, and others to participate in something new.

C: however we are challenged during Lent, we trust that Christ is with us.

L: We gather as a community of faith,

C: Seeking Christ in our neighbor, seeking to be Christ to our neighbor,

L: Welcoming all, those who know Christ and those who want to know Christ more,

C: We come as we are, embraced by the grace of God

+GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

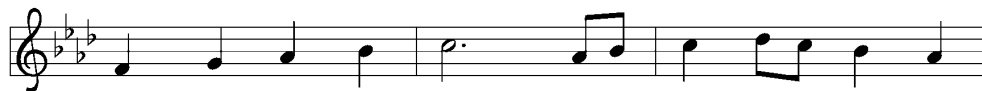


+HYMN: *ELW 319 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
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Psalm 51:1–17

*We read the Psalm responsively with the leader; All read the **Bold** passages.*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your **steadfast love;**
in your great compassion blot out **my offenses.**

²**Wash me through and through** **from my wickedness,**
and cleanse me **from my sin.**

³For I know **my offenses,**
and my sin is ev - **er** before me.

⁴**Against 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.**

⁶**Indeed, 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 pur - **er** 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 spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. **R**

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim 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.

LENTEN VERSE

All: *Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.*

Choir: *You are the potter; I am the clay.
(7 pm only) Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.*

All: *Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.*



READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel

and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?



⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.



L: Word of God, Word of life. C: **Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION - Tune My Heart

Silence for Reflection

INVITATION TO LENT

L: 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 the 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

L: God of our Hearts,
not of our outer garments, nor our church structures,
nor our programs and human plans:

C: You are the only one who can make us pure.

You are the only one who can wash us clean of all our sin and guilt.

L: You are the merciful and just God. If we turn, we see you.

C: Help us to tune our hearts to resonate your grace, as together we confess:

L: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

C: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.

C: We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

L: 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: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Receive our confession, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & PERSONAL PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

Please come forward on your own without the ushers' signal. You may come immediately or you may wait - and if you prefer not to take part, you may remain seated without embarrassment. If you wish for someone to pray with you after ashes have been imposed on your forehead, simply walk to the nearest station where someone will gladly hear your prayer concerns and offer personal prayer.

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

Lord, Create in Me

K. Lee Scott

Woodlake & HOP Combined Choirs (7 pm only)
(sung during Imposition of Ashes)

(Once all have received the imposition of ashes, we continue.)

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

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

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

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

PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING

Thee We Adore

arr. Ralph Johnson

Woodlake & HOP Combined Choirs (7 pm only)

PRAYERS

Each petition concludes with, "Merciful God."

The congregation gathered responds with, "**Receive our Prayer.**"

***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.

Jesus, Remember Me

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
 Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
 Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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+BLESSING**+DISMISSAL**

L: 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.**

+RINGING OF THE BELL

As the final bell is rung, we quietly prepare our hearts for the beginning of our Lenten journey...

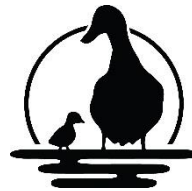
The service ends in silence.

Worship Participants

Pastors/Preachers: Eric Luedtke, Micah Pearson, Neal Cannon
Musicians: Roselyn Hanson Weber, HOP Director of Liturgical Worship
Andy Pokel, Woodlake Worship and Music Director
Mandy Ylvisaker, Pianist (8:30am)
Roselyn Hanson Weber, Organist (7pm)
Special Music: HOP and Woodlake Combined Adult Choirs
Lector/Intercessor: Shirley Moen
AV Tech: Ethan Alberg



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