



"For you are
dust, and
to dust
you shall
return."

Genesis 3:19

Ash Wednesday, March 5 2025

Living Savior Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE

Order of Worship: Evening Prayer (page 243)

Hymns: 419, 613, 607

Processional: Psalm 51 (page 51)

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

The congregation may rise for silent reflection

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

C: **have mercy.**

P: O Lord,

C: **have mercy.**

P: O Christ,

C: **hear us.**

P: God the Father in heaven,

C: **have mercy.**

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: **have mercy.**

P: God the Holy Spirit,

C: **have mercy.**

P: Be gracious to us.

C: **Spare us, good Lord.**

P: Be gracious to us.

C: **Help us, good Lord.**

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;

by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our
repentance:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the
distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and
all who stand in need of our prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and
slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the
world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation may be seated. Those who wish to receive the ashes may come forward at the direction of the usher.

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 suffering of Your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

P: During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and His Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by Him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Hymn 419: Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Old Testament Reading - Joel 2:12-19

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and bounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, “Where is their God?”” ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 1:2-11

² May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. ³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and

godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in

and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Hymn 613: To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All

Sermon – Repent: Turn to Jesus and Not to Yourself

Sermon text: Luke 18:9-14

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Canticle (page 248)

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Lord’s Prayer (page 251)

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Hymn 607: From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee



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Regular Schedule

Divine Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:15 am (singing)
Bible Class 10:20 am

Cover art by Joshua Fabian

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance (Genesis 18:27; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (c. A.D. 160-215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite for Christian burial: ' . . . earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust . . . ,' words that will someday be spoken over us all. The imposition of ashes has never been an exclusively Roman Catholic practice and today is observed widely by Christians of many traditions.



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