

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

- Welcome to worship tonight at Our Savior's Lutheran Church! Welcome to all who are here in the sanctuary and welcome to you who are joining us via our Live Stream.
- Tonight we enter the season of Lent, the 40 day period that prepares us for the Great Three Day Feast of the church: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter.
- Tonight we will receive a sign of the cross in ashes on our foreheads. This ancient symbol of repentance reminds us of both our mortality and our baptism. Marked with the cross of Christ, we make our way through Lent, clinging in hope to the promises of our baptism, while longing for the new life of Easter.
- We begin our worship now with the reading of Psalm 51, a Psalm of repentance, traditionally read on Ash Wednesday. We will read responsively, and sing together a Psalm response: Come and Fill Our Hearts.

PSALM 51 *Psalm 51:1-17 Reader*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
 in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
 and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
 and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
 a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
 and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
 wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
 that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Come and Fill Our Hearts



Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone,
O Lord, are ho - ly. Come and fill our hearts
with your peace. A - - - - men!

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone,
 O Lord, are ho - ly. Come and fill our hearts
 with your peace. A - - - - men!

1

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
 and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.**
You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
 a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your steady - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever 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.

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Sarah Miller

HYMN OF THE DAY All Things of Dust to Dust Return ACS 920

1 All things of dust to dust return
on earth and in the sky.
The hottest, brightest suns that burn
in time grow dim and die.
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
the newborn young that play,
the leaves that fill the forest floor
revert to dust and clay.

2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow
so I may comprehend
that ev'ry moment here and now
links me to that same end

3

I share with all that breathe and burn,
that flare and fade and tire
yet by their waning light discern
your own undying fire.

Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss,
and at the touch of dust and ash
awake my heart to view
how death itself is but a flash
that dies away in you.

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

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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.

CONFESSON OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 *Sarah and Diane Blahauvietz*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING **Just As I Am – OSL Choir**

OFFERTORY *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING**BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land 333

Refrain

Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a weary land, a weary land;
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
a shelter in a time of storm.

1 No one can do like Jesus,
not a mumbling word he said;
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave,
and he raised him from the dead. *Refrain*

2 When Jesus was on earth,
the flesh was very weak;
he took a towel and girded himself
and he washed his disciples' feet. *Refrain*

3 Yonder comes my Savior,
him whom I love so well;
he has the palm of victory
and the keys of death and hell. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

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.

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

6:30pm Service

POSTLUDE