

This Week's Schedule | All Are Welcome!

(After the 9:30 service has streamed, there may be a slight delay)

Thursday, March 3

2:00 – 3:30 PM: Hope from Loss: Wildfire Grief group at First Lutheran Church, 7708 - 62nd Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Friday, March 5

Funeral for Laurie Schumacher - Visitation: 1pm | Service: 2pm

Sunday, March 6

9:30 AM: Sunday Worship in Sanctuary, parking lot, and streaming live at www.faithlilacway.org

10:30 AM: Adult Education class in the library. Learn Lectio Visio

10:30 AM: Sunday school in classroom 218 (by the chapel)

Save Wednesday Nights! March 2- April 6

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Services *Shepherd Me, O God* at 7 PM

Explore Psalm 23 in a new way with preachers from First Lutheran, Family of God and Faith-Lilac Way. The 23rd Psalm is one of the best known pieces of scripture by Christians all over the world - for a reason. The ancient words of this song have a way of sticking with us, nestling into our bones, and singing us home. During the season of Lent, we invite you to pray it regularly, memorizing it if you haven't already. Together we will encounter a God who shepherds all of us, and discover in ourselves a need for the love of a shepherd to tend our needs.

Covid Guidelines

Following Jesus' call to love and care for the neighbor, especially those who are vulnerable:

- Masking is required for unvaccinated people
- Masking & physical distancing is strongly recommended for all.

***Stardust* (Cover Image) by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity**

Inspired by Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Acrylic on raw canvas with digital drawing

Many of us begin Lent with ashen marks smudged against our foreheads. It's a mark that is holy because it tells the truth: we are formed from the dust, and to dust we shall one day return. We are not immortal. Death will one day find us all. But the cross on my forehead only tells me part of the story. The empty tomb tells me a fuller, more expansive truth: death will not have the last word. There is more. God is more. This expansive truth requires more of us. It invites us to abandon empty or showy practices of faith, and instead, draw inward to open ourselves to a deeper journey of transformation. It requires me to believe that I am truly worthy of love, belonging, and grace. It requires me to believe others are also. In this Lenten season, we've reimagined this Ash Wednesday ritual. What if, instead of ashes, gold gleamed on our foreheads? What if, alongside the certainty of death, we are also reminded of God's expansive grace? What if on this day we said to one another, "From stardust you have come, and to stardust you shall one day return"?



Welcome to worship! Ash Wednesday | March 2, 2022

See all our worship options and Covid safety protocols on pages 7 and 8!

Holy Communion

All who believe are welcome to commune. Communion kits (chalices with grape juice and gluten free wafers) available at the doors.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

“Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart.”

(Joel 2:12, NIV)

Roll up your sleeves.

Let down your guard.

Come in from the storm.

Make yourself at home.

Pull up to the table.

Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath.

Return to God with all your heart.

May it be so.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Song “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” ELW #358:1, 2, 5

Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.

We come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong, half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along, by pow’rs and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share.

Give us your Spirit’s liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair,

and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.

Greeting

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer

Let us pray. Loving Creator,

we are here, telling stories of dust. We are here, trying to shake the dust out of our ears so that we might hear you clearly. We are here, hoping that showing up is the first step in returning to you. Scoop us up in your embrace and carry us to a place of truth. Clear the dust that makes it hard to hear. We are listening for you. Amen.

Psalm Psalm 51:1-17 (NIV)

Refrain

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 2

Anthem Lamb of God

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus,

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.

Sending Song “Restore in Us, O God” ELW #328

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;

renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow’r;

from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow’r.

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;

baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,

that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

Blessing

As you go on your way,

may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,

may you find yourself full to the brim with God’s Holy Spirit, and may it change your life.

In the name of God, who is the Lover of the whole world, the Beloved, and Love itself – go in peace, full to the brim.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in grace, grow in faith, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully. We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient. We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are— including our faith, and our doubt, our needs and dependence on others and the beautiful gifts, skills, talents you have given us to share . Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.

Friends in Christ, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish to receive ashes may form one line in the middle aisle (please leave six feet of space between you and the next person). One-by-one you may come to the altar rail. A pastor will apply ashes to the forehead of each person with the words from God to Adam, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." After receiving ashes, please use this time for meditation and silent prayer.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.

Prayers of the People

. . . 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.**

Invitation to Holy Communion

Words of Institution

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.**

Sharing Communion

*The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

Cantor: *Refrain*

All: Refrain

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

**Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are right in your verdict
and justified when you judge.**

Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
**Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

All: Refrain

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
so that sinners will turn back to you.

All: Refrain

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God,
you who are God my Savior,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

**Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

**My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.**

All: Refrain

Gospel Acclamation

**Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (NRSV)*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Preaching Lesson *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (NRSV)*

A reading from Joel, chapter two.

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?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Homily Pastor Pam Stalheim Lane

Hymn of the Day “Just As I Am, without One Plea” ELW #592

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev’ry barrier down;
now to be thine, ye, thine along, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Call to Confession

Trusting in God’s redemption and continually surprised by God’s grace, let us confess, not out of obligation or shame but because we need to speak the truth about our lives. We need to speak the truth, the whole truth, of where we have fallen short, for we are all in bondage to sin, and cannot free ourselves. When we speak the truth, we become open to the expansive life that God intends for us, a life filled to the brim, a life in which faith, hope and joy flow over the edges.

Confession

Holy God, as we confess our sins, those times in which we fall far short of being the people that you made us to be, we speak as one people, and yet, each of us confesses our own faults, our own sins, our own challenges.