

Ash Wednesday



*February 14, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.
Kviteseid Lutheran Church*

*Big Bend Lutheran Church
Kviteseid Lutheran Church
Milan, Minnesota*

ORDER OF SERVICE

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 We are dust, and to dust we shall return. But our God is faithful and just. When we confess our sins, he covers us in his righteousness and gives us new hope.

C **Most merciful God, dust is our destiny. We are impure. We are at war against you and our fellow human beings in what we say, in what we think, and in what we do. We have even left undone the good things you have commanded us to do. We do not deserve the kingdom of heaven. Out of the depths of your perfect grace, please forgive us for the sins we have committed against you and against one another. Wash us clean and turn our rags into white robes so that we will rise from the dust of ashes to the glory of your grace.**

P Our merciful heavenly Father sent his Son Jesus, who is righteous, merciful and pure in heart. He is the one who has, by his cross, made peace between evil sinners and a righteous God. Jesus Christ rose from the dust of death to life again so that we are made to live before God in righteousness and purity. It is by his grace that I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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.

HYMN

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

ELW #599

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

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-17 (read responsively)

L ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

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

L ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C and cleanse me from my sin.

L ³For I know my transgressions,

C and my sin is ever before me.

L ⁴Against 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 ⁵Indeed, I was born guilty,
C **a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

L ⁶You desire truth in the inward being;
C **therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

L ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
C **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

L ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
C **let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

L ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

L ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and put a new and right spirit within me.**

L ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
C **and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.**

L ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
C **and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

L ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
C **and sinners will return to you.**

L ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
C **O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

L ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare your praise.**

L ¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice;
C **if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**

L ¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
C **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

LESSON: 1 Peter 2:1-10

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-11

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" ELW #319
(Alt. tune: ELW #632)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

P Lord, because of your mercy,

C **Blessed are we.**

The prayers are concluded with these words:

P Into your hands, Lord Jesus, we place all of our needs knowing that you are the only one who can bless us in measure beyond our wildest expectation.

C **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER page 154

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS "Lamb of God" page 154
"Just As I Am, without One Plea" ELW #592
"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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Ash Wednesday Worship



For this Ash Wednesday evening, those desiring the imposition of ashes will be ushered forward. Ashes will be placed on your forehead in the form of the cross, or if you prefer, in the palm of your open hand. Children are invited to come forward with their parents. Ashes will be administered with the words of God to Adam:

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