



*"Remember  
that you are dust"*

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**NURSERY AVAILABLE** We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

## + PREPARATION +

### **SERIES THEME: “GOOD NEWS FROM THE BEGINNING: THE GOSPEL IN GENESIS”**

### **TITLE: “The Good News of a Savior Who Covers Our Sin”**

**AS WE GATHER:** The season of the Church Year that starts with Ash Wednesday is known by differing terms in various nations. The official term that dates back to the sixth century AD is Quadragesima, from the Latin word for “fortieth.” This term is carried forward in Latin-based languages such as Spanish (*cuaresma*) and Italian (*Quaresima*). Central Europeans reflect the self-denial aspect of the Lenten time using the term *Fastenzeit* (fasting time) in Germany and *Nagy-bost* (great fast) in Hungary. That naming tradition is also kept in Arabic-speaking countries, where the term *Sawm al-Kabir* (big fast) is used. Northern Europeans and related countries refer to the season of the year, relating back to the old Anglo-Saxon word *Lengten-tide* (springtime), which described when the days lengthened light-wise. Although the terms for the forty days of Lent may differ, the spiritual importance of “the forty” remains constant and powerful. May keeping this time of penance and prayer with “sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8) lead us to observe a blessed and holy Lent!

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

## **INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **ADDRESS**

**P** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

### **+ IMPOSITION OF ASHES +**

**P** On Ash Wednesday, many congregations practice the imposition of ashes. But why? The imposition of ashes can be a powerful, tactile reminder of both Law and Gospel in which worshipers of any age can take part. Many times, the words “dust you are, and to dust you shall return” are spoken as ashes are received on the forehead. These words remind us that as a result of sin and the fall, death is a reality.

Ashes also call to mind the practice in Scripture of wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign of sorrow and repentance of sin. Typically, however, the ashes are marked in the shape of the cross, pointing us to the promise of forgiveness of sin through Jesus’ crucifixion for us. After leaving worship, we will each eventually wash off the ashen cross. As we splash water on our foreheads, we remember our Baptism, where we were cleansed of sin through water and the Word. Whether literally marked with ashes or not, we all enter this penitential season of Lent praying that God Almighty would have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

*(Worshipers who desire to receive ashes come forward at this time and stand before the pastor. The pastor applies the ashes in the shape of the cross to the forehead or hand while saying to each person, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”)*

### **+ MUSIC DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES +**

#### **Psalm 51 (sung by cantors)**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your | steadfast love; \*  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my trans- | gressions.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity, \*  
and cleanse me | from my sin!

<sup>3</sup>For I know my trans- | gressions, \*  
and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

- <sup>4</sup>Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil | in your sight,\*  
so that you may be justified in your words  
and blameless in your | judgment.
- <sup>5</sup>Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,\*  
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- <sup>6</sup>Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,\*  
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
- <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;\*  
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and | gladness;\*  
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my in- | iquities.
- <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, | O God,\*  
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your | presence,\*  
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.
- <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,\*  
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.
- <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,\*  
and sinners will re- | turn to you.
- <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
O God of my sal- | vation,\*  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your | righteousness.
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open | my lips,\*  
and my mouth will de- | clare your praise.
- <sup>16</sup>For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would | give it;\*  
you will not be pleased with a burnt | offering.
- <sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken | spirit;\*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.
- <sup>18</sup>Do good to Zion in your good | pleasure;\*  
build up the walls of Je- | rusalem;
- <sup>19</sup>then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt | offerings;\*  
then bulls will be offered on your | altar.

**☐ Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

# “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

LSB 419



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -  
 dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode  
 Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to  
 pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”, Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903, Tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION

**P** Let us humbly go to God, confessing our sins.

Almighty, eternal, loving Father,

**C** we confess to You and one another not only that we have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions but that each failing has been a symptom of our sinful condition.

**We have tried to overlook our faults but realize the truth of our fallenness. We have tried to do better by our own strength but have fallen back into sin again. We are helpless to change by ourselves.**

**P** Dear Lord, like our spiritual ancestor David, whose words You inspired in the Psalms, we too are guilty of sin:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**C** **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

**P** Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

**C** **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

**P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**C** **Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**C** **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**P** Let me hear joy and gladness;

**C** **let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

**P** Hide Your face from my sins,

**C** **and blot out all my iniquities.**

**P** Let us go to our gracious God, asking for mercy.

**C** **We are not the people You would have us be; we are not what we had hoped for; we throw ourselves on the mercy of Your holy court, asking Your forgiveness and renewal of life for the sake of our Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## ABSOLUTION

**P** God does not desire the death of sinners, but that they may live forgiven in His presence. He sent His Son, our Lord Jesus, to take our sins upon Himself and then to rise in our place, drawing people of faith to His eternal realm. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious and merciful God, You forgive the sins of all who come to You with penitent and contrite hearts. Grant us the spirit of true repentance to acknowledge our sins and to find in You forgiveness and restoration, wholeness, and peace; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

**C** Amen.

## + THE WORD +

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 3:1-13, 21 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.



<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2 (ESV)

<sup>20b</sup> We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup> Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For He says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14 (ESV)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>9</sup> [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

<sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”**

LSB 563

- 1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,  
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;  
Fully absolved through these I am  
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,  
Which at the mercy seat of God  
Pleads for the captives’ liberty,  
Was also shed in love for me.
- 4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more  
Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,  
For all a full atonement made.
- 5 When from the dust of death I rise  
To claim my mansion in the skies,  
This then shall be my only plea:  
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,  
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
An everlasting ransom paid.

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”, Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt., Text: Public domain

## SERMON

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
"GOOD NEWS—A SAVIOR COVERS OUR SIN" Genesis 3:1-13, 21

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*(Our offerings are made as an act of worship, given in loving response to all that God has graciously given us, both materially and spiritually.)*

### (7:00pm) "Out of the Depths"

(based on Psalm 130:1-5) - Richard Frost

#### Ascension Choir

*Out of the depths have I cried unto You.  
Lord, hear my voice, Lord, hear my voice.  
Lord, let Your ear be attentive to my cry;  
Lord, hear my cry for mercy.*

*If You, O Lord, kept a record of sin,  
Who, then, could stand?  
Lord, O Lord, who, then, could stand?  
But with You, Lord, there is forgiveness.  
Therefore, You may be feared.  
I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait,  
And in His word do I hope.*

*If You, O Lord, kept a record of sin,  
O Lord, who, then, could stand?  
But with You, Lord, there is forgiveness.  
Therefore, we will not fear.*

*I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait,  
And in His word do I hope.*

### "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (sung twice)

LSB 780

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;  
When I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O  
Lord, hear my prayer; Come and lis - ten to me. O

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer", Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94, Tune: © 1982 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, Taizé Community, France, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

## LITANY

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** God the Father in heaven,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;  
by Your holy nativity;  
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by Your agony and bloody sweat;  
by Your cross and passion;  
by Your precious death and burial;  
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death;  
and in the day of judgment:

**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C** to hear us, O Lord.

**P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word;  
to bless our prayer and meditation;  
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;  
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

**P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

## CLOSING SCRIPTURE

- P** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
- C** **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**
- P** Return to the LORD, your God,
- C** **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## BENEDICTION

- P** God Almighty—the Father, who sent His Son down for you; the Son, who obeyed that you might rise up to be with Him forever; and the Holy Spirit, who has bestowed faith on you to trust all that has been done for you—bless and keep you this Lent and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## HYMN INTRODUCTION

- P** The season of Lent as a time of prayer, fasting, and repentance has a long history in the Christian Church. All the way back in the year AD 325, a document from the Council of Nicaea set forth a forty-day period leading up to Holy Week and Easter as a time of special devotion. The hymn “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” recalls the time Jesus went without food in the wilderness prior to His temptation by Satan. Through the words of the hymn, we pray that our observance of a holy Lent would reflect the sacrificial love and determination of our Savior as He carried out God’s gracious plan of salvation for us.

### “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

LSB 418

- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.

- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God's eternal Word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven's praise.

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days", Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930–2024, Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

## DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
**G** Thanks be to God.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## Our Mission Statement:

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## Our Vision Statement:

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God's witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## STAFF

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