

Ash Wednesday

February 17, 2021

7:30 p.m.

WELCOME

We are so glad you have chosen to join us in worship this evening.

INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN ELW: **ELW 608**

Softly and Tenderly

**1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.**

**See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)

You who are weary, come home."

**Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?**

**Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? Refrain**

**3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!**

**Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. Refrain**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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.

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—a 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.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend 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. Who 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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.

Between 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?'"
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

Against 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.

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

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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: "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. 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 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.

But 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. 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise: "Yet Even Now"

HYMN OF THE DAY: **ELW 592** *Just As I Am, without One Plea*

**1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

**4 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Most holy and merciful God,
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.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

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 only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

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.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY HYMN: WOV 732

Create in Me a Clean Heart

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

**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.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Thanks be to God.

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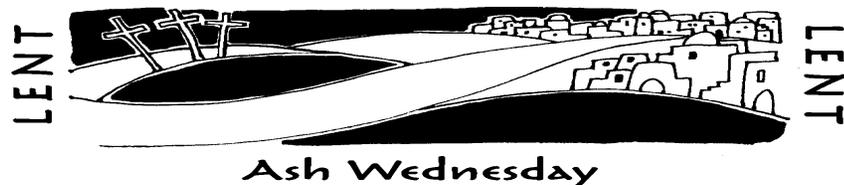
THOSE SERVING US TONIGHT

Worship Leader:	Pastor Fred
P.A.:	Ken Gabrielson
Video:	Joyce Schneider/Joel Schneider
Singers:	Arlen & Lynne Forth Janet Forth Daphne Gabrielson Albert & Jane Wedman
Piano:	Colleen McGinnis

Grace Lutheran Church

4218 – 56th Avenue
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 2W3
Phone No. 352-5121; Fax No. 352-0063
Email: pastorfred@glcw.ca
Email: glcw.jane@gmail.com
Website: www.glcw.ca

"Reflecting and Sharing Jesus Christ"



Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!

If you would like a visit from Pastor Fred, to share a prayer concern, or have any questions about today's service please contact the church office.

Ministers:	Members & Friends of Grace
Pastor:	Fred Schneider Home: 780-312-1776
Pastoral Care Worker:	
Office Administrator:	Daphne Gabrielson Home: 780-352-8815
Caretaker:	Lorne Hagstrom Home: 780-352-2985
Interim Treasurer:	David Ruff Home: 780-352-1193
Treasurer:	Kathy Coroluick Home: 780-352-6990
Education Facilitator:	Betty Grayson Home: 780-352-5829
Cong. Chairperson:	Ken Gabrielson Home: 780-352-8815

Missionary: Brian Rude AP 05-66 Metro Centre,
San Salvador, El Salvador, CA

Scripture Readings for the First Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm: Psalm 32
Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19
Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

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ASH WEDNESDAY
Yet Even Now
REND YOUR HEARTS: CLAIMING THE PROMISE

Guiding Principles

Jesus is Lord
We Welcome Everyone
We Value God's Creation
We Are Open to the Power of God
We share God's love
Through Worship and Service
We Offer Forgiveness for All

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come home! (come home!)**

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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

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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. **Amen.**

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The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: Rend Your Hearts: Claiming the Promise: "Yet Even Now"

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