WELCOME

PEACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEBRUARY 22, 2023

MEET US

Our family is loved by Christ and we love each other. We hold firmly to God's Word of truth, which convicts us of our sin and comforts us with God's forgiveness in Christ. We embrace the rich heritage of hymns and liturgy that has guided the worship of the Church for generations. We are passionate about Christian education, wanting young and old to grow in their knowledge of God's Word. As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), we enjoy fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday serves as an antidote to pride. The refrain, "You are dust and to dust you will return," teaches us the sobering truth that no matter how self-sufficient or good we think we are, death is inescapable. On this first day of Lent, God intends to give us what we badly need- a wholly humbles heart that looks to Christ in contrition, true repentance, and faith in the forgiveness He has won for us.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Restrooms are located to the right as you leave the sanctuary and are equipped with child changing tables.

Parent Room is located on the left as you exit the sanctuary doors. This room is equipped with a livestream of the service.

For the hearing impaired, an induction loop is provided. Just switch your hearing aid to "T".

For other special needs or questions, our ushers are here to assist you. Don't hesitate to ask.



DIVINE SERVICE RITE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY!

WE COME BEFORE THE LORD

PENITENTIAL PSALM

CW Psalm 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.

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¹ Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Ashes are referred to many times in the Old Testament as a sign of sorrow, mourning, repentance, and mortality. On this day, many churches use ashes during worship as part of a rite called the Imposition of Ashes. According to this custom, ashes (traditionally made by burning palm fronds used on Palm Sunday of the previous year) are mixed with a small amount of olive oil and applied to the forehead of each worshiper. Though this is not our custom at Peace, we yet gather for worship on this day to focus intensely on our utter sinfulness, our own mortality, and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to earn our eternal salvation.

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

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

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.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Most holy and merciful Father, on Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our mortality and sin, that we are dust and to dust we shall return.

Therefore, 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.

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, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

We confess to you, O Lord.

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

We confess to you, O Lord.

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

We confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work **We confess to you, O Lord.**

Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us **We confess to you, O Lord.**

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

Forgive us, O Lord.

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

Forgive us, O Lord.

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

Forgive us, O Lord.

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

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

ABSOLUTION

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 and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

RESPONSE HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive | ELH 426:6-7

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

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THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN

Lord, to Thee I Make Confession | ELH 450

SERMON

Psalms of the Passion: Psalm of Repentance | Psalm 51:1-9

Be gracious to me, God, according to your mercy. Erase my acts of rebellion according to the greatness of your compassion. ²Scrub me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³For I admit my rebellious acts. My sin is always in front of me. ⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned, and I have done this evil in your eyes. So you are justified when you sentence me.

You are blameless when you judge. ⁵Certainly, I was guilty when I was born. I was sinful when my mother conceived me. ⁶Since you desire truth on the inside, in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom. ⁷Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness. Let the bones you have crushed celebrate. ⁹Hide your face from my sins. Erase all my guilty deeds.

WE GIVE THANKS

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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, 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 also 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.

Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

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 his incomprehensible love.

Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

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.

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.

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. Amen.

OFFERING & FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

WE RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT

Visitors, please speak with one of our pastors before receiving the Sacrament with us. We welcome members of the ELS and WELS to join us at the Lord's Table.

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God; You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)



EXHORTATION

Dear communicant members of Peace and those of our fellowship, in order that you may receive this holy Sacrament worthily, it is good that you consider what you must now believe and do. From the words of Christ; "This is My body, which is given for you; this is My blood, which is shed for you," you should believe that Jesus Christ is Himself present with His body and blood, as the words declare.

From Christ's words "for the remission of sins" you should believe that Jesus Christ truly gives you His body and blood to confirm unto you the forgiveness of all your sins.

And finally, you should do as Christ commands you when He says "Take, eat; drink of it, all of you," and "this do in remembrance of Me."

If you believe these words of Christ, and do as He therein has commanded, then you have rightly examined yourselves and may worthily eat Christ's body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI (PEACE OF THE LORD)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



THE AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)



DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Bread of the World | ELH 312

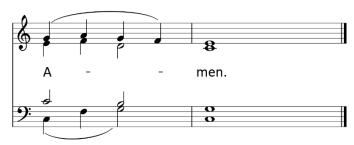
I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table | ELH 313

COLLECT OF THANKSGIVING

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup;



O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in lovingkindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.



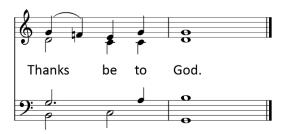
SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.



BENEDICAMUS

Let us bless the Lord.



BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



HYMN

Chief of Sinners Though I Be | ELH 429

WE THANK THOSE WHO SERVE

Organist Communion Assistants Ushers Crystal Foslien Jeffrey Huber & Eric Woller Keith Wiederhoeft & Brian DeVos