



**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION

## Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021—7:00 pm

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

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. 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 made right with God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to renew our hearts and minds while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally follow Jesus and live out the Kingdom of God.

### GATHERING: The Spirit Calls Us Together

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Hymn

*“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*

ELW 325

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.

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.

When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

#### Greeting

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

#### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: God with whom we walk this Lenten path,  
Bless us this day as we begin the long journey to the cross. Remind us of the covenant you made with us in baptism, the promise that though we are mere mortals, you will to remain with us even when we return to dust. Shower your Spirit upon us now for we need direction on this long road ahead. Care for us, your children, as we weather this winding road, following the faithful path of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **WORD: We Hear God in Scripture & Preaching**

**Luke 9:51-62**...When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. <sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" <sup>55</sup>But Jesus turned and rebuked them. <sup>56</sup>Then they went on to another village. <sup>57</sup>As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." <sup>58</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." <sup>59</sup>To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." <sup>60</sup>But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." <sup>61</sup>Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." <sup>62</sup>Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Pastor Jim Killough

**Hymn**

*"Give Me Jesus"*

ELW 770

1. In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,  
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

*Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.*

*You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.*

2. Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,  
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. *Refrain*
3. Just about the break of day, just about the break of day,  
just about the break of day, give me Jesus. *Refrain*
4. Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,  
oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. *Refrain*
5. And when I want to sing, and when I want to sing,  
and when I want to sing, give me Jesus. *Refrain*

**Invitation to Lent**

## Confession of Sin

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

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

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

*(Silence for self-reflection)*

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.**

## Prayers

As each petition concludes: "Lord, in your mercy," please respond: **"hear our prayer."**

## MEAL: God Feeds us with the Presence of Jesus

### Hymn

*"Now the Silence"*

ELW 460

Now the silence Now the peace Now the empty hands uplifted  
Now the kneeling Now the plea Now the Father's arms in welcome  
Now the hearing Now the pow'r Now the vessel brimmed for pouring  
Now the body Now the blood Now the joyful celebration  
Now the wedding Now the songs Now the heart forgiven leaping  
Now the Spirit's visitation Now the Son's epiphany Now the Father's blessing  
Now Now Now

### Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

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

### Communion

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

### Communion Blessing

### Post-Communion Prayer

## SENDING: Being Loved, God Sends Us to Love

### Blessing

### Sending Hymn

*"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"*

ELW 608

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.  
*Refrain: "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"*
2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*
3. Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

### Dismissal

**Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.**  
Thanks be to God.

### Postlude