

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY AND HOLY COMMUNION
February 22, 2023

7:00 pm

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross is an echo of our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: *Pilgrim's Hymn*

Paulus

Augustus Choir

Even before we call on Your name to ask You, O God,
When we seek for the words to glorify You, You hear our prayer;
Unceasing love, O unceasing love, surpassing all we know.
Glory to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Even with darkness sealing us in, we breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast, we trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and forever, and unto ages and ages, Amen.

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

Printed on the next page.

Our Father, We Have Wandered

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.

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GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The context of this reading is a community liturgy of sorrow over sin. The prophet has called the people to mourn a devastating plague and to announce a day of darkness, the day of the Lord. The people are called to repent and to return to God, who is gracious and merciful.

A A reading from Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them in ages to come.
¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

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

PSALM 51:1-18 *(The congregation's verses are in bold face type.)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | lovingkindness;*
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,*
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my transgressions,*
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**⁴Against you only | have I sinned*
and done what is evil | in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified | when you speak*
and upright | in your judgment.

**⁶Indeed, I have been wicked | from my birth,*
a sinner from my | mother's womb.**

⁷For behold, you look for truth | deep within me,*
and will make me understand | wisdom secretly.

**⁸Purge me from my sin, and I | shall be pure;*
wash me, and I shall be | clean indeed.**

⁹Make me hear of | joy and gladness,*
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

**¹⁰Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all | my iniquities.**

¹¹Create in me a clean | heart, O God,*
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

**¹²Cast me not away | from your presence,*
and take not your Holy | Spirit from me.**

¹³Give me the joy of your saving | help again*
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

**¹⁴I shall teach your ways | to the wicked,*
and sinners shall re- | turn to you.**

¹⁵Deliver me from | death, O God,*
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of | my salvation.

**¹⁶Open my | lips, O LORD,*
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.**

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have | offered sacrifice,*
but you take no delight | in burnt-offerings.

**¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;*
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Out of love for humankind, Christ experienced sin and suffering, so that the saving power of God could penetrate the most forbidding and tragic depths of human experience. No aspect of human life is ignored by the presence of God's grace. Because of this, Paul announces that this day is a day of God's grace, an acceptable time to turn toward God's mercy.

A A reading from Second Corinthians.

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.

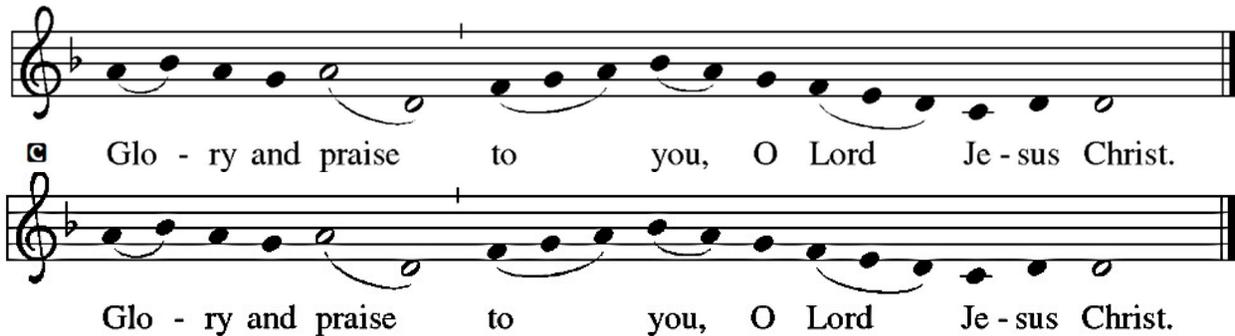
A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation sings Lenten Acclamation:



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Choir sings the Verse:



Return to the | LORD, your God,*
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in | steadfast love.

Congregation repeats Lenten Acclamation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In this passage Matthew sets forth a vision of genuine righteousness illustrated by three basic acts of Jewish devotion: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus does not denounce these acts—in the New Testament they are signs of singular devotion to God. Rather, he criticizes those who perform them in order to have a sense of self-satisfaction or to gain public approval. Care for the poor, intense prayer, and fasting with a joyous countenance are signs of loving dedication to God.

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C **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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

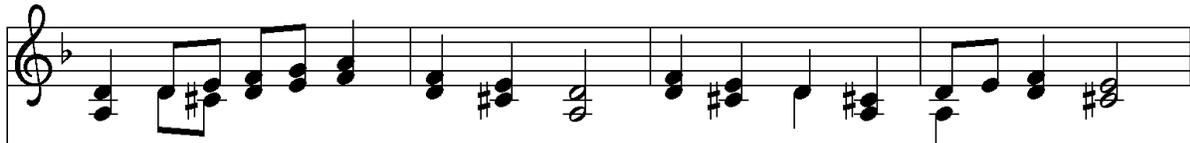
SERMON

Pastor Weleck

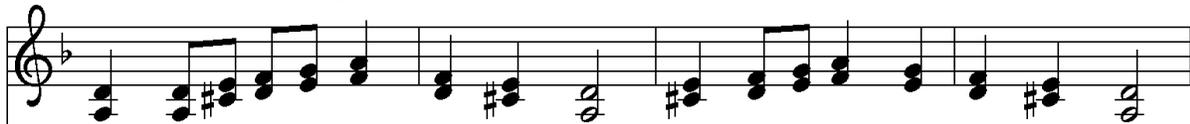
Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Savior, When in Dust to You*
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Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
 by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,
 by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-tur-ing scorn,
 by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,
 by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,
 by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,
 oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
 turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
 lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
 bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!



Sit

INVITATION TO LENT

- P** 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, so that 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 OF SIN

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

Kneel/Stand

- 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.

Sit

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

People may come forward and kneel to receive the 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.

Kneel/Stand

- 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.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

- P** 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.
C **Amen.**

Stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- A** We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts...
Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
- A** We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.

- Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- P** Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
 trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C** Amen.

PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

Worshippers do not greet one another. The service continues with the Offertory.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.

OFFERTORY

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
 spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
 pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

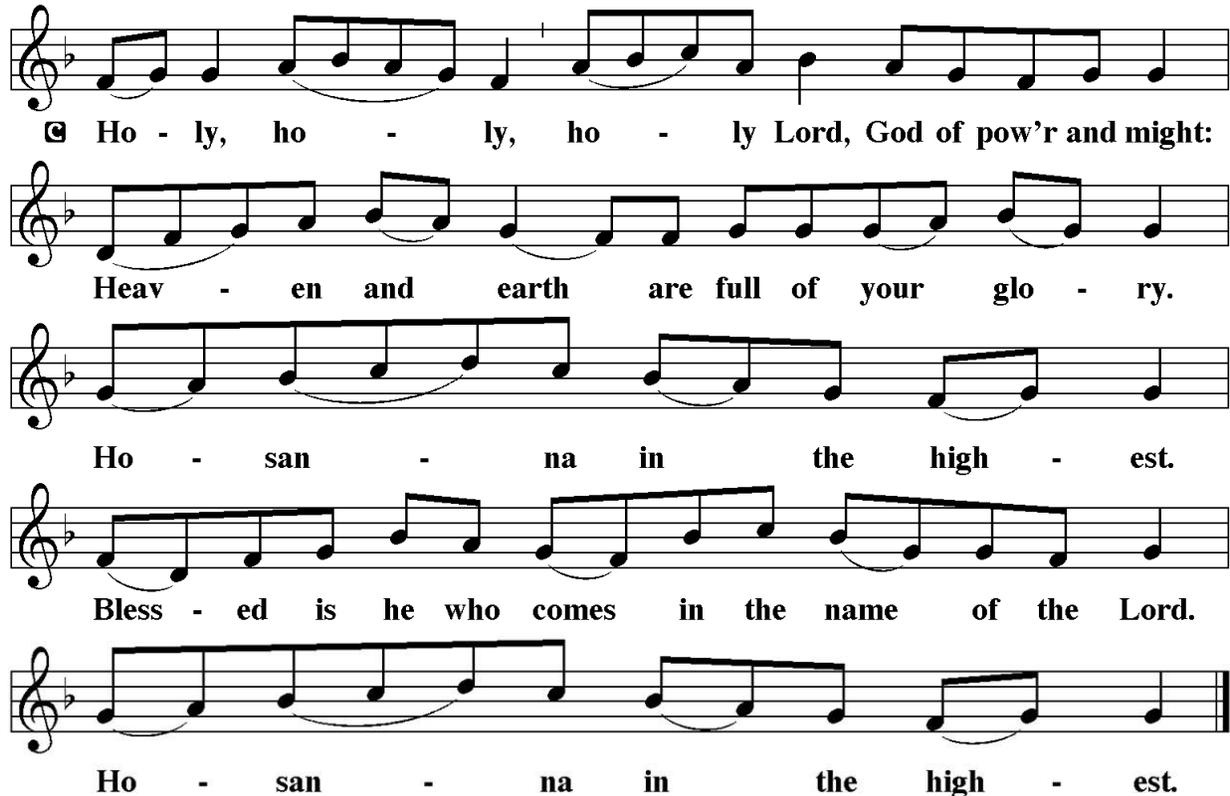
☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

¶ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly sings the 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.

The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

¶ 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

C Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Sit

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond

R Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are “truly and substantially” present “in, with, and under” the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

Music during Communion:

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

C 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

ANTHEM: *Lamb of God*

Carter

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.
Have mercy upon us.
Grant us peace.

Stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A** Let us pray.
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.

SENDING

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)



P The Lord bless you and keep you.



The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C A - men, A - men, A - men.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *Jesus Loves Me*

Printed on the next page.

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: *Our Father, Who Art in Heaven*

Bach



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Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, named for the ancient tradition of placing ashes on the forehead of penitents. Ash Wednesday is the most penitential day of the year.

The mood of this service is penitence and reflection upon the quality of one's faith and life; its goal is to enlist participation in the Lenten discipline which, by its focus upon the mystery of our redemption, should strengthen us by bringing us anew to the gift of our Baptism. The Ash Wednesday liturgy marks the beginning of a penitential discipline which climaxes in the absolution and the peace of the Maundy Thursday liturgy.

The liturgical color purple, symbolic of our penitence and Jesus' royalty, is used in Lent.

Vestry Members	Special Area	E-mail Address
Pastor Weleck		pastor@augustustrappe.org
Gary Wessner	President	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	doot44@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Secretary/Worship and Music	dsajessee@hotmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer/Finance	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Cathy Engel Menendez	Trust Fund Treasurer	Cengel70@yahoo.com
Frank DePaul	Property	Fvdp52@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	Selison76@gmail.com
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery	Matthew_vera@verizon.net
John Kochel	Parish Life/Mutual Ministry	John.kochel@thrivent.com

Worship Assistants

Greeters in Muhlenberg Center: Andrew Schlegel, Gracie Schlegel,
Devyn Parker, and Emily Barndt

Ushers: Dick Allebach, Shane Elison, Graham Anderson and Erick Lyaro

Communion Assistants: Ari Judisch and Gavin Elison

Imposing Ashes: Julianne Fishell and Lilly North

Lectors: Liam DePaul and Charlie Richvalsky

Prayers: Abi Leigl

Acolyte: Wes Long

Altar Guild: Jim Lien and Mike Van Blaricum

Offering Tabulation: John Kochel, Sherry Jessee, and Shane Elison

Video Production: Jim Lien, Jeannie Funk, or Jonathan Mueller

The Flowers that Adorn the Altar are given to the glory of God by Karen Lachenmayer in loving memory of father, Thomas Lachenmayer, on his birthday.

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by Shirley Latshaw in loving memory of son-in-law Raymond Anderson, and son-in-law Harry Rauch.

Soup Sale!! It's February and that means it's time for the annual soup sale fund raisers for the Youth Group. The last Soup sale of the winter will take place on March 19th. Price is \$4.00 a pint. Call Jerry Wentworth (484 948 5129) if you can't get to church and he will make sure you get it.

Collegeville-Trappe Ministerium Lenten Wednesday Services: The Churches of the Ministerium will host services each Wednesday in Lent this year. These services take place at 7:30 pm. The schedule is as follows:

March 8	Augustus Lutheran	Preacher: Suzanne Schwarz-Green
March 15	Trinity Reformed UCC	Preacher: Andrew Weber
March 22	Thomas Paine UU	Preacher: Michael Sowards
March 29	Augustus Lutheran	Joint Choir Cantata Service



2023 Easter Flowers

Flowers can now be ordered for Easter!

Please include payment with your order. Make checks payable to: Augustus Flower Fund

Orders can be left in the church office, or mailed to:
 Karen Lachenmayer, 412 Dartmoor Road, Schwenksville, PA 19473

Phone: 610-715-4850 E-Mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail.com

ORDER DEADLINE: March 26, 2023

Name: _____

(Please Print)

QTY

Lily	_____ @ \$15.50	=	_____
Daffodil	_____ @ \$11.00	=	_____
Tulip	_____ @ \$5.50	=	_____
	Order Total		_____

Check One:

I will take my flowers AFTER the Easter Service _____

Please distribute my flowers to others _____

I would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read:

(PLEASE PRINT)