



Ash Wednesday Worship

March 5, 2025

6:30 pm

Calvary Lutheran Church

Rapidan, Minnesota

The Congregation gathers in silence

Invocation Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days let us confess our sins, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of the margins, **we have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of † Jesus Christ, leading you from death into life. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: ELW #325 "I Want to Walk with Jesus"

- 1. I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me; In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 3. When I'm troubled, Lord, walk with me; When I'm troubled, Lord, walk
with me; When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk
with me.**

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Ash Wednesday Litany- Psalm 51

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
- ² **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
- ⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**
- ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ **Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**
- ⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.
- ¹⁴ **Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ **You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ **In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.**

¹⁹ Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight you; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lesson: Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God ~ this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is ~ his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #661 "I Love to Tell the Story"

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I wing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

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Offering and Offertory

Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. Amen.

Distribution of The Ashes

During our worship service this Ash Wednesday, we have the opportunity to come forward and receive the Ashes of Penance placed upon our foreheads. In this act, we are reminded of the declaration during the committal service, "earth to earth and ashes to ashes and dust to dust". It provides a reminder to us of the cycle of life, from creation in

the depths of our mother's womb to death and from physical creation to a new spiritual life. Tonight, we are reminded of those words and our life journey. The distribution of ashes serves as a reminder of cleansing and renewal through repentance and the gift of forgiveness. Ashes were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap. Tonight, on this Ash Wednesday, the ashes have also been understood as a reminder of our baptismal cleansing. Each day is a remembrance of our baptism. Like the proclamation of the Word and the waters of baptism, in the receiving of the ashes, we are reminded that we have been cleansed of our sin by the presence of our Jesus through his life, his death and resurrection. Just as the baptismal waters wash and refreshes, drowns and makes alive, so the ashes tell the story of our journey with our Lord on this Ash Wednesday.

Words of Institution

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.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcome.

Imposition of Ashes and Distribution of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn: ELW #471 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

- 1. Let us break bread together on our knees. Let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain: **When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.**

- 2. Let us drink wine together on our knees. Let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain**
- 3. Let us praise God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain**

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Communion Blessing and Prayer

Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to

be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his eternal peace.

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

Closing Hymn: ELW #606 "Our Father, We Have Wandered"

- 1. Our Father, we have wandered And hidden from your face; In foolishness have squandered Your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, We rise with fear and shame, As distant but compelling, We hear you call our name.**
- 2. And now at length discerning The evil that we do, Behold us, Lord, returning With hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us And home rejoicing bring, In gladness there to greet us With calf and robe and ring.**
- 3. O Lord of all the living, Both banished and restored, Compassionate, forgiving And ever caring Lord, Grant now that our transgressing, Our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, In pardon and in peace.**

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Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Postlude

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