

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Ash Wednesday

Everything [in] between: “intention** & **action**”**

All are welcome to commune and receive Christ in bread and wine. Please fill out a communion card and give it to the usher when coming forward for Communion.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRELUDE

Aus Der Tiefe, Robert Farrell

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

P If you have days when you feel a little bit lost and a little bit found,

C **then you are in the right place.**

P If you have days when you are desperate for rest and eager to grow,

C **then you are in the right place.**

P If you have days when your prayers could be both shouts and silence,

C **then you are in the right place.**

P God meets us here, in the messy middle of our lives.

C **So may we bring our full selves into this service and into this season.**

P With God's help, may it be so.
C Let us worship our all-loving God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P Lent is a season that invites us to be intentional.
Lent asks us, *how will you go deeper these next six weeks?*
How will you grow closer to God and your neighbor? What will you do to strengthen your faith?
Much like Christ, Lent invites us to go deeper.
Despite our best efforts, that soul-tending work is often easier said than done. However, instead of entering this season already feeling behind, let us enter this season with honesty. Let us enter this season aware of our hopes, and aware of the challenges. Let us enter this season wrapped in God's grace.
Friends, join me in speaking honestly to God. Join me in receiving mercy.
Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P Jesus said, "Follow me."
C And I said, let me get ready.
P Jesus said, "Follow me."
C And I said, just one minute!
P Jesus said, "Follow me."
C And I said, I'll be there soon!
P The invitation is simple, but the work is hard.
C Jesus, forgive my delay. I want to follow you.
Turn my intentions into actions. Show me the way.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P Lent asks,
C "How will you go deeper? How will you follow Christ?"
P Regardless of what that journey looks like for us,
C regardless of what today, tomorrow, or the next day brings,
P we are not alone.
C We are seen and loved by God.
P We are held in grace.
C Thanks be to God for a love like that.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

P Holy God,
C Your invitation is simple. You lean in close.
You say our name.

With joy in your voice, you invite us to follow.
 But the noise of this world is distracting,
 and we are afraid,
 so we get stuck somewhere between
 our head and our heart.
 We get stuck somewhere between
 our intent and our action.
 So today we pray,
 speak to us again.
 Tell us the story.
 Invite us to follow.
 Speak once more,
 of good news that will not leave us alone.
 Speak to us again,
 for we are listening.
 Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW #320



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



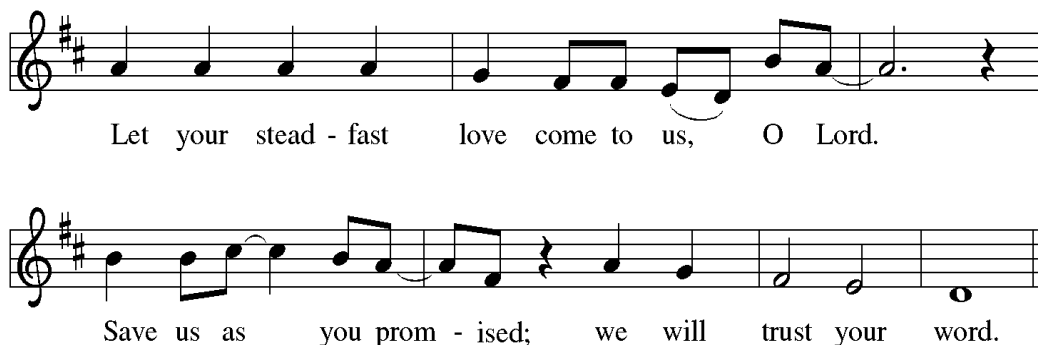
brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 51:1-17

- 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 ev- | er 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 pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let 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.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**
- ¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- ¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim 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.



GOSPEL READING: Luke 9:51-62

P The holy gospel according to Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When 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?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And 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." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus Christ,
who said to ordinary people, "Follow me,"
and with his love, changed the world.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who tethers us to all of creation,
nudging us toward deeper and more intentional faith.
And we believe in the Creator
who brings the sun over the horizon each morning,
allowing every day to be a new beginning.
So with this new day,
with Jesus' invitation ringing in our ears,
and the Holy Spirit's tethering love,
we realign our hopes with our words,
our dreams with our prayers,
our intentions with our actions.
Jesus, we believe. Guide our feet.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

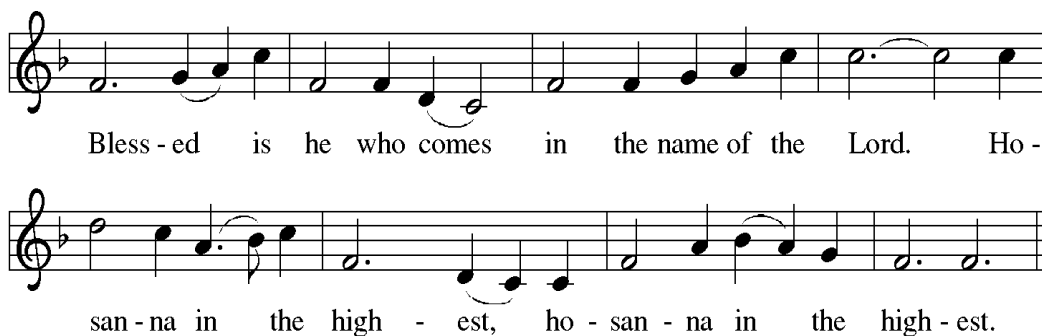
Page 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - *all are invited *gluten free wafers are available.*

LAMB OF GOD

Page 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION SONG

Chorale, (Five Liturgical Meditations), Bob Moore

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P 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.

C Amen.

SONGS

Attende Domine, Robert Farrell

Erhalt Uns, Herr, Robert Farrell

Forty Days and Forty Nights, Henrietta Atkin

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

P Holy Creator, you fashioned us from the dust and called us good, so very good. Your fingerprints remain all over us. Don't let us forget that we come from the earth, we will return to the earth, and every day in between is a gift from you. Gifts aren't meant to be encased in glass boxes and set high on a shelf, lest they show any signs of use. No, you gave us this life in the hopes that we would live it fully, using it up and letting it develop signs of wear and tear, a marvelous patina that proves we have lived.

But some days we'd rather be safe and sound, where nothing can touch us. It's a beautiful life, but the living can be so hard, God. All along our journeys we get scraped knees, hurt feelings, missteps, mistakes, unexpected diagnoses, broken hearts, painful endings, and phone calls that change our lives in an instant.

As the paths of our lives wander through hills and valleys, as we get caught in the rain and the soles of our shoes wear down, tune our hearts to hear your voice everywhere. If we listen closely, we can hear it now. It's in uncontrollable giggles, bird-

song at the window, the sizzle of a homemade meal on the stove, and melodies buried deep in our souls.

Yes, indeed, it's a beautiful life. Not because it's perfect, but because it's real.

Journey with us, accompanying us as the path winds. Lift our heads to witness the majesty tucked around every detour. If we look closely, we might see your fingerprints. And if we listen deeply, we just might hear your voice calling us good, so very good.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

SENDING SONG

Prelude One (Four Preludes), Bob Moore

BENEDICTION

P As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
everything between
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

C Amen.

Pastor: Darryl Thompson Powell
Director of Music: Henrietta Atkin
Oboist: Wayne Ryerson

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