



**Welcome to St. Luke's Church
Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

Ash Wednesday
(Evening Service)

**Our Vision:
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

"Praise to The Lord The Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation
Join the great throng, psaltery organ and song
Sounding in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord; over all things He gloriously reigneth
Borne as on eagle wings, safely His saints He sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord,
Who doth prosper thy way and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee
Ponder anew what the almighty can do
Who with His love doth befriend thee

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him
All that hath breath
Join with Abraham's seed to adore Him
Let the "Amen" sum all our praises again
Now as we worship before Him

Catherine Winkworth | Joachim Neander © Words: Public Domain Music:

Welcome and Call to Worship

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.)

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

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

“Unashamed Love”

You're callin' me to lay aside the worries of my day
To quiet down my busy mind, find a hiding place
Worthy, (You are) worthy

I open up my heart and let my spirit worship Yours
I open up my mouth and let a song of praise come forth
Worthy, You are worthy

Chorus: Of a childlike faith and of my honest praise
And of my unashamed love
Of a holy life and of my sacrifice
And of my unashamed love

Ending: Worthy, You are worthy (2x), You are worthy (3x)

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“The Lord Is Gracious and Compassionate”

The Lord is gracious and compassionate
Slow to anger and rich in love
The Lord is gracious and compassionate
Slow to anger and rich in love

Pre-Chorus: And the Lord is good to all
And He has compassion on all that He has made

Chorus: As far as the east is from the west
That's how far He has removed
Our transgressions from us (REPEAT)

Bridge: Praise the Lord oh my soul praise the Lord
Praise the Lord oh my soul praise the Lord

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The Lessons

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 103 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

**Sung: Word of God speak
 Would You pour down like rain
 Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
 To be still and know
 That You're in this place
 Please let me stay and rest
 In Your holiness, Word of God speak**

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

**Sung: Word of God speak
 Would You pour down like rain
 Washing my eyes to see Your majesty
 To be still and know**

**That You're in this place
Please let me stay and rest
In Your holiness, Word of God speak**

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

Music During Imposition of Ashes

"Goodness Of God"

I love You, Lord, for Your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus: And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night You are close like no other
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a Friend
And I have lived in the goodness of God (Chorus)

Bridge: 'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

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“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Chorus: My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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Psalm 51

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

All: in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Deacon: Wash me through and through from my wickedness

All: and cleanse me from my sin.

Deacon: For I know my transgressions,

All: and my sin is ever before me.

Deacon: Against you only have I sinned

All: and done what is evil in your sight.

Deacon: And so you are justified when you speak

All: and upright in your judgment

Deacon: Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,

All: a sinner from my mother's womb.

Deacon: For behold, you look for truth deep within me,

All: and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

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

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

Deacon: Make me hear of joy and gladness,

All: that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Deacon: Hide your face from my sins

All: and blot out all my iniquities.

Deacon: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

All: and renew a right spirit within me.

Deacon: Cast me not away from your presence

All: and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Deacon: Give me the joy of your saving help again

All: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Deacon: I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
All: and sinners shall return to you.

Deacon: Deliver me from death, O God,
All: and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Deacon: Open my lips, O Lord,
All: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Deacon: Had you desired it; I would have offered sacrifice;
All: but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

Deacon: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
All: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; 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 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.

Celebrant: 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.

All: 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 Offertory *(Tithes and offerings are collected at this time)*

Celebrant: Our offertory sentences are from scripture. "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (Romans 12:1)

"King Of Kings"

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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. We offer communion in the form of bread, wafer, gluten-free wafer, or individually packaged juice and wafer. Once received, step left to drink from the communal cup, or step to the right to intinct (dip) the wafer.]

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."

Mystery of Faith

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 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. Apart from Your grace, 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.

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.

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:

“Lord Have Mercy”

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“Revelation Song”

Jennie Lee Riddle © 2004 Gateway Create Publishing CCLI License # 73146

The Dismissal

Celebrant: O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart: that desiring you, we may seek you; and that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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