

**CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
ZIONSVILLE



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

All members and guests, please fill out the Welcome Form found at the end of your row and pass it on to your neighbor. The pastoral and spiritual care of the members of Christ Church is very important to us. In order to care for all of you, we need to know who is present and who is not. So, please take a moment to sign the pad. The Welcome Forms will be picked up by the ushers at the end of the service.

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.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Distress

Martin

LENTEN PRAYER

GATHERING SONG

God of Creation

Soloist sings all verses. Congregation and Soloist sing the refrain (printed)

Soloist: God of creation, Giver of life, be the light in our darkness; grant us peace in our strife. Show us your mercy; give us new birth. You have made us your children to bear fruit on the earth.

Congregation (refrain):

Musical notation for the Kyrie eleison refrain. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Soloist: Lord, our Redeemer, Healer of souls, be the hope that restores us; with your touch make us whole.

Here we partake in your feast of love; give us strength on our journey with your body and blood.

Congregation (refrain):

Musical notation for the Christe eleison refrain. It consists of four staves of music in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Soloist: Spirit most holy, Comforter blest, be the fire that consumes us and our hearts' welcome guest.

Form us, renew us, call us by name. Raise us up from the ashes and create us again.

Congregation (refrain):

Musical notation for the congregation refrain in 3/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The congregation sits or kneels. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C Amen.

P If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

SONG OF FORGIVENESS

Soloist sings verses and congregation sings printed refrain.

Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, pour out your compassion; grant your people pardon:

Congregation (refrain):

Musical notation for the congregation refrain in 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, bring healing and wholeness; give your people comfort:

Congregation (refrain):

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri -
ste e - le - i - son.

Soloist: Lord Jesus Christ, the source of forgiveness, show your people mercy:

Congregation (refrain):

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -
e e - le - i - son.

Please stand as you are able.

PROCLAMATION OF FORGIVENESS

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, + God forgives you all your sins. Almighty God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

Soloist and Congregation sing together:

Up from the ash - es we now a - rise, and re -
turn to our Mak - er who has an - swered our cries.
Know - ing God's mer - cy, we share this meal; through the
Word and the Ta - ble bound-less love is re - vealed.
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e -
le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri -
e e - le - i - son.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord is with you

C And also with you

P 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L A reading from Joel.

¹Blow 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—
²a 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.
¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³rend 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.
¹⁴Who 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?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 ¹⁶gather 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.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Continued...

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?'"

L Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

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

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**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.**

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

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

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

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

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

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

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

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

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

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

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

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

SECOND READING**2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10**

L A reading from 2 Corinthians.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L Word of God. Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²So 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your

Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁶"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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Pastor Wes Smith III

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

ACS 920



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
 2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
 3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
 that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
 re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
 I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
 and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
 yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
 how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use. ** meaning the church universal

THE PRAYERS

Guided by the Holy Spirit, let us come before God with our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A moment of silence.

God of our sacred journeys, as the reflective season of Lent unfolds, we pray for your church. Lead your followers in deepening their spiritual disciplines and preparing hearts for baptism. Bolster our faith communities in their commitment to discipleship and their testimony of your Word. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Creator God, we lift up our planet Earth to you. Just as life once emerged from the dust by your command, we ask you to breathe restoration and healing into our damaged ecosystems. Foster the natural processes of growth, decay, and regeneration that sustain all forms of life. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God of all nations, we beseech you for the cessation of conflicts and the oppressive occupations that devastate communities. Redirect the hearts of leaders from paths of fear to avenues of justice and empathy, according to your compassionate rule. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God of comfort, we hold in your healing presence all who endure suffering. This day we pray especially for **Steve, Ray, Diane, Tina, Marja, Dave, Bill, Marilyn, Brenda, John, Pat, Mimi, Charlotte, Paige, Michael, Kat, Dorothy, Janice, Patrick, LCFS** and for all those we now name in our hearts or in Your presence. Offer your consolation to those burdened by chronic diseases, addictions, or mental distress. May those grieving find solace in your nearness, even in their deepest sorrow. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God of community, we pray for those who provide care at life's thresholds: first responders, medical and hospice professionals, chaplains, and funeral workers. Uphold them as they extend compassion and dignity in both living and dying. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

God of the cross, we are grateful for the lives of those who have passed into your eternal embrace. Fortify us with the hope that from the ashes of death springs the promise of resurrection life. God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, uniting all in your encompassing love, through Jesus Christ, who guides us from death into everlasting life. **C Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord is with you always.

C And also with you.

VOLUNTARY

Sign Us With Ashes

Bringle/Rowan

~Sanctuary Choir~

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION

Just As I Am

ELW 592

(You may join in singing from the red hymnal)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C 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.**

BLESSING

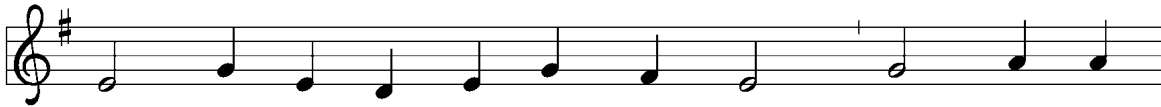
P Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW 320



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

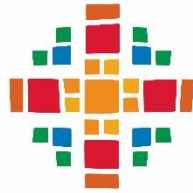
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Lutkin/arr. Hopson

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**CHRIST
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ZIONSVILLE

SERVING US AT WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Pastor: Rev. Wesley Smith, III
Director of Music & Organist: Rhonda Blacklock

Lector: Deb Holbrook

Usher: Brian Hardesty

Greeter: Andi Hardesty

Communion Assistants: John Burkhardt, Barbara Burkhardt, Connie Steinhart, Gretchen Jeffers

A/V Assistant: Greg Holbrook

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Please scan if you would like to give an electronic offering.

