



# ASH WEDNESDAY

## Grace Ministries

*Serving the Portland Area  
With the Means of Grace  
For over 100 years...*

As a Church  
As a School  
As a Preschool  
As a Mission  
As a Ministry



**Grace**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Grace Lutheran Church

### **Church Campus**

7610 NE Fremont Street  
503.254.8034

### **School Campus**

2252 SE 92<sup>nd</sup> Street  
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Pastor Thad Bitter  
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# Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Pastor, Thad Bitter  
Principal, Justin Eternick  
Organist, Marilyn Baer  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

*From  
Ashes  
to  
Alleluia*



## Welcome!

*Grace ~ "I am not ashamed of the gospel..."*



When it comes to the truth of Scripture, there is no room for compromise. The Bible is the book we live by... for life now and for life forever. We accept the Bible as the pure Word of God. We believe that our only Savior is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, who was crucified, died, and was buried but rose again to open the door to heaven for everyone who believes in him.

*Grace ~ "These are written that you may believe..."*



Grace Lutheran Church has served the Portland area for over 100 years by faithfully preaching and teaching the timeless truth of God's Word. We believe that God uses the timeless message of Word and Sacraments to bring souls into his care. This is a message that we share here and around the world through our affiliation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).

*Grace ~ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."*



Grace Lutheran Church exists to win souls by joyfully proclaiming the truth of God's grace through Christ, to nurture believers in growing in faith and lives of Christian service, and to join together in worship and praise. **"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever! Amen." II Peter 3:18**

# Ash Wednesday – March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

**Worship Today** - The mood of Ash Wednesday is solemn because it begins the 40 days of Lent, the season during which the Church remembers the passion and death of Jesus. During these 40 days Christians examine their lives and repent of the sin that sent the Savior to the cross. Our Ash Wednesday worship begins with the timeless rite of the imposition of ashes, a solemn symbol that has deep roots and wide precedent in both the Old and New Testament. Ashes symbolize human mortality and the deserved destruction of all who sin. Like Job, believers throughout the ages repent in "dust and ashes." The symbol, joined to a right understanding of its meaning, emphasizes in a striking way the absoluteness and enormity of sin. *Receiving ashes is not mandatory.* Worshipers who wish to participate approach the baptismal font and the pastor applies ashes to each forehead, imposed in the sign of the cross, with the words: *"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* Worshipers then return to their places. The ashes may be removed after worship, or after you return home.

## THE GREETING

M: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin, we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. During the forty 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 the throne of God. The time of Lent reminds us that, in order 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 our neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

*Silence*

*Savior, when in dust to you Low we bow in homage due,  
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
Oh, by all your pains and woe Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!*

*By your deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,  
Oh, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!*

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father:

**C: We confess to you and to one another and before the whole company of heaven 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 failed to do.**

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart, 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, Lord.**

M: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people:

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our anger at our frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves:

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work:

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us:

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

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

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

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

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: Restore us, O Lord, and let your anger depart from us:

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

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

M: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

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

*Those wishing to receive ashes are asked to form a line in the midst of the sanctuary.*

### THE EXHORTATION

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

**C: Amen.**

### THE LESSON

**Job 7:1-9; 38:1-11; 42:4-6; 19:25-27**

“Do not mortals have hard service on earth? Are not their days like those of hired laborers? <sup>2</sup>Like a slave longing for the evening shadows, or a hired laborer waiting to be paid, <sup>3</sup>so I have been allotted months of futility, and nights of misery have been assigned to me. <sup>4</sup>When I lie down I think, ‘How long before I get up?’ The night drags on, and I toss and turn until dawn. <sup>5</sup>My body is clothed with worms and scabs, my skin is broken and festering. <sup>6</sup>“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and they come to an end without hope. <sup>7</sup>Remember, O God, that my life is but a breath; my eyes will never see happiness again. <sup>8</sup>The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. <sup>9</sup>As a cloud vanishes and is gone, so one who goes down to the grave does not return.

Then the LORD responded to Job out of a violent storm. He said: <sup>2</sup>Who is this who spreads darkness over my plans with his ignorant words? <sup>3</sup>Get ready for action like a man! Then I will ask you questions, and you will inform me. <sup>4</sup>Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you understand anything about it. <sup>5</sup>Who determined its dimensions? I am sure you know. Who stretched out the surveying line

over it? <sup>6</sup>What supports its foundation? Who set its cornerstone in place, <sup>7</sup>when the morning stars sang loud songs together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

<sup>8</sup>Who locked up the sea behind doors when it burst out of the womb? <sup>9</sup>When I clothed the sea with clouds, when I wrapped it with thick darkness as its swaddling cloths, <sup>10</sup>when I broke its power with my decree, when I locked it up behind barred, double doors, <sup>11</sup>I said, “You may come this far, but no farther. Here is the barrier for your proud waves.”

<sup>4</sup>You said, “Listen now and I will speak. I will ask you questions, and you will inform me.”<sup>5</sup>My ear heard about you. Now my eyes see you. <sup>6</sup>So I despise myself. I repent in dust and ashes.

<sup>25</sup>Yet, I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.

<sup>26</sup>And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;<sup>27</sup>I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

CW21 #410 ***“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”***

***Alas! and did my Savior bleed,  
And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head,  
For sinners such as I?***

***Was it for crimes that I had done,  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
And love beyond degree!***

***Well might the sun in darkness hide,  
And shut its glories in  
When God, the mighty Maker, died  
For his own creatures' sin.***

***Thus might I hide my blushing face,  
While his dear cross appears,  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
And melt my eyes to tears.***

***But drops of grief can ne'er repay,  
The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away –  
'Tis all that I can do.***

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & 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.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Liturgical responses will be spoken this evening.*

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

## **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

- M:** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heaven and earth are full of your glory.
- C:** **Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

- M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C:** **Amen.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

- M:** O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us!

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy.*

## **BLESSING**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

CW21 (1-3) #808: **Drawn to the Cross**

**Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed  
With healing gifts for souls distressed,  
To find in you my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**

**How well you know my griefs and fears,  
Your grace abused, my misspent years;  
So now to you with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;  
Let nothing of my sin remain.  
For cleansing through your cross and pain, Christ crucified, I come.**