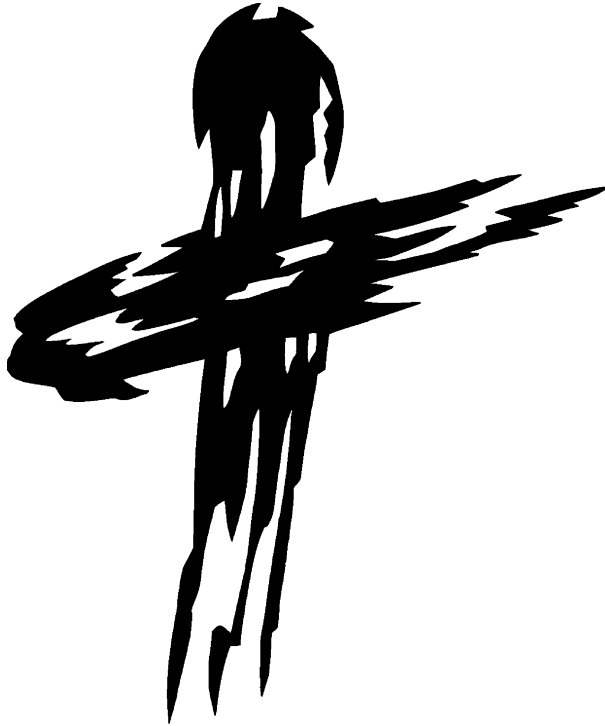


ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

Noon & 7:30pm



Central Lutheran Church

1857 Potter Street

Eugene, OR

www.welcometocentral.org

Welcome to Worship

Ash Wednesday is described as “**the most solemn day of the church year.**” It marks the beginning of the Lenten discipline of penitence which comes to a climax during Holy Week. The mood is sober, but not somber.

For: On this day we reflect on our human sinfulness in contrast to God’s wonderful grace. May this Lent—the season whose name means *Springtime*—be a time of preparation, planting, and growth for us all.

Some words about Ash Wednesday: When you were baptized, the sign of the cross was made upon your forehead. This day you are invited to come forward and receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead as a reminder not merely of your baptism, but also of your mortality.

Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal: In fact, ashes were once used as a cleaning agent in the absence of soap. It was an ancient custom to burn the fields in the spring to **destroy the old** and **prepare for the new.**

Thus: Ashes are a sign of **death** and **renewal.** When we are marked with the ashen cross we remember that we have been baptized into the death of Christ. Likewise, we have been baptized into the resurrection of Christ!

Therefore: Let us enter into this, our Lenten journey, with penitent hearts, but also with hearts open to receive the seed of God’s word. And let God’s word of love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness move us to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by: *loving* God and one another, *nurturing* faithful living, *servicing* those in need, and *sharing* the Gospel.

Worshippers enter in silence, in preparation, and in expectation.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

EXHORTATION

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION

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

Silence 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.**

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

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. **Amen.**

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward and kneel (or stand) before the altar. (Or if you desire, you may sit in the first pew and a minister will come to you). The ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

PSALM 51 *(chanted to a Gregorian psalm tone)*

Cantors

- ¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against thee only have I sinned and done this evil in thy sight that thou mightiest be justified in thy saying and clear when thou are judged.
- ⁵ Behold, I was shaped in wickedness and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
- ⁷ Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean, thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
- ⁹ Turn thy face from my sins and put out all my misdeeds.
- ¹⁰ Make me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² O give me the comfort of thy help again and establish me with thy free Spirit.
- ¹³ Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

- ¹⁴ Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou art the God of my health and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
- ¹⁵ Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord and my mouth shall show thy praise.
- ¹⁶ For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee but thou delightest not in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
- ¹⁸ O be favorable and gracious unto Zion, build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
- ¹⁹ Then shalt thou be pleased with sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt offerings and oblations, then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.
- ²⁰ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

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.

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.**

We observe a period of silence.

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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.**

FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

SOLO (*Noon*) *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

Bernie Bopp

MOTET (*Evening*). *All My Hope on God Is Founded*
Chorale

Steve Rodgers

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

LENTEN ACCLAMATION (*please stand*)

Handbells

Glor - ry and praise

to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Cantors: Re-turn to the Lord, your God who is gracious and merciful, slow to an-ger, and abounding in steadfast love. Repeat **Antiphon**

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

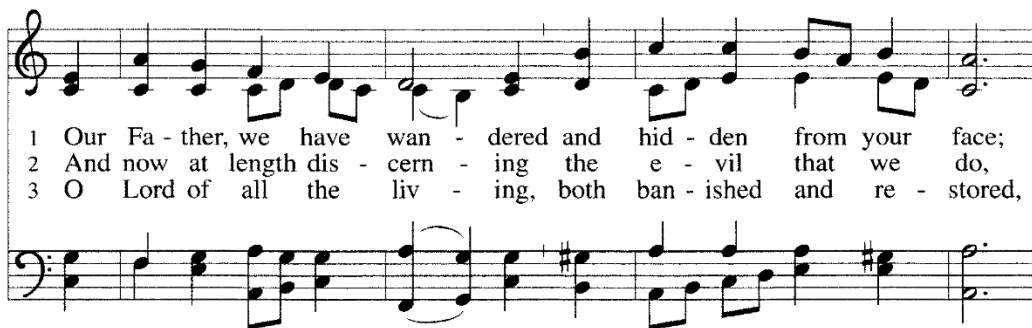
[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may 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 of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

SERMON

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

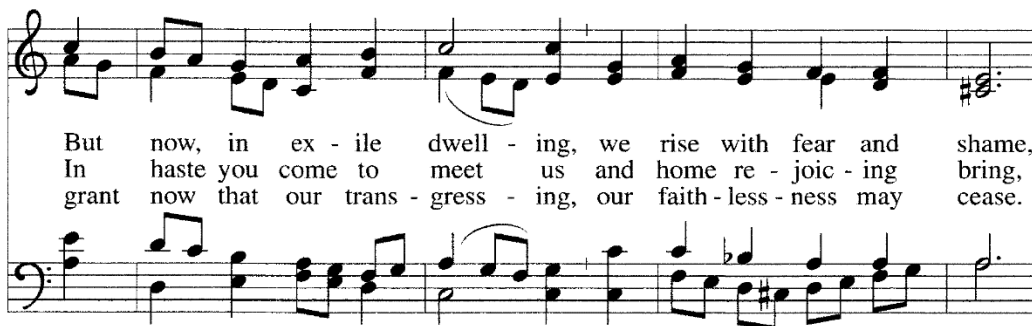
HYMN #606 Our Father, We Have Wandered (*please stand*)



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

GREAT THANKSGIVING *(please stand)*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Christ our Lord. 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. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

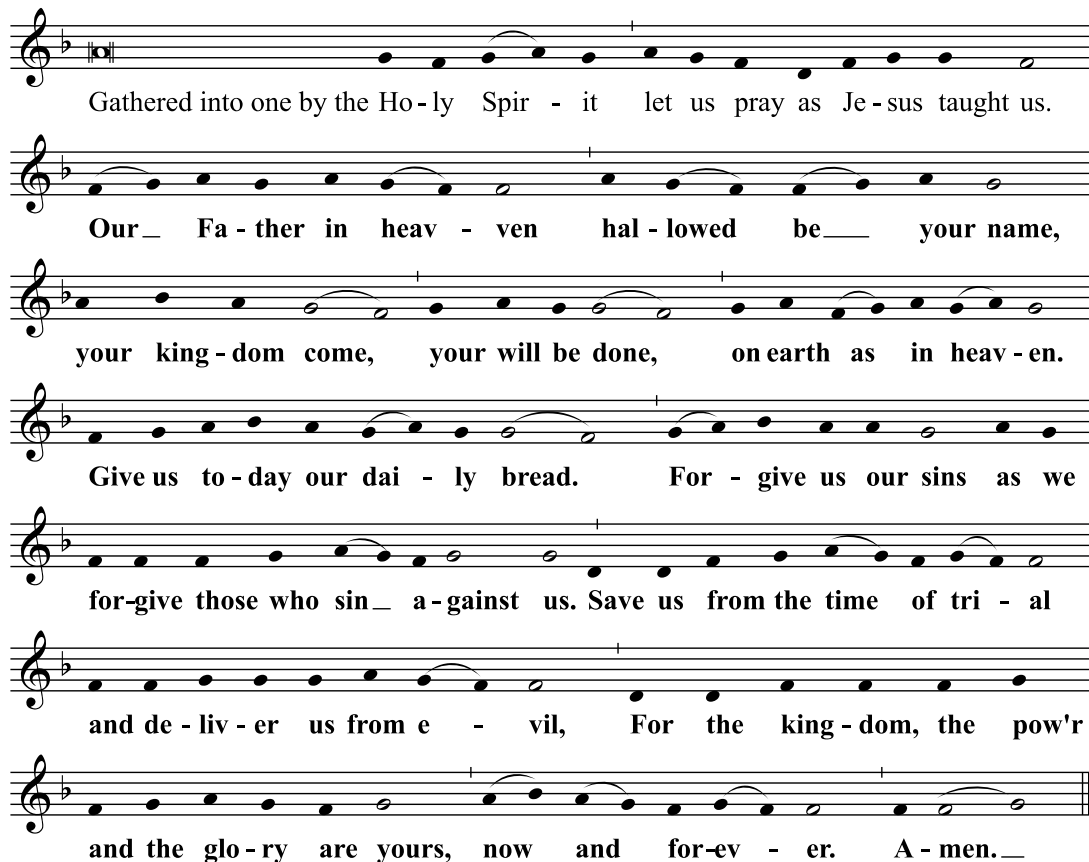
✠ Christ has died. ✠ Christ is risen. ✠ Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER



Gathered into one by the Ho - ly Spir - it let us pray as Je - sus taught us.

Our_ Fa - ther in heav - ven hal - lowed be___ your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin_ a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil, For the king - dom, the pow'r

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for-ev - er. A - men. _

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward with hands outstretched to receive the bread in the form of a wafer and then intinct (dip) the wafer into the cup (with red wine or white grape juice), as you hear the words: "The body of Christ, given for you" and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." (Gluten-free wafers are also available.)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *(please be seated)*

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way
the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God,
You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A-men.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

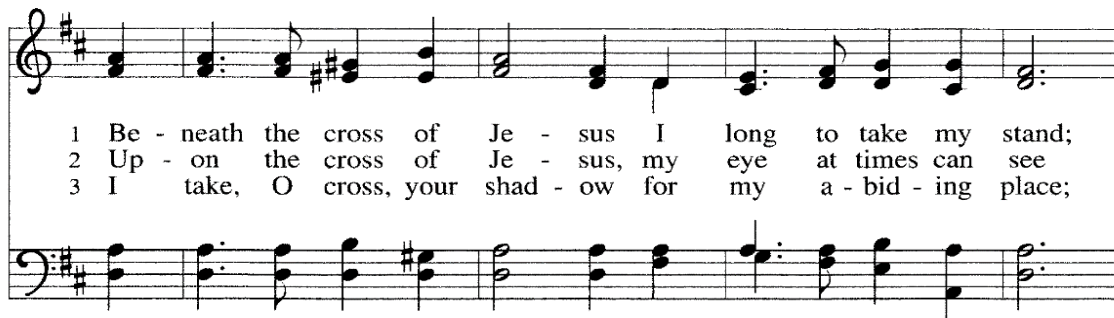
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; this we pray through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

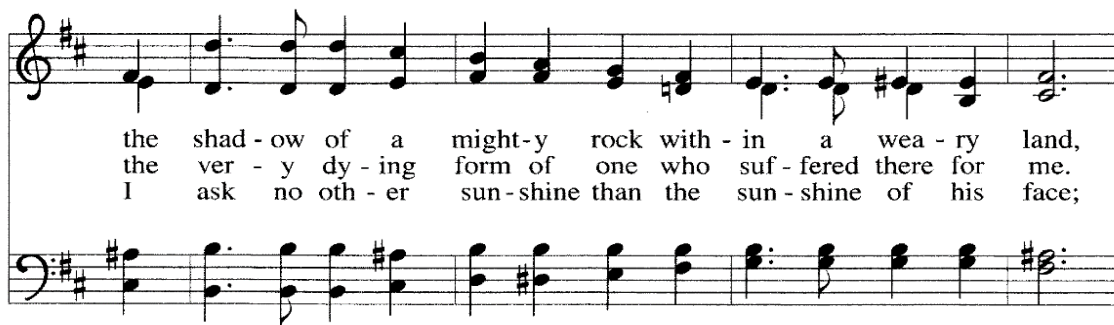
BENEDICTION (*please stand*)

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

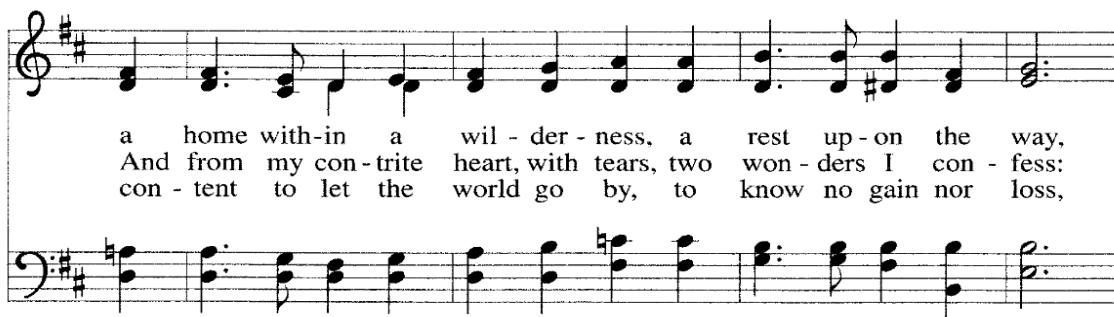
HYMN #338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus



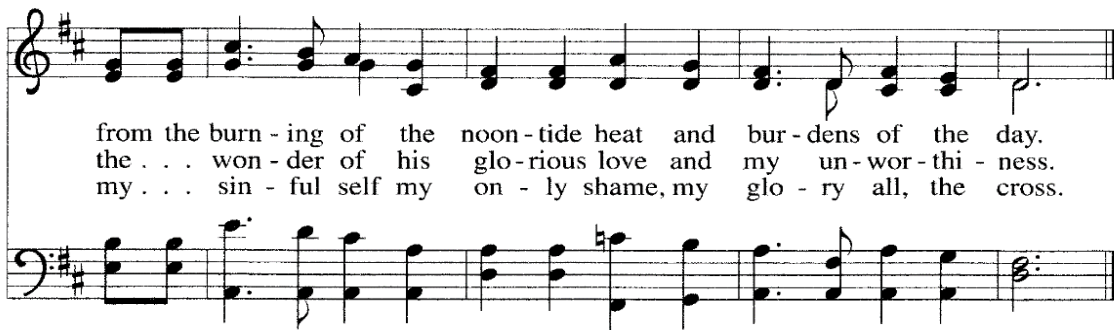
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



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.

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Those who wish to remain for silent prayer and meditation may do so.
Please depart in silence.*

Presiding Minister: Pastor Laurie A Jones

Preacher: Pastor Ben Nickodemus

Lector (Evening): Larry & Merrily Sutton

Cantors for Psalm 51 (Noon): Ginger and Bernie Bopp

Cantors for Psalm 51 (Evening):

Steve Rodgers, Daniel Au, Blake Hodgetts, John Shields

Soloist (noon): Bernie Bopp

Organist/Choirmaster: Dr. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Associate Organist: Dr. Lindsey Henriksen Rodgers

Our Together Tuesday Lenten Schedule begins with soup supper at 5:15pm followed at 6pm with an interactive reflection on the Word of God in the Parish Hall, concluding with Holden evening prayer in the Sanctuary from 6:45-7:15pm. Music Together & Children's Choir meets simultaneously from 6pm-6:45, with Junior Cantors rehearsing from 6:45-7:15pm.

New members will be received on Palm Sunday, March 24. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about our life together at Central, please contact Pastor Laurie (pastorlaurie@welcometocentral.org) or Pastor Ben (pastorben@welcometocentral.org).

Central Lutheran Church 2024 Schedule for Lent thru Easter

Date	Lent / Holy Week / Easter
February 14 Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Worship at noon & 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
February 18, 25 March 3, 10, 17	Sundays in Lent Worship at 8:30am & 11am with Education between services 9:45-10:45am
February 20, 27 March 5, 12, 19 Together Tuesdays	Soup Supper at 5:15pm; Music Together & Children's Choir at 6pm; Interactive Worship at 6pm with Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45pm
March 24 Palm Sunday	Reception of New Members at 8:30am & 11am
March 28 Maundy Thursday	Worship at 7:30pm
March 29 Good Friday	Worship at noon & 7:30pm in the Sanctuary
March 31 Easter Sunday	The Resurrection of Our Lord Festival Worship at 8:30am & 11am

“Journeying with God through our Wilderness” Based on Exodus chapters 15-20

Together Tuesday topics for Interactive Worship:

Feb 20: Joy of freedom & the anxiety of vulnerability in the Wilderness

Feb. 27: Groundlessness, despair, lament, & complaint in the Wilderness

Mar 5: Theology of need rather than abundance in the Wilderness

Mar 12: Sabbath in the Wilderness, gift and challenge

Mar 19: Caring for others in the Wilderness