

# ASH WEDNESDAY



Artwork by BJ Daniel

**The Good Shepherd - John 10:1-18**

WOVEN IN GRACE



MUHLENBERG  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



## **WELCOME!**

We welcome you who are visiting with us and we pray God's blessings upon your worship here tonight. Guests are encouraged to complete one of the blue cards in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate or give it to an usher, or **scan this QR Code** with your smart phone to complete the visitor card digitally.



## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

The practice of using ashes made from the burning of palm branches dates back to at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. The practice is an example of death and renewal as shown forth in the ancient custom of burning the fields in the spring to destroy the old and prepare for the new. Ashes also suggest both God's judgment of sin and our human frailty, reminding us that the words "... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" will one day be spoken over us.

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. The ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

# Ash Wednesday Liturgy

March 2, 2022 ~ 7:00 pm

*We gather in silence.*

**PSALM** ~ Psalm 51:1-15 *We sing responsively between choir & congregation. All sing Refrain.*

Have mer - cy on me, O  
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- <sup>4</sup>**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. REFRAIN**
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me. REFRAIN**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup>**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness. REFRAIN**
- <sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

## GREETING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

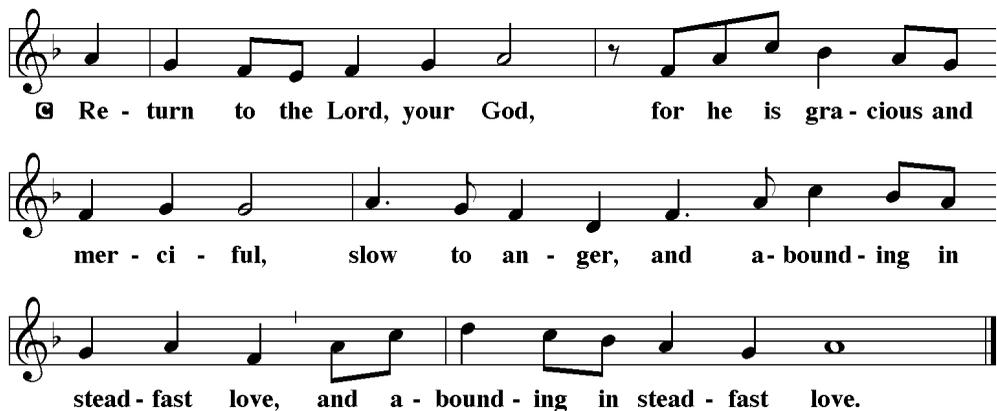
Loving God, Your son came, and like a good shepherd, gave his life for your sheep. Receive our humble gratitude for this act of sacrifice and courage.  
**Amen.**

## PSALM 23 *sung by choir*

The Lord Is My Shepherd (tune: J. Wise; acc. by M. Haugen)

*(We stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL ~ John 10:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen

to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We sit)

**SERMON**

Pastor Lauren Eanes

(We stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

## Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart  
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

## INVITATION TO LENT

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.

*(We sit)*

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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.*

Most holy and merciful God, **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.**

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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

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.**

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

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

*“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

*Music during the Imposition of Ashes*

*Seek First God’s Kingdom* (tune: SEEK FIRST; arr. T. Pavlechko)

Choir

*Abide with Me ~ see next page*

# Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

*After all who desire ashes have received them:*

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

**That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

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

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

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. **Amen.**

*(We stand)*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition:*

. . . Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: "Peace be with you."*

*(We sit)*

## **OFFERING**

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (arr. W. Wold, 2020)

Organ

*(We stand)*

**OFFERING SONG** *we sing verses 1 & 4*

## Restore in Us, O God



- 1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
- 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
- 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

### OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, **O Lord our God, maker of all things.** Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### THE 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 . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,  
 and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
 so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
 but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
 to fulfill for us your holy will  
 and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,

we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

*~see next page~*

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,  
 your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.  
 Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we  
 for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al  
 and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,  
 and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Hear the voice of the Shepherd calling:  
 Eat, drink, be filled with this meal of grace.

*(We sit)*

## COMMUNION

*Processional Communion:*

*All are welcome to come to the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward to receive the prepackaged communion kit. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.*

*As the minister says, "The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you," you may take the elements and say: "Amen." Then return to your seat to remove your mask and consume the elements. If you need gluten-free and/or non-alcoholic juice communion elements, they are located on a small table at the front. Take one and present it to the pastor for blessing. Please dispose of your communion packaging in the trash can by the doors on your way out.*

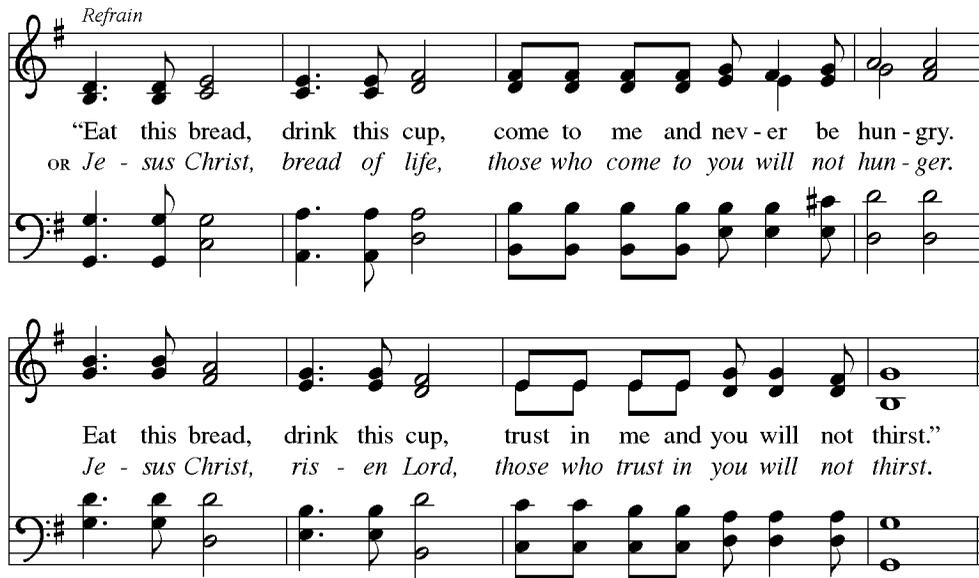
## DISTRIBUTION MUSIC ~ Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

# Eat This Bread

## *Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

*Refrain*



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
or Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

(We stand)

### **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

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

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts. Weave us together into one body, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN

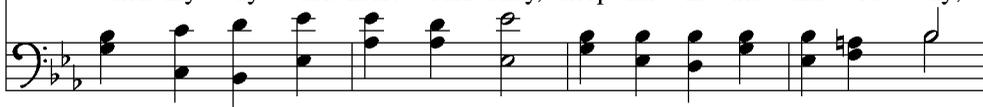
## Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.  
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.  
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.  
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.  
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.  
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.  
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.  
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.



## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*A Lenten Psalm* (arr. W. Hutson, 1984)

## **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE**

**PREACHING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Lauren Miller

**PRESIDING MINISTER** ~ Pastor Alex Zuber

**CRUCIFER** ~ Bill Whitmire

**LAY ASSISTING MINISTER** ~ Linda Alley

**USHERS/GREETERS** ~ Jeff Williams, Karen Thomsen

**MUSIC MINISTER** ~ Elizabeth Williams

**MUSIC MINISTRY ACCOMPANIST** ~ Linlin Uta

**MUSICIANS** ~ Members of Sanctuary Choir & Celebration Singers

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Permission to print/podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license # A-701538, CCLI license # 20104877, Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License: SAS014720, and St James Press, license #15220.

The logo for "Woven in Grace" features the words "WOVEN IN GRACE" in a white, stylized, cursive font. The text is set against a circular background of intricate, golden-brown threadwork that resembles a woven fabric or tapestry. The background of the entire banner is a deep purple with a subtle, shimmering texture.

A LENTEN JOURNEY INTO  
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



The forty days of Lent invite people of faith to bring renewed focus to the call of discipleship, and awaken to the work of the Spirit in our lives and in our world. In many ways, Lent is a season of simplifying, refocusing, and weaving our daily patterns into the heart of the gospel. There are many ways to observe this season, but the traditional Lenten disciplines are giving of alms to the poor, praying, and fasting. Each of these is meant to focus our hearts and minds on God's activity in our lives. Individuals and families can choose how to observe this season of faithful simplicity. Lent is a season with meaningful individual practices and faithfulness that builds community. The promises of the gospel that we gather around this season are like unique threads that weave us together in love. The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus knit us together eternally into one body in Christ. The common thread to this rich tapestry of life is the abundant grace of God. Join us for a journey into the fabric of our faith, explore our unity in Christ, and discern together what it means to be **Woven in Grace**. For links and other ways to connect to Muhlenberg during Lent, see ***The Chimes*** or visit [muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2022](http://muhlenberglutheran.org/Lent2022).

**Sundays in Lent** ~ Join us for worship (8:30, 11:00 am).

**Each Thursday through April 7** ~ Midday recital series each Thursday at noon.  
Join us for this musical treat.

**Palm Sunday April 10** ~ Worship at 8:30, 11:00 am.

**Maundy Thursday, April 14** ~ Worship at 7 pm.

**Good Friday, April 15** ~ Worship at 7 pm.

**Easter Vigil, April 16** ~ Worship at 4:00 pm

**Easter Sunday, April 17** ~ Join us for the celebration in worship at 8:30, 11:00 am!

**Join us – all are welcome!**

Watch *The Chimes* for additional details.