

WELCOME TO



GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH
GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

We welcome all who worship with us. If you are a guest, we are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our worship is always enhanced by new faces and voices. If you are already a part of our church family, welcome home.

www.gloriadeielca.com

Prelude: Voluntary

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

P: GREETING

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. The abundant grace and mercy of God be with you all. **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 592 "Just As I Am, without One Plea"

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

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**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 51:1-17 (*Spoken with sung refrain*)

Refrain

A F#m A/C# Bm7 Esus E C D A

The sac - ri - fice you ac - cept, O God, is a hum - ble spir - it.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash 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.

**⁴Against 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. R**

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

**⁶Indeed, 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. R

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

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

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

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

**¹²Restore 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.

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

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶For 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. R

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 177 "Lenten Acclamation"

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel concludes:
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: WOV 662 "Restore in Us, O God"

P: INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover.... Jesus' death and resurrection.

P: CONFESSION

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

Silence 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.

P: IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward and stand or kneel.

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

After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in prayer.

Let us pray. 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.

May 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

P: PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let's share Christ's peace with one another.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Deuteronomy 16:17

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord, your God, which he has given you.

OFFERTORY: ELW 686 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads in prayer. Please stand at the invitation to pray:

Let us pray.

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

P: GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW Page 144 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

P: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:

Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer (Spoken)**

(Those who wish may hold hands as a sign of Christian unity).

**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

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

LAMB OF GOD: "O Lamb of God" ELW PAGE 146

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All Baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Those who do not wish to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (fold your arms over your chest).

The Body is available as bread or gluten-free Host.

The Blood is available as wine (large chalices) or non-

alcoholic juice (small chalice). Worshipers may receive Communion via "intinction," dipping the Host into the Chalice, or by common cup, on the PULPIT side of the Altar. If you're on the Pulpit side, you may also feel free to intinct. The other chalice is for intinction ONLY.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The appropriate response is:

Amen.

During the distribution, please pray silently or join in singing.

Hymn: ELW 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" Choir: Ashes to Ashes

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand at the invitation to pray:

Let us pray.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

P: BLESSING

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
‡ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ACS 987 "Guide my feet"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

*The end of Worship –
The beginning of Christian Ministry.*

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara
Music Director: Len Cremisio
Asst. Ministers: 9:30 a.m.
 Reader: Linda Hide
 Crucifer: Arelene Kelly
 Communion Assistant:
 Assisting Minister: Patricia Bressler
Ushers: 9:30 a.m. Crystal Kirkpatrick, Byron Kirkpatrick
 Craig Carlson, John Kelly
Altar Care: Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick, Craig Carlson
Post Worship Sec.: 9:30 a.m. Maureen Skurecki
Counters: Jeanne Talts
Greeters: 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship:

Communion Wine: For March in Loving Memory of Allen, Emma & Helen Weber Given by Nancy & MaryJean Kancel

Altar Flowers: 2/23- June & Jim Rieb in honor of Mardi Yance, Happy Birthday.

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