

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



PRAY



FAST



GIVE

7:00 PM FEBRUARY 14, 2024

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington

Welcome to all who gather this day to mark Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. Your presence enriches our community.

If you are joining us via Live Stream, please find and light a candle as worship begins, or keep a small bit of earth handy for the Imposition of Ashes later in the service.

For the next five Wednesdays in Lent we will gather at Peace for a simple soup supper @ 6pm, followed by a half-hour service of Evening Prayer at 7pm.



We celebrate Christ's presence in the Sacrament of the Table this night. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.



ON ASH WEDNESDAY we begin our forty-day journey with Christ toward the cross and empty tomb. Marking our foreheads with ash, we acknowledge that we are destined to die and return to the Earth. At the same time, the ash traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey together through this season, our relationship with God through the covenant of baptism is renewed. Returning to our baptismal call, we are set free to more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

+ GATHERING +

~ *We gather in silence* ~

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen**

+ 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.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near-- ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51:1-17 *Read responsively from PSALMS ANEW*

¹In your goodness, O God, have mercy on me;

With gentleness wipe away my faults.

²Cleanse me of guilt; free me from my sins.

³My faults are always before me; my sins haunt my mind.

⁴I have sinned against you and no other-knowing that my actions were wrong in your eyes. Your judgement is what I deserve; your sentence supremely fair.

⁵As you know I was born in guilt, from conception a sinner at heart.

⁶But you love true sincerity, so you teach me the depths of wisdom.

⁷Until I am clean, bathe me with hyssop; wash me until I am whiter than snow.

⁸Infuse me with joy and gladness; let these bones you have crushed dance with joy.

⁹Please do not stare at my sins; blot out all my guilt.

¹⁰Create a pure heart in me, O my God; renew me with a steadfast spirit.

¹¹Don't drive me away from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Once more be my savior; revive my joy.

Strengthen and sharpen my still weak spirit.

¹³And I will teach transgressors your ways; then sinners will return to you, too.

¹⁴Release me from death, God my Savior, and I will announce your justice.

¹⁵Open my lips, and my tongue will proclaim your glory.

¹⁶Sacrifices give you no pleasure; if I offered a holocaust, you would refuse it.

¹⁷My sacrifice is this broken spirit. You will not disdain a contrite and humbled heart.

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 earth 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.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

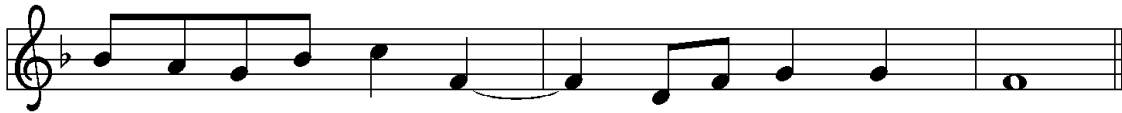
LENTEN ACCLAMATION *Please rise as able to receive the gospel.*



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



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



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

P The holy gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

¹[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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 dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Erik Kindem

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

ACS #920 TUNE: KINGSFOLD



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis-cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

✝ ASHES ✝

INVITATION TO LENT

P 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.

“O Lord, Hear Me, Heed My Supplication.” *Sung twice.*

O Lord, hear me, heed my sup - pli - ca - tion.
Come in love - to heal my bro - ken spir - it.

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence is kept.

P Most holy and merciful God,

**C 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.**

P 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, O God.

P 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.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy,
and apathy that have infected our lives,
we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we
confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we
confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty and Altender 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.

C **Amen.**

*Live Stream participants: blow out your candle and rub the wick between your fingers.
Trace it on your forehead and/or on another member of your household, with the words:
“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am” Sung continuously until all have received ashes **ELW #814**

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The treble staff contains a melody with eighth and quarter notes, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece with the same treble and bass clef staves. The melody in the treble staff concludes with a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment.

After all who desire ashes have received them the confession concludes.

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P 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.

C **Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Petitions are offered, ending with the response:

A Hear us, O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**

When all petitions have been offered:

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

+ MEAL +

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace that belongs to the children of God; through Christ our Lord.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P On the night in which he was betrayed Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

C **Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.**
Do this to remember me.

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

C **This cup is the new covenant in my blood,**
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this to remember me.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P Almighty and Altender God, Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Deep Peace

ACS #1018

Deep peace of the run - ning waves, deep peace of the
flow - ing air, deep peace of the shin - ing stars to
you, deep peace of the qui - et earth. earth.

To repeat | *Last time*

A 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.

C Amen.



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Minister of Music

Liturgical Assistant

Acolyte

Lector

Rev. Erik Kindem

Jon Lackey

Larry Cruse

Esme Klinemeier

Kathleen Keyes

Greeter	Marcia Olson
Ushers	Janet Cruse
Altar Care	Kathleen Keyes
Communion Assistants	Kathleen Keyes, Boots Winterstein
Production Techs	Paul Bliss, Alex Wren

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

At the Congregational Meeting on February 4, we embraced a plan for funding our mission in 2024. That plans anticipates offering income averaging \$26,477 monthly. The disruption caused by the rupture of our heating system in January forced us to forego in-person offerings for three Sundays in January. Please consider an extra gift to help bring our giving total in line with expectations. Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the larger community, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received February 2024

2/04/24	\$ 2,920.00
2/11/24	\$ 1,445.00
Electronic	\$ 6,641.69
Total	\$11,006.69

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

This year, our Creation Care Action Plan included a focus on combating plastics pollution by reducing how much we individually use. To help us all do that, we invite you to accept our *Replacing Plastics For Lent Challenge*. Every week starting today, we'll share an activity to help your household use fewer plastics and seek more sustainable alternatives. Please join us!

Assess. The first step in using fewer plastics is to evaluate your plastic usage. Since most plastics are single-use packaging and only about 5% of the plastic we put in the recycling is actually recycled, it's important to understand just how much we use individually. This week, set aside every piece of plastic you would normally throw away or put in recycling in a separate place. At the end of the week take 2 minutes to look through your plastic use to get an idea of what habits are leading to your plastic consumption. Make a note of which categories contribute the most to your plastic waste.

Pray for Creation: When we are discouraged by actions that damage our world, we ask God to rekindle our energies and our talents to support the sustainability of the cosmos.

LENT WEDNESDAYS

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday service on February 14 @ 7pm. Our Lenten Wednesday evening prayer services, following the soup suppers, commence on February 21. This year we'll be exploring the Psalms of lament and reflecting on how our society and world have been in an almost continuous state of lament in recent years. We'll seek better understanding of the role of lament within the Hebrew tradition and how it can be used constructively today. Many hands make light work! You are invited to assist with soup suppers before Wednesday evening services during Lent. You may offer to set tables, make a soup, bring bread/crackers, or clean up. On Sunday, a sign-up sheet will be found on the table in the narthex.

RE-VISIONING TASK FORCE WANTS YOUR INPUT

The Re-Vision Task Force would very much like to know your thoughts about how we can respond to God's call to engage with each other in our congregation and with our wider community. Many of us will meet in small groups in homes or at church. Others may choose to respond to an online or paper survey. On the table in the narthex, you will find a form on which you may indicate how you would like to participate in our-re-visioning process.

MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 2/15-18

Help provide free dental, vision and medical care for people in need at Seattle/King County Clinic at Seattle Center February 15-18. Also need volunteers for general support: Interpreters, Patient Registration and Records, Patient Escorts, Admin, IT & Operations Support. Volunteers also needed for set-up (2/13-14) & take-down (2/19) and eyeglasses dispensing (3/29-30 & 4/1). Register online at seattlecenter.org/volunteers.

PRAYER LIST


Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering:** Cay Bell; Jan Burt; Melanie Coulson; Karl Coy; Larry Cruse; Marsha Davis; Joe Flint; Marge Flint; William Gerhardt; Donna Heiland; Verna Hernandez; Maria Iriarte; Mary Jacob; Jeff & Chale; Ken Keyes; Erik Kindem; Dee Levy; Justin Makboul; Evelyn Martinez; Eddie McDaniel; Pete McIntyre; Ken McPherson; Erin McPherson; Steve Metzler; Bill Morrell; Clifford & Minda Olson; Penelope Grace; Michelle Pierce; Jill Ramsey; Rosemary; Irma Runge; Salia; JoAnne Spangler; Pat Spangler; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Karin & Wade VanSant; Pam Webber; Judy Wiggins; Roger Wingfield; Patti Wunder; Audrey Zemke.

Homebound: Jim Baker; Connie Benjamin; Jan Madsen

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME

Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness, in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society.



As a Christian community, we invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the life and mission of our congregation.

PERMISSIONS

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