

# *Ash Wednesday*



*March 5, 2025 | 7:00 p.m.*

*Kviteseid Lutheran Church  
308 North Third Street  
Milan, Minnesota*

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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*On Ash Wednesday* we mark the cross on our foreheads with ashes. Ashes remind us that we are creatures. Ashes remind us that we are sinners. We are called to repentance. We receive Christ's body and blood, a reminder that we are forgiven and raised to life and freedom.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GREETING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

ELW #326  
(Alt. tune: ELW #805)

### INVITATION TO LENT

### CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most holy and merciful God,

C **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.**

P 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.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P 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.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy,  
and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our neglect of human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

P 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.

**C Amen.**

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES**

*Please come forward. Ashes will be placed on your forehead or, if you prefer,  
in the palm of your open hand, with the words of God to Adam:*

***“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”***

*(Children are invited to come forward with their parents.)*

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

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

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

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

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us 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.

**C Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray,

**C 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.**

**LESSON: Joel 2:12-17**

*Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.*

L The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 51:1-17**

L <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

**C according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.**

L <sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**C and cleanse me from my sin.**

L <sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,

**C and my sin is ever before me.**

L <sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

**C so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

L <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,

**C a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

L <sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;

**C therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

L <sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**C wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

L <sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;

**C let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

L <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
 C **and blot out all my iniquities.**  
 L <sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
 C **and put a new and right spirit within me.**  
 L <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
 C **and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.**  
 L <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
 C **and sustain in me a willing spirit.**  
 L <sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
 C **and sinners will return to you.**  
 L <sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
 C **O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**  
 L <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
 C **and my mouth will declare your praise.**  
 L <sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
 C **if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**  
 L <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
 C **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10**

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.*

L The word of the Lord.  
 C **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
 C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.*

P The Gospel of our Lord.  
 C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

ELW #319  
(Alt. tune: ELW #632)

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

P God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

*The prayers are concluded with these words:*

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C **Amen.**

## OFFERING

### JINGLE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

ELW #186  
*Based on Psalm 51:10-12*

### OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## PROPER PREFACE AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

### COMMUNION HYMNS

“Lamb of God”

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“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

ELW #599

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

ELW #608

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

**P** The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of † Christ Jesus,  
and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

**C** **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

“Restore in Us, O God”

ELW #328  
(Alt. tune: ELW #686)

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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