

Welcome to
Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Wednesday, February 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Wednesday February 22, 2023

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

GATHERING

The assembly gathers in silence.

L: Let us begin our prayer together . . . In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

All: Today we gather, with Christians across the world, to mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. Today is Ash Wednesday. God calls us to repentance, to bring our sins and burdens before him and ask his healing and forgiveness. What have you to bring? What do you ask forgiveness for? What in you, needs the healing of Jesus Christ? In stillness, we come into the presence of the God who is always forgiving, always merciful, always compassionate, always loving.

(silence)

OPENING PRAYER

L: 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.

HYMN

(LBW #309)

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
 Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

OUR READING IS FROM the book of Joel, chapter 2, verses 12 through 18.

Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

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?' "

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church

C: Thanks be to God

Please read responsively Psalm 51 verses 1 through 17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast
love; 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 offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in
your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right
in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner
from my mother's womb.

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would
have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash
me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have
broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my
wickedness.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right
spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not
your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me
with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ACS #974)

Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in a single system, written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Lis - ten to the word that God has spo - ken; lis - ten to the One who is
close at hand; lis - ten to the voice that be - gan cre - a - tion;
lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

Text: Anonymous, Canada

Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.

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

GOSPEL: 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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

(WOV #733)

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.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

Text © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

L: My friends in Christ, let us ask God our Father to bless these ashes which we will use as the mark of our repentance.

silent prayer.

L: Father, we gather in your presence on this Ash Wednesday, to seek your forgiveness and to ask your help in living our lives better. For the times when we have failed to love.

C: have mercy, Lord.

L: For the times when we have not noticed the needs of others.

C: have mercy, Lord.

L: For the times when we have refused to forgive.

C: have mercy, Lord.

L: These ashes are a sign of our repentance.

Holding a hand outstretched over the ashes .

L: Bless them, Lord, and make them a sign to the world of our desire to change, and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus your Son.

C: Amen.

(come up forward to receive your ashes and then return to your seat. The blessing will be said after the Ash Hymn)

These words will be spoken when the ashes are placed on your forehead. "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. "

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES HYMN

(WOV 734)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

After the imposition of ashes:

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

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

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

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

L: 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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER (Bidding Prayers)

Please rise as you are able)

L: As we begin this season of Lent, let us pray for ourselves and for the whole world that all people may come back to God, repenting their sins, and seeking his forgiveness.

C: Lord Have Mercy.

L : Let us pray that we may hear God's call this Lent to come back to him, asking his mercy and forgiveness.

C: Lord Have Mercy.

L: Let us pray that, when we lose confidence in ourselves, in others, and in God, we may be blessed with the gift of faith.

C: Lord Have Mercy.

L: Let us pray that, when we are tempted to despair, we may find hope.

C: Lord Have Mercy.

L: Let us pray that, when our hearts are filled with anger and resentment, we may find compassion and love.

C: Lord Have Mercy.

L: As we forgive those who sin against us, let us ask for God's mercy in the words that Jesus taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

L: Let us pray. Father, through our observance of Lent, help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection, and teach us to reflect it in our lives. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(LBW #99)

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



- 1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
- 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;
- 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;
- 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930
Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

L: Go out marked with the ashes of repentance. Go out marked by faith in God's mercy.

C: Thanks Be to God.

POSTLUDE

Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003687.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

In the hearth room

Annual report packets will be available .

*2023 Budget *Proxy voting *Pastoral vacancy

*and other items

Please plan to attend.



Held at Bethania Lutheran Church

4120 Wright Avenue

Racine, WI 53405

SUNDAY SERVICES

10:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

March 5 –God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life.

March 12 –Christ offers us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness

March 19 -God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children.

March 26 –We remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK SERVICES

7:00 p.m.

In the Hearth Room

"Ways of the Cross"

March 1 - **JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

March 8 -**JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS**

March 15 - **THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON OF CYRENE**

March 22 -**JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

March 29 -**JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

4:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Office Open

7:00 p.m.—Ash Wednesday Service, Hearth Room

Thursday, February 23, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, February 24, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Saturday, February 25, 2023

10:00 a.m. To 9:00 p.m. – private party, fh

Sunday, February 26, 2023

9:00 a.m. – COFFEE HOUR/Congregational meeting

10:30 a.m. -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

Monday, February 27, 2023

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

10:00 to 2:00 p.m.- Thread by Thread OPEN

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.-Office Open

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service, Hearth room