



Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
Ash Wednesday Feb. 22, 2023
7:00 PM



Welcome to Christ the Servant Lutheran Church

*A Reconciling in Christ
congregation of the ELCA*

Sunday Worship 9:30 AM

Sunday Childcare 9:15-11:00 AM

*Children's Message and Children's Chapel
during services. All children welcome!*

We're glad that you have joined us for worship today!

Who are we at Christ the Servant?

Called by God to share the Good News, we are the hands of Christ, lifted in worship, joined in learning, extended in service, supporting in love, and reaching for justice.

- We believe in God our creator, and are awed by the mystery of creation.
- We believe we are saved by God's grace through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- We believe the word and spirit of God are they guiding force in our lives.

To all we extend a heartfelt invitation to join us on this journey, as partners in the full life and ministry of Christ the Servant, regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, abilities, or socioeconomic status.

Church Office Hours

M-Th 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Office@ctslutheran.org

360.733.1277

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth

Interim Pastor

Pastordeanna@ctslutheran.org

Land Acknowledgement

We gather on the ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Lummi, Nooksack, and Semiahmoo, who have lived in this region since time immemorial. May we live consciously and respectfully, honoring our Coast Salish neighbors.

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023

Prelude

Please stand as able.

Siblings in Christ: Every year at Easter we celebrate with joy our redemption and renewal through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to make room in our lives for the Spirit of God to renew us.

Bless the Lord

9

The musical score is for the hymn "Bless the Lord" and is written for piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a tempo marking of quarter note = 76 and a dynamic marking of *p*. The lyrics are: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the same dynamic marking and lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The score includes a treble and bass clef for both systems, with chords and melodic lines. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, F, A in the first system, and Dm, G, Dm, Bb, C, Dm in the second system.

Let us begin our Lenten journey by together confessing our sin and seeking the forgiveness and new life that is promised to us in Christ Jesus. We pause for a silent prayer of confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Psalm of Confession (based on Psalm 51)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; you who have great mercy, forgive what I have done.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know what I have done wrong; my sins are ever before me and heavy on my heart.

Against you, God, you only, have I sinned; you who know all things know what I have done. You have every right to judge me for my actions and every right to punish me for them.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

In the time since I was born, I have committed many sins, and done many things which I wish I had not done.

God, you want me to be truthful to my very core; therefore, teach me wisdom in the depths of my heart.

If you will do it, O God, I shall be clean, wash me, and I shall be pure.

Fill me with joy and gladness!

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Then I will lead others to return to you, O God, and learn your ways.

Deliver me from my guilt, O God of my salvation, and I will sing aloud of your deliverance. I will sing your praises.

You take no delight in sacrifices; you would not be pleased if I were to offer one to you.

The sacrifice acceptable to you is a broken spirit; a contrite heart, O God, you will not reject.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Assurance of Forgiveness

God is merciful and gracious, granting forgiveness through Jesus Christ to all who confess their sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Please be seated.

Imposition of Ashes

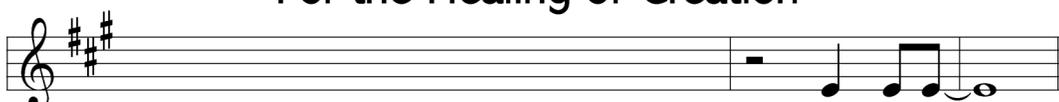
The sign of the ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.



For the Healing of the Nations or For the Healing of Creation

12



The leader names those for whom prayers are made. The assembly responds: Peace be yours.
or God, re-new.

After each verse:

Leader



For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.
or For the heal-ing of cre - a - tion, we pray to you, O God.

Assembly



For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.
For the heal-ing of cre - a - tion, we pray to you, O God.

Text: Susan Briehl

Music: John D. Becker, from *Litany of the Saints*

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Let us pray,

Gracious God, you have created us and all that exists and have done so out of your steadfast, faithful love. Make us ever mindful that we live every single day in your grace, even that last day when we return with all creation to dust. Breathe into us Christ's new life, that we might rise each morning to love and serve you and our neighbors near and far. Amen.

Song **Bless the Lord, My Soul (bulletin Page 3)**

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

 Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
 to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
 and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
 they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
 Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
 and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Second Reading**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Song

Listen, God is Calling (refrain only 2x)

ELW 513

Gospel Reading**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

[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.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Deanna Wildermuth

Song

When Pain of the World Surrounds Us

ELW 704

Prayers of God's People

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

Compassionate God, we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives and feed us with your grace, that, in the midst of death, all creation might feast on your unending life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Hear the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Jesus invites you to come and receive food for life.

We give thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.**

Distribution of Holy Communion

Brief readings for reflection

You are in our midst, O Lord, and you have named us yours; do not forsake us, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14:9

Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace, such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest, and banish your fears.

John 14:27

I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or super-human powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths - nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

Let us pray,

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. Amen.

Benediction

Sending Song *I Want Jesus to Walk With Me* **ELW 325**

Go in peace. Walk with Jesus. Serve the world God loves.

We will! Thanks be to God.

Note on Today's Ash Wednesday Service

Why ashes?

Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient customs and practices. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context suggest judgment and God's condemnation of sin; weakness, our total dependence upon God for life; humiliation; and repentance. We are reminded forcefully of the words of the committal in the burial service, "... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, " for one day these words will be said over us. Ashes also suggest cleansing and renewal. They were once used as a cleansing agent in the absence of soap, and on Ash Wednesday the ashes have sometimes been understood as a penitential substitute for water as a sign of baptism. Water both stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive; so the ashes also tell of death and renewal. A further example of death and renewal shown by ashes is the practice of burning the fields to destroy the old and to prepare for the new growing season.

BELOVED IS WHERE WE BEGIN
Jan Richardson

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.
Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.
Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.
I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.

But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.
I can tell you
that on this way
there will be rest.
I can tell you
that you will know
the strange graces
that come to our aid
only on a road
such as this,
that fly to meet us
bearing comfort
and strength,
that come alongside us
for no other cause
than to lean themselves
toward our ear
and with their
curious insistence
whisper our name:
Beloved.
Beloved.
Beloved.

—Jan Richardson
from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings*
for the Seasons

Serving Ash Wednesday Feb 22	
Presider	Pr. Deanna Wildermuth
Reader/ Assistant Minister	David Westerlund
Pianist	Cindy Henninger
Cantors	Cindy Henninger Lee Potzler
Communion Care	Sarah Satre
Communion Servers	Claudia Ackerman Veronica Hains
Sound Livestream	Peter Drewes
Ushers	Melinda Jones
Childcare	Emily Heit Kai Pridachuk

Acknowledgements

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