



Ash  
Wednesday  
SERVICE

TRINITY  LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

March 5, 2025  
7:00 pm Service

# Order of Worship

**Prelude**

Joy Rundell

**Welcome**

## **Introduction**

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 marked forever on our foreheads at baptism which reminds us that now and forever, we belong to God.

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**Amen.**

*O Holy One,*

**We confess that we have wandered far from you. We have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, and we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.**

**Amen.**

*Beloved in Christ,*

The Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**Amen.**

## Opening Song

## *Abide With Me* verses 1, 3, 4, 5

Hymn #629

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,  
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee!  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

## Litany

*Adapted from Psalm 51*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Wash me thoroughly, and cleanse me from my sin!

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, and you only, have I sinned.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Bathe me in your Spirit and I shall be clean.

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

## Prayer of the Day

**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. Amen.**

## Reading

### Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And 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." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

## Sermon

### Sermon Song

### *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

### Hymn #606

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face,  
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
2. And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,  
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving, and ever caring Lord,  
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon and in peace.

## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## **Sharing of the Peace**

### **Offering**

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### **Offering Prayer**

**Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

### **Words of Institution**

## 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.**

## Communion Distribution and Imposition of Ashes

*As you come forward for communion, you are welcome to receive ashes  
on your forehead. The ashes serve as a sign that we are made for only a  
short time in this life, but we are created for eternal life with God.*

*All ages are welcome to receive ashes tonight. If you do not wish to receive ashes,  
simply proceed forward to receive communion.*

## Communion Music

***Just As I Am  
Eat This Bread***

**Hymn #592  
Hymn #472**

## Closing Prayer

*Gracious Lord God,*

**In this season of Lent we are reminded of our own difficulties and struggles.  
Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by so much grief and pain  
that we don't see how things can ever change. In the midst of our weakness, Lord,  
rise up within us, and let your Spirit shine out of every broken place we've walked  
through. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the fire of your  
holy presence. In your name we pray. Amen.**

## Benediction

May our God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth and claimed us as  
children of light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you  
and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon  
you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn*****Go, My Children, with My Blessing*****Hymn #543**

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone,  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river, I have made you mine forever,  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.
2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure,  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory,  
Go my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me,  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you, here his tender comfort stilled you,  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

Joy Rundell



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*Faithful Living. Changing Lives.*

Jeffrey M. Engholm, Pastor  
Joy Rundell, Accompanist



## **Midweek Lenten Services**

Our Lenten theme this year is found in Hebrews 13:8:  
*Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.* These words from scripture remind us that Jesus is the solid foundation of our lives, even in the midst of the changes that happen all around us.

**Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9**  
**Light Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 pm**  
**Worship at 7:00 pm (Onsite & Online)**

**Lenten Devotional Books** We invite you to spend time in prayer during this Lenten season with a special devotional book called *There in God's Garden*. Devotional books are available in the narthex and at the Welcome Center.