



***Calvary Lutheran Church  
February 14, 2024***

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a solemn call to fasting and repentance. In marking our foreheads with ashes, we acknowledge that someday we will all die and return to the earth. At the same time, the ash traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism, so that what seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning; in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we journey forth trusting that in Christ, we have already received the promise of new life now and forever.*

**A Warm Welcome** to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

*(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)*

**KEY:** ELW and any page number = Worship hymnal (cranberry),  
OSB = Other Song Book (red), W&P = Worship & Praise (purple).

\* Indicates please stand if able. Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

## **Prelude Music**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **‡WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS‡**

Gracious Lord, ashes remind us of our human frailty and mortality. You are eternal, but we are limited in our days. Someday we will return to dust and ashes. You remind us of this in your Word:

**Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

*(Genesis 3:19; Psalm 90:3)*

Ashes speak of condemnation for sin. When Adam fell into sin, judgment and death came to all. Since we all are born into sin, we are marked for death and ashes.

**Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

Ashes speak of our total dependence upon you, O God. We are but frail human beings who must rely upon you, dear Father. We think we are capable of taking care of ourselves and make our own plans for greatness. However, so often these plans fail and crumble into ashes.

**Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

Ashes speak of our humiliation and repentance. As people in the Bible humbled themselves and expressed their repentance and mourning in the signs of sackcloth and ashes, we also humble ourselves before you, O God, as we ask you to forgive our sins through Jesus Christ, our Lord. As we repent we put on dust and ashes.

**Dust we are and to dust we shall return.**

People of God, as we see the meaning of ashes and dust for us as Christians, we now make our earnest confession unto the Lord.

**Almighty God, you have always warned your people against trusting in false gods. We are sinful and this nature has given birth to sinful deeds: things we have done and things we have left undone. We are but dust and ash of the ground and we deserve nothing more than to return to the dust. Though we deserve your stern judgment, but for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive and renew us. Amen.**

Hear the Word of the Lord, "Repent, and believe the gospel." With these words, Jesus began his ministry and now directs us to make repentance and hear his good news. Therefore, as you have made repentance, now hear the gospel. I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, announce to you the grace of God. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:**

**"Just As I Am, without One Plea"**

**ELW #592**

**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.**

### **The Greeting and Invitation to Lent**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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.

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

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.**

## ‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

### **First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,

they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>"Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight

and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today

will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,

a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,

and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,

to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,

and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,

the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 51:1-17**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

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

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

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

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

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

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

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

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

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

### **Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For 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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.  
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**\*Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

*Response after the announcement of the gospel:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Response after the gospel reading:*  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon:**

**Pastor Kathy**

*(silence for reflection and meditation)*

**‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡**

**Hymn:**

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

**ELW #793**

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4. Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**\*Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*Prayers of the Church:**

*Each petition ends with:*

Hear Us, O God...**your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude with:*

...Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(You are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another)*

**“Here At This Table”**

**Choir**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

Jesus,

**you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

**‡THE LORD’S SUPPER‡**

*Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

**\*Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ‡ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is an abundance of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

**Page 144**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also 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.**

### **\*Words of Institution**

Holy God,

You alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God**

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

### **\*The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **\*Invitation to Communion**

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All is ready and all are welcome.

### **Distribution of Communion:**

Christ is truly present in the Lord's Supper with gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

All are welcome and invited to receive Holy Communion.

*(Communion will be served continuously at two stations in the front of the church.*

*APPLE JUICE and GLUTEN FREE WAFERS are available. Just ask the server.*

*Children who are not yet communicants are invited to come forward for a blessing.)*

**Distribution Music:**

**Tahnee Hutchinson**

## **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

## **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

## **‡WE DEPART TO SERVE‡**

## **\*Benediction**

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

## **\*Sending Hymn:**

**“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

**ELW #325**

**1. I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

## **Dismissal**

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.**

## **Postlude**

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## In Our Thoughts and Prayers✝

Prayers for healing: **Sherrill Miller** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family) **Butch Feil** (recovering from surgery—Guerrero family), **Leah Nikont** (recovering from surgery), **Mary Jo Huelle** (recovering from surgery), **Drew Selck** (Cancer), **LuVerne Knoedler** (recovering from surgery), **Ruth Harris** (recovery from a fall), **Joni** (stage 4 cancer), **Kathy Johnson** (health issues), **William Gibbs** (Cancer— Larry Gibbs' brother), **Vicki Schmidt** (cancer treatment), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends **Tamara Taylor** (Fran Johson & Barb Tallmon's niece).

Prayers for comfort and safety: **Zeke Chilcott** (deployed—friend of Marissa Wright), **Jeffery Christeleit** (deployed—Brian & Jodi Christeleit's son and Jim & Sheila Miller's grandson).

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**, the meal is @ 5:30 pm  
with worship to follow @ 6:30 pm.  
This week is Enchilada Casserole  
sponsored by Social Ministry.



The Five Solas are the theme for our Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. These are five central truths that came out of the Reformation – 1 Scripture Alone, 2 Christ Alone, 3 Faith Alone, 4 Grace Alone and 5 Glory of God Alone. Join us at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings starting February 14, Ash Wednesday.

## **2023 LENTEN LUNCHES**

will be held on Tuesdays from Noon to 1 p.m. during Lent.

### **SCHEDULE**

- February 20** - First Presbyterian Church  
*101 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St., Scottsbluff*
- February 27** - First United Methodist Church  
*2002 4th Ave., Scottsbluff*
- March 5** – Calvary Lutheran Church  
*17 E. 27<sup>th</sup> St., Scottsbluff*
- March 12** - Westway Christian Church  
*1701 W. 27th St., Scottsbluff*
- March 19** - St. Francis Episcopal Church  
*14 E. 20th St., Scottsbluff*



FEBRUARY 14, 2024  
ASH WEDNESDAY



*God gives us mercy and forgiveness.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY BIBLE READINGS**

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ash Wednesday observances.

Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

The Lord's invitation

Psalms 51:1-17

A prayer for cleansing

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Ambassadors for Christ

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The practice of faith

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.*

Psalms 51:1 (NRSV)

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for Ash Wednesday:**

God of steadfast love, create in me a clean heart and renew me with a humble spirit ready to receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, for life, for health, for all the goodness that we receive with this gift of food, we give you thanks through the mercy of Christ our Lord. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May your heart be filled with the treasures of God's love and mercy.



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For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website [calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org](http://calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org)

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

HYMN FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

*Out of the Depths I*

*Cry to You*

**ASH WEDNESDAY MILESTONES**



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

**CARING CONVERSATIONS**



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What makes Ash Wednesday a memorable day for you?
- What disciplines or routines would you like to practice this Lent?

**DEVOTIONS**



Read: Psalm 51:1-17.

The Christian practices of prayer, attention to God through some form of fasting, and almsgiving (providing for the needs of one's neighbor) is at the heart of the disciplines of Lent. It is a time to focus on the spiritual life of the Christian with attention to love of God and love of neighbor. God's law and teaching centers on the love of others. The unifying power of God's creative work is love. As much as we wish to be kind and loving, we still fail at living a life of love. The good news is that it is the very nature of God to forgive and to send us into the future with God's mission to love. We receive mercy and forgiveness, not because we are extremely sorry, but because this is who God is for us, the one who forgives. Our God is full of steadfast love and abundant mercy (v.1). This frees us to return to the God of grace that we know through Christ and to be honest, humble, and repentant. Psalm 51 is filled with beautiful and memorable language that shows us what this can look and sound like.

Discuss: What words from Psalm 51 help you find comfort and forgiveness?

Pray: God of abundant mercy, we thank you for cleansing us of our sin that we may trust in you and your love so that we may love others through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**SERVICE**



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Ash Wednesday Bible Readings and theme, how can you extend God's forgiving presence to someone this week?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**



The three practices associated with Ash Wednesday and Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Consider ways to emphasize these three practices during the forty days of Lent. Use a calendar for the weeks of Lent and schedule times for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to the needs of others). Consider ways to simplify your life by having shared meals with others and by using less technology. Be aware of how these simple disciplines can enhance your sense of humility and joy as a follower of Jesus.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)