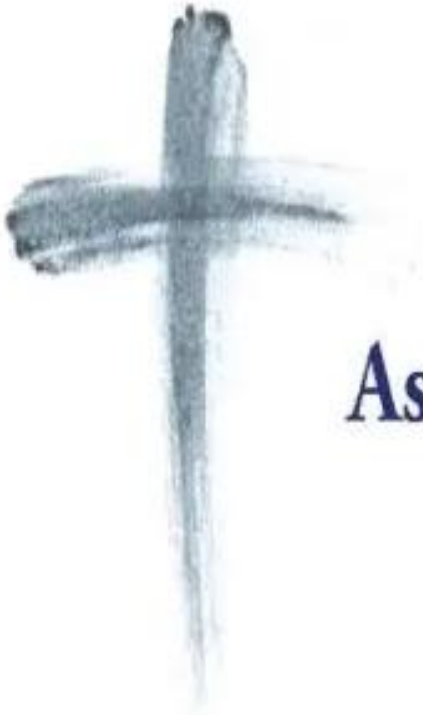


Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins

Order of Worship

February 14, 2024 | 5:30 pm

Pastor Matthew Cephus

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Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

AS WE GATHER: Decide how you would like your Lenten journey to go. Take the time to prepare and plan. There is no better opportunity to re-order your life, make a new start, or deepen the good habits you already have.

+ *CONNECT* +

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS

P: As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord's call to "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." We join in King David's prayer of confession from Psalm 51: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

P: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

C: So you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

P: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

C: Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

P: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

P: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

Joel 2:12–14

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and 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?

MESSAGE

“Emblem of the Cross”

Pastor Matthew Cephus

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

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.**

Ash Wednesday Prayer

We are but dust, heavenly Father, feeble, and fleeting, and frail. And yet, in Your creative hands, we are given life. Even more, through the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we are granted forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. Help us be ever mindful of our own mortality, laying aside the hopes of this world and trusting in You alone for salvation.

Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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...

P: This Ash Wednesday, we recognize that sin leads to death. We come forward to receive the mark of death, ashes, upon our heads. But we make that mark in the shape of a cross, the sign of our baptism and the sign that the death our sin brought has been paid for in the death of Jesus at the cross. **You are invited to take time in silence to confess your own sin, then come forward and receive ashes, in the shape of a cross, upon your forehead.**

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return."

DEPART IN SILENCE

POSTLUDE

+ + +

+ WE DEPART TO SERVE +

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What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the start of a 40-day period which is an allusion to the separation of Jesus in the desert to fast and pray. During this time he was tempted. Matthew 4:1–1, Mark 1:12–13, and Luke 4:1–13.

What is the purpose of Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is important because it marks the start of the Lenten period leading up to Easter, when Christians believe Jesus was resurrected. The ashes symbolize both death and repentance. During this period, Christians show repentance and mourning for their sins, because they believe Christ died for them.

Why Ashes on Foreheads?

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. On this special day of reflection, Christians wear a marking of the cross in ash on their foreheads. The ashes symbolize our mortality – “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Easter Services

Palm Sunday, March 24 Worship Service, 10 am

Maundy Thursday, March 28 Worship Service, 5:30 pm

Good Friday, March 29 Worship Service, 5:30 pm

Easter Sunday, March 31 Joint Worship Service, 11 am with guest Pastor William Utech
(note later start time)