



Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
Ash Wednesday Service

Our Mission:
"To Know God and To Make Him Known"

*Visitors are not expected to participate in the offering.
We hope you enjoy visiting with us today. Please come again soon.*

www.stlukesakron.com

Concerning the Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent: a time of penitence, fasting and prayer, in preparation for the great Feast of the Resurrection.

The season of Lent began in the earliest days of the Church as time of preparation for those seeking to be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

The forty days refer to our Lord's time of fasting in the wilderness; and since Sundays are never fast days, Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Fast.

Throughout the Old Testament, ashes are used as a sign of sorrow and repentance, and Christians have traditionally used the same to indicate sorrow for our own sin, and as a reminder that the wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

Like Adam and Eve, we have disobeyed and rebelled against God, and are under the same judgment, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19b)

As we are marked with ashes in the same manner that we were signed with the cross in Baptism, we are also reminded of the life we share in Jesus Christ, the second Adam. (Romans 5:17, 6:4)

It is in this sure hope that we begin the journey of these forty days, that by hearing and answering our Savior's call to repent, we may enter fully into the joyful celebration of his resurrection.

Processional

"Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Lord, who throughout these forty days
For us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins,
And close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend,
And didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear and thirst,

So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word

And through these days of penitence,
And through thy Passiontide,
Yea, evermore, in life and death, Jesus! With us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering overpast,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at Last! Amen.

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Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

All: His mercy endures forever.

Celebrant: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.

This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church.

In this manner, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need that all Christians continually have to renew our repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we may faithfully keep this Lent.

(A period of silent prayer follows.)

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that

we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission, and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Praise & Worship

“Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing”

Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise,
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

This my glad commemoration
That ‘til now I’ve safely come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor,
Daily I’m constrained to be,
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it;
Seal it for Thy courts above.

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“Be Unto Your Name”

We are a moment, You are forever.

Lord of the ages, God before time;
We are a vapor, You are eternal,
Love everlasting, reigning on high.

Chorus: Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain;
Highest praises, honor and glory
Be unto Your name, be unto Your name.

We are the broken, You are the healer
Jesus, Redeemer, mighty to save;
You are the love song we'll sing forever,
Bowing before You, blessing Your name.

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The Lessons

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 103:8-14
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

At the end of each reading the lector says:

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Procession

(Please rise, silence is kept)

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

All: Glory to You Lord Christ

At the end of the reading:

Deacon: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Christ

The Message

Penitential Psalm and Imposition of Ashes

Celebrant: Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God. Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: bless these ashes, we pray, that they may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

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

Music During Imposition of Ashes

“How Deep The Father’s Love For Us”

How deep the Father’s love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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“I Surrender All”

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give.
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow,
Worldly pleasures all forsaken take me Jesus take me now.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly Thine,
Let me feel the Holy Spirit truly know that Thou art mine.

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee.
Fill me with Thy love and power let Thy blessing fall on me.

All to Jesus surrender, now I feel the Sacred Flame
O the joy of full salvation, glory, glory to His name.

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Psalm 51

Lector: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving
kindness; *

All: in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Lector: Wash me through and through from my wickedness *

All: and cleanse me from my sin.

Lector: For I know my transgressions, *

All: and my sin is ever before me.

Lector: Against you only have I sinned *

All: and done what is evil in your sight.

Lector: And so you are justified when you speak *

All: and upright in your judgment

Lector: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *

All: a sinner from my mother's womb.

Lector: For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *

All: and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Lector: Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *

All: wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Lector: Make me hear of joy and gladness, *

All: that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Lector: Hide your face from my sins *

All: and blot out all my iniquities.

Lector: Create in me a clean heart, O God, *

All: and renew a right spirit within me.

Lector: Cast me not away from your presence *

All: and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Lector: Give me the joy of your saving help again *

All: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Lector: I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *

All: and sinners shall return to you.

Lector: Deliver me from death, O God, *

All: and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Lector: Open my lips, O Lord, *

All: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Lector: Had you desired it; I would have offered sacrifice; *

All: but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

Lector: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *

All: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

The Reproaches

Celebrant: Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? Testify against me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt, and delivered you by the waters of Baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna,
I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard, I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the cross.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be as one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel, and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants, but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Confession and Litany of Penitence

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

All: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

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. We have been deaf 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.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those we think more fortunate than ourselves; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our dishonesty in daily life and work, our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call. Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts and actions toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our negligence in prayer and worship, for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

Celebrant: For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

All: For we have sinned against you.

All: Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath, you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of sinners, but that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

He has empowered and commanded his ministers to pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He now pardons and absolves all who truly repent and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

For this reason, we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that our present deeds may please him, the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1:15)

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:1-2)

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Exchange with one another the Lord's Peace

The Offertory

(Tithes and offerings are collected at this time)

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:2)

"Kyrie Eleison"

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Hear our cry and heal our land
Let kindness lead us to repentance
Bring us back again

Chorus 1:

For Your name is great and Your heart is grace
Kyrie Eleison
Over all You reign You alone can save
Kyrie Eleison
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy on us now

Who is this God who pardons all our sin
So ready to forgive
You delight to show Your mercy (repeat)

Chorus 2:

For Your name is great and Your heart is grace
Kyrie Eleison
Over all You reign You alone can save
Kyrie Eleison (repeat)

Lord have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy Christ have mercy on us now

Celebrant: All things come of you O Lord
All: And of Your own have we given You.

The Great Thanksgiving

(We invite all baptized Christians to join us at the Lord's table.)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest!**

The Prayer of Consecration

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved.

By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory; that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Deacon: Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

**All: We remember his death.
We proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy sacrament, and be made one body with him, so that he may dwell in us and we in him.

And bring us with all your saints into the fullness of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord:

All: Face to Face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

All: Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as 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, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

All: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Agnus Dei

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Have mercy on us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world

All: Grant us your peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Celebrant: The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven.
The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.

Music During Communion:

“O Come To The Altar”

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus: O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Bridge: Oh what a Savior isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

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“Breathe”

This is the air I breathe, this is the air I breathe
Your Holy Presence living in me

This is my daily bread, this is my daily bread
Your very Word spoken to me

And I, I’m desperate for You
And I, I’m lost without You

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Post Communion Prayer

All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out into the world to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: All our problems

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: All our difficulties

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: All the devil’s works

All: We send to the cross of Christ

Celebrant: And all of hopes

All: We set on the risen Christ

The Blessing

Recessional

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

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The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.