

ASH WEDNESDAY



Shining Mountains Lutheran Church

Notes about Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It marks the beginning of a special time of reflection on the true nature and cost of our sins and the great redeeming love God has for us.

Ash Wednesday receives its name from the tradition of placing ashes on the foreheads of worshipers. Ashes have a two-fold significance. They are a sign of repentance before God; in humility, people filled with guilt over their sins would dress themselves in sackcloth and ashes. Ashes also serve as a solemn reminder that we are all mortal. Since a day is coming when our bodies, too, will return to dust and ashes, we come before God seeking his forgiveness and promise of the resurrection to eternal life.

Ash Wednesday services focus on self-examination and repentance as we enter the season of Lent. There is no preservice or postlude music. As our service draws to a close, we rejoice to celebrate the Lord's Supper, receiving in his true body and blood the gift of his forgiveness. Following the teachings of Scripture, we ask that only confirmed members of a *Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod* or *Evangelical Lutheran Synod* church commune with us today. Our pastor would be happy to answer any questions you have.

May God bless your worship, your Lenten reflection, and your Easter joy.

OFFERING

Our offerings are an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church's work.

You can place your offering in the plate in the entryway, or through our [secure online giving site](#).



Shining Mountains Lutheran Church
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1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 5 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,



But that thy blood was shed for me
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
 Sight, rich - es, heal - ing the mind,
 Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;



And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
 Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**6. Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down.
 Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

STAND

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

**C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own grievous fault
In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

M: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*At the direction of the ushers, those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward.
Baptized children may come forward at their parents discretion.*

The minister applies ashes to the forehead or hand of each in the form of a small cross, saying:

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

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

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

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray:

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 7:8-13a

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was neither on account of the one who did the wrong nor on account of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalms 51a



Have mercy on me, O God,*
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

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

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned*
and done what is evil in your sight.

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

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

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

BE SEATED



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the
 4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his
 5 I, a sin - ner, come to you With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way
 in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope
 Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -
 Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms
 Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 my soul re - ceive— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

6 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By your blood and bitter passion,
 For these words I do believe—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.
 Even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave—
 Jesus sinners does receive.

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.” ³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. ⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When Jonah’s warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.” ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name’s sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus’ sake.

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God’s continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Time for silent meditation follows.

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake, who also taught us to pray:**

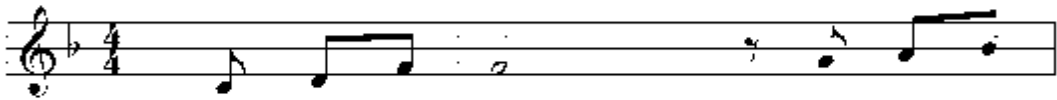
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

THE SACRAMENT

HYMN #742

What Is This Bread?

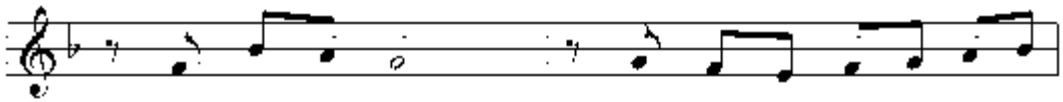


1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh.	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from	the	death.	This	bread	we	break.
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of	grace
live	and	he	should	Un - der	the	rod?	
Word	and	prom - ise	clear.	In	mouth	and	soul
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be - lieve	

(Continued on the next page)



This life we take	Was crushed to pay for our re
Brings his em-brace	Of life and love un - til I
My God, my God.	Why have you not for-sak - en
He makes us whole—	Christ, tru - ly pre - sent in this
That I re - ceive	His ver - y bod - y and his



lease.	Oh, taste and see	the Lord is peace.
sing!	Oh, taste and see—	the Lord is King.
me?	Oh, taste and see—	the Lord is free.
meal.	Oh, taste and see—	the Lord is real.
blood.	Oh, taste and see—	the Lord is good.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

(Shining Mountains honors the Bible’s teaching of close communion. (1 Cor. 11:28-29, 1 Cor. 10:16-17, Romans 16:17, 2 Cor. 6:14). We ask that only confirmed members of a WELS or ELS church partake of the Sacrament. Visitors are encouraged to speak to the pastor if they have any questions.)

THANKSGIVING

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C: Amen.

HYMN #113

Upon the Cross Extended



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, See, world, your Lord sus -
2 How God at our trans - gres - sion To an - ger gives ex -
3 'Tis I who should be smit - ten, My doom should here be
4 A crown of thorns you're wear - ing, My shame and scorn you're
5 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to you for -



pend - ed; Your Sav - ior yields his breath. The Prince of
pres - sion, How loud his thun - ders roll, How fear - ful -
writ - ten: Bound hand and foot in hell. The fet - ters
bear - ing That I might ran - somed be. My bonds - man,
ev - er; I am no long - er mine. To you I



life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly giv - en
ly he smites him, How sore - ly he re - quites him—
and the scourg - ing, The floods a - round you surg - ing,
ev - er will - ing, My place with pa - tience fill - ing,
glad - ly ten - der All that my life can ren - der



To shame and blows and bit - ter death.
All this your suf - f'rings teach my soul.
'Tis I who have de - served them well.
From sin and guilt has made me free.
And all I have to you re - sign.