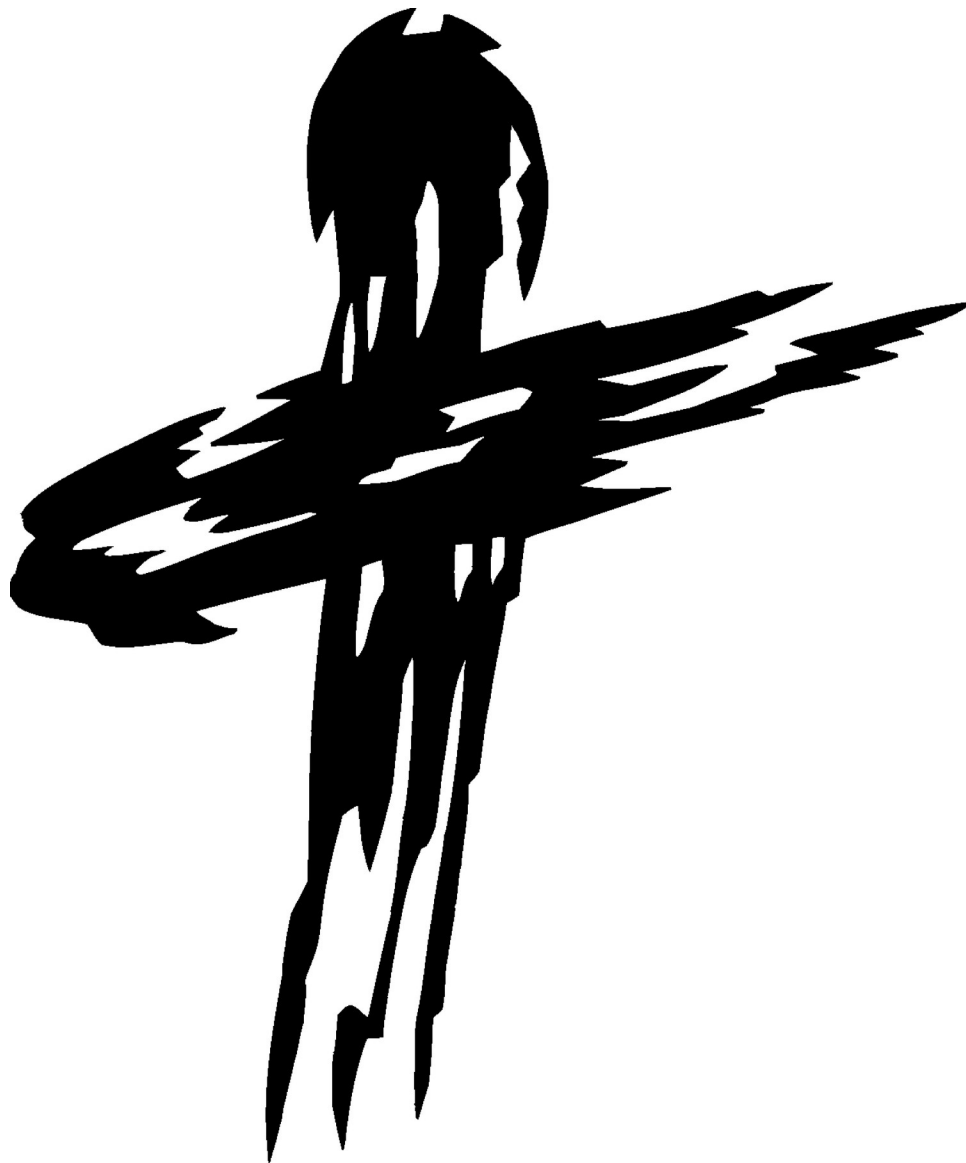


ASH WEDNESDAY



INTRODUCTION TO THE EVENING

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.

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Joel.

¹Blow 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.

(continued on next page)

⁷Between 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?’ ”

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.*

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

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“So 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.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

The service continues with the Hymn of the Day found on the next page.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *JESUS IS A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND* (ELW 333)

Refrain – All

Je - sus is a rock in a wea - ry land, a wea - ry land, a
wea - ry land; my Je - sus is a rock in a
wea - ry land, a shel - ter in the time of storm.

Leader or All

1 No one can do like Je - sus, not a
2 When Je - sus was on earth, the . .
3 Yon - der comes my Sav - ior, him . .

mum - bling word he said; he went walk - ing down to Laz -
flesh was ver - y weak; . . he took a towel and gird -
whom I love so well; . . he has the palm of vic -

Refrain

- a - rus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.
ed him - self and he washed his dis - ci - ples' feet.
- to - ry and the keys of death and hell.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

The service continues with the Invitation to Lent.

INVITATION TO LENT

Recognizing God's freely-given grace poured out for us through Christ, we come before God as this Lenten season begins, confessing our sins and leaning on the everlasting arms of Christ's mercy.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The presiding minister leads the following or another confession.

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

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept 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.**

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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

Those attending in-person may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. At this time, those attending online may use ashes to mark their forehead with the sign of a cross.

*During this time, the assembly may meditate or read Psalm 90 in silence
After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.*

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.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister introduces the Lord's Prayer.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The assembly stands as they are able. The presiding minister leads a concluding prayer.

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The service continues with the Sending Song found on next page.



SENDING SONG: *BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS* (ELW 338)

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

DISMISSAL

The assembly is sent into mission.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

MISSION NOTES

We are so glad that you are here with us for worship, and invite you to consider other ways to deepen faith and connect with the Redeemer community and the world around us - to which God calls us in loving service!

Supporting the Ulster County SPCA

Redeemer's confirmation class is currently working on a project to collect donations for the Ulster County SPCA, which helps animals in need and finds them better homes. The pandemic has increased their needs, and the Ulster SPCA needs more help from donors. There will be a collection box in the church narthex from February 5th through March 5th.

For those who wish to our confirmation class and this thoughtful initiative, but can't get to Redeemer, you can do so by making a financial donation. 100% of all funds donated to the UCSPCA will benefit this needed organization. Click "Donate Now" below.

The SPCA is looking for donations of food, toys, and other pet products. Suggested donation Items (additional suggested items can be found at <https://www.ucspca.org/get-involved/wish-list/>)

Cats

- Dry kitten and cat food (9 Lives, Purina)
- Canned/wet kitten and cat food
- Interactive cat toys
- Cat litter (unscented)
- Cat scratchers
- Small paper plates

Dogs

- Wet/dry adult dog food (Pedigree, Iams, Blue Buffalo)
- Dog toys (Kongs, food puzzles)
- Training treats
- Leashes (6' long, 1" wide)
- Nylabones and bully sticks/deer antlers

Lent: Contemplative Prayer

During the season of Lent, please join us as we explore various contemplative prayer practices. At the first gathering, we will learn about contemplative prayer and practice one type of prayer. For the remaining sessions, the facilitator and participants will decide the type of prayer selected from a list of prayer types. The classes are participatory, but you don't have to have previous experience, and there is no class pre-preparation.

Evening and afternoon sessions are available.

- Wednesday Nights: 6:30 - 8 pm, March 1st - 29th
- Thursday Afternoons: 1 - 2:30 pm, March 2nd - 30

The facilitator for this event is The Rev. Arlene R. Wilhelm, a retired/repurposed ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, as well as a certified Spiritual Director / Companion and Christian Educator.

Arlene practices centering prayer and mindfulness meditation. She has taught for NP Lifetime Learning Institute and in churches and other educational settings.

For more information, please visit <https://redeemernewpaltz.org/events/contemplative-prayer>

Lutheran Disaster Response - Turkey & Syria Earthquake

On February 6th, two powerful earthquakes hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The two quakes caused utter devastation in Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over ten thousand people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates response efforts.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to providing response support to these hard hit areas, but they need your help.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to help LDR provide support to the rescue and recovery efforts. As in past disasters, LDR is often one of the first agencies to respond and the last to leave. To make a donation, please visit <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>