

ASH  
WEDNESDAY



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

Ecclesiastes 3:20

[Catholic.org](http://Catholic.org)

## **WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We extend in the name of Christ, a hearty welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and fellowship. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining Peace. Nursery care is provided for young children during Sunday worship.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

### **LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS & HEARING-ASSISTANCE DEVICES**

Large-print bulletins are available from the ushers. We also have hearing-assistance devices that look like a pager with a small earphone. These devices work anywhere in the sanctuary, and the volume is easily adjusted to suit your needs. Please inform the usher if you would like either a large-print bulletin or a hearing-assistance device.

### **INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION**

In this holy meal Jesus gives himself, promising forgiveness, life and salvation. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Please come forward at the direction of the Ushers. Extend the palms of your hands to receive the consecrated bread. You may then dip the edge of the host into the blue ceramic chalice. The chalice is divided in half and holds options for either red wine or white grape juice. In addition, the metal chalice holds wine for those who prefer to drink from the common cup.

Gluten-free wafers are also available. Let the Pastor know if you prefer gluten-free. Those who are not communing are welcome to come forward to receive a pastoral blessing. The kneeling rail is available for those who want to pray.

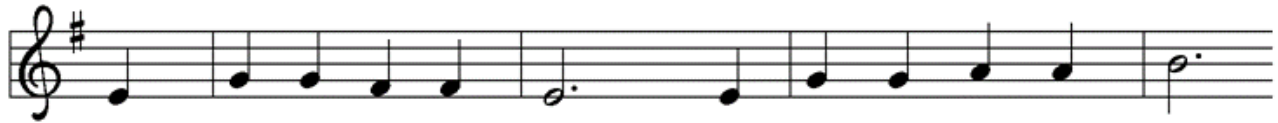
### **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Please silence all electronic devices. Thank you!

**P = Pastor A = Assisting Minister**

**L = Lector**

**C = Congregation**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## GREETING

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

**C. And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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.

**C. Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

A reading from Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>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 —

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>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?'"

*After the lesson is read:*

P. Word of God, word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 51:1-17 (read responsively)

<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.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** [Sung to the tune of *Canticle of Turning*]

“Return to me,” so says our God. “Return with broken heart. Your sins, your guilt, your fears, your tears, will not keep us apart. I am slow to anger, full of love, for sinners great and small. Return to me with arms out-stretched, I welcome one and all.”

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th Chapter.

**C. 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.”

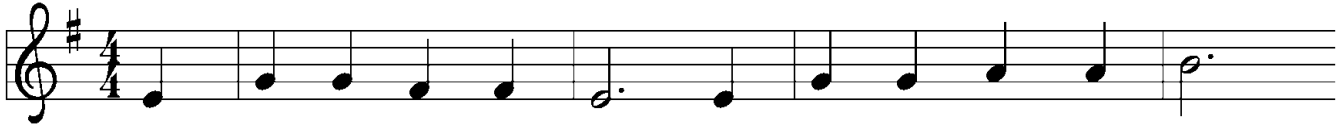
*After the Gospel reading:*

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**SERMON**

The Reverend Mary E. Zupansic



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.

## INVITATION TO LENT

P. 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.

## **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.*

Most merciful God,

**C. 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 what we have left undone.**

P. 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.

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

P. 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.

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C. Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

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



## **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.**

*The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the ashes.*

## **HYMNS DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Blessed Now, O God the Journey*

## **AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Encourage believers who hold the church's doors open to those who have felt excluded. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Transform parched places into watered gardens and preserve every creature that awaits the arrival of spring. Turn each of us from

practices of environmental exploitation to become responsible stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing to those overcome by illness or grief. Restore to us the joy of your salvation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS**

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from you bank.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- P. Let us pray. Extravagant God,  
**C. You have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

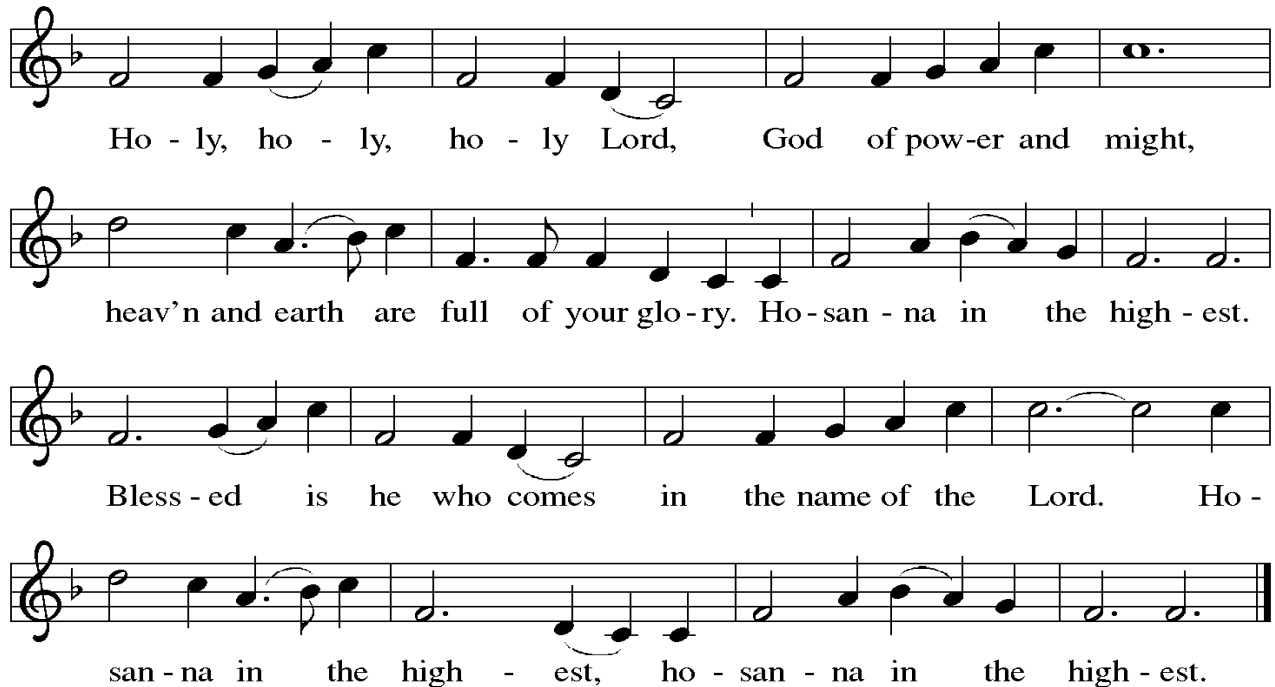
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.  
**C. And also with you.**  
P. Lift up your hearts.  
**C. We lift them up to the Lord.**  
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p.207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you,  
Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world  
you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared  
for us through Jesus Christ.

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, then, his death  
and resurrection,  
we take this bread and cup,  
giving you thanks that you have  
made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you  
as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit  
upon these gifts of your church;  
gather into one  
all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit  
to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you  
through your Son Jesus Christ;

through whom all glory  
and honor are yours, almighty Father,  
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church,  
both now and forever.  
Amen.

## **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.

## LAMB OF GOD

ELW p.208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

**P.** Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled

**C.** Thanks be to God.

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Be Merciful O Lord*

## TABLE BLESSING

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A. Let us pray. Blessed Jesus,

C. **In this rich meal of grace you have fed Us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your Life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P. May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.

C. Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

*Restore in Us, O God*

ELW #328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## SENDING

P. Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way

C. **Thanks be to God.**

Portions of this liturgy are revised from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com), Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB121760. Scripture excerpts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

# “WAKING UP”

## A Midweek Lenten Series

*Based on Kelly Fryer's book:  
Reclaiming the “E” Word*

Join us online each Wednesday during Lent  
@ 6pm as members of Peace Lutheran  
share reflections on:

A Wakeup Call, Waking Up to the Real Deal,  
Waking Up to a Vital Word,  
Waking Up to a Purposeful Life,  
Waking Up to our Common Call  
& Transformational Power













