

OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH/LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
ASH WEDNESDAY



Wednesday, February 22, 2023

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Our red hymn book is located in the pew rack in front of you. The songs are in the back half of the book, with the song number at the top of the page.

**An asterisk indicates the congregation should stand as you are able.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather together at the edge of a new season.

We stand together on the cusp of something new.

Will we wade into self-reflection?

Will we invite honesty to dance?

Will we listen for God's invitation?

Will we seek deeper faith?

What kind of fast do we choose? What kind of faith will we build?

We gather together at the edge of a new season.

Listen, God is speaking.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***Gathering Song: Oh Tender God Have Mercy**

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The lyrics are: "O ten-der God, have mer-cy for you are for us", "O liv-ing Christ, have mer-cy for you will heal us", "O ten-der God, have mer-cy for you are for us", and "for you are for us". The chords are: C, Am7, Dm7, Gsus4, G; C, Am7, Dm7, Gsus4, G; F, G, C, G/B, Am; F, G, C.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God,
We want to hear your voice.
 Shout loudly;
 don't hold back.
 Move in our spirits
 the way you moved over the waters of creation.
 We are beginning a new season today, God,
 and we don't want to begin anything without you.
So speak to us today—
through silence,
through scripture,
through song.
 Speak to us
 as you spoke to the Israelites so many moons ago.

Speak to us like a gentle breeze
or a loud trumpet.
We don't care how,
we just long to hear your voice.
So don't hold back.
We are here.
We are listening.
Amen.

WORD

Isaiah 58:6-12

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,

whose waters never fail.

¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

***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.

[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.”

REFLECTION

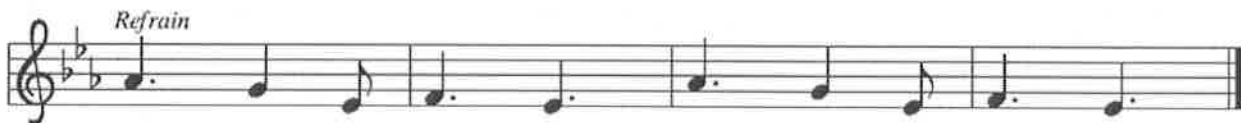
***SONG** - ACS 1084: *God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Inspired by the words of Isaiah 58.

**We believe in God who chooses freedom,
who unties every rope and carries our burdens.
We believe in God who ushers in the poor and the hungry,
who has a seat saved for all of us.
We believe in God whose love is like the sun,
who says, "I'm here, I'm here!" every time we cry.
We believe in God who walks before us in the parched places,
who rescues our bones,
who tends to us like a gardener.
And because we believe,
we do justice,
Love kindness,
Walk humbly.
Amen.**

PRAYER STATIONS

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 through the cross of Christ we are given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Guide. **Amen.**

You may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. You may also visit the prayer stations for personal prayer on way up or back from receiving ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany us in the coming forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who lack food, pray for those in need, fast from excess, and above all that we may find our treasure in new life in Christ, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

***DISMISSAL**


As you leave this place,
may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry.
Seek the weary.
Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful.
Seek the faithful.
Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder,
may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God,
who is always seeking us,
go now in peace. Amen.
Thanks be to God.

***Sending:** ELW 326 – *Bless Now O God, the Journey*



Welcome to Our Saviour's

Christ is our peace and breaks down the walls that divide us (Ephesians 2:14). You are welcome at Our Saviour's because of who you are. We are a congregation of longtime churchgoers, newcomers, seekers, seasonal visitors, and returners with diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and beliefs. We follow a familiar Lutheran service with piano, organ, and guest musicians. We celebrate the cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of the Tucson region and seek to be a place of belonging for all. We welcome those who have felt or been excluded from church spaces because of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, financial status, or any other reason. We like the sound of young people in worship, we value the experience of our elders, and all ages between. Our communion table is Christ's table, and all people are welcome, no exceptions. Your presence here builds up the body of Christ.



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February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Presiders

Rev. Rebecca Boardman
Rev. Amalia Vagts

Assisting Minister

Clare Johnson

Accompanist

Nancy Rude

Acolyte

Jerry Vagts

Ushers

Jerry & Valerie Vagts



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