



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN
Church & Student Center

A Jesus-Centered Community of Scripture, Faith, and Grace.



**University Lutheran Church
And Student Center
925 W. Jefferson St. / 850 224 6059**

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

Rev. Jay Winters, Pastor

WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN

Ash Wednesday is celebrated around the world as a solemn day beginning a Lenten journey. Tonight we begin a journey marked by the Cross of Christ. Just as we received the sign of the cross on our forehead and heart in our Baptisms, today we wear that sign in ash to recall that we have sinned, but also that we have been Baptized and that there is hope.

The Welcome

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Ash Wednesday Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,

As You hate nothing that You have made, and as You forgive the sins of all that are penitent: Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness leading to a new start to our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

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Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

The Psalm

Psalm 51:1-19

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;

**according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

**For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**

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.**

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

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

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**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 uphold me with a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

**Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,**

and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

**O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;

**then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;**
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

The Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 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. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

The Gospel

(Please rise)

The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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. . .

. . .“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise be to You, O Christ.

The Sermon

Prayer

Lord God and Father,

Tonight we seek the newness of life rising from the ashes of forgiven sin. Tonight we confess our sins in the expectation of Your forgiveness. Tonight we bear signs of death upon our brows in expectation of Your Resurrection and new life. Tonight we thank You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, in Whom we have this forgiveness and new life, and Who promises us a Resurrection from the dust and ashes. In His Name we pray. Amen.

An extended time of silence and personal prayer

Words of Confession

Return to the Lord, your God,

for He is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abiding in steadfast love.

Let us confess our sins to God, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Amen.

(At this time you are asked to come forward to receive ash upon your forehead as a sign of your repentance and acknowledgement of your need for forgiveness and the new life offered to you by God.)



Words of Absolution and Forgiveness

Return to the Lord, your God,
for He is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abiding in steadfast love.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak to you is God's forgiveness?
Yes, we believe.

Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord bless you, and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

*Please join us throughout the season of Lent
as we continue to prepare for
the feast of Easter.
Sunday worship 11am*

