

Our Father's Lutheran Church



February 22, 2023—7pm

Ash Wednesday

Our Father's Lutheran Church



February 22, 2023—7pm

Ash Wednesday

WELCOME TO OFLC!

We are pleased that you decided to join us in worship this morning. We hope you'll feel at home here, and God's presence! We have a few helpful notes for you on the service to do that:

All hymns are in the red hymnal in the pew in front of you, or under your pew seat. You can find them using the number next to the hymn in the order of service.

The **bold** text indicates parts of the service where the whole congregation is invited to speak together.

Communion is celebrated using wafers and cups of wine or juice, distributed at the altar area. If you would like to receive communion, but do not wish to come to the altar, please let a service coordinator know and they will accommodate you.

Offering is not required to be with us in worship today, but we greatly appreciate any contribution you wish to make! If you wish to do so, you can place it in the basket at the end of your pew, or in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, a service coordinator will be happy to help you!

Here at OFLC, we don't have pre-scheduled worship assistants. We allow folks to help out as the Spirit leads them, and that includes visitors as well! If you'd like to take part in worship, please see Pastor Aaron or a service coordinator before the service and they'll be happy to involve you!

WELCOME TO OFLC!

We are pleased that you decided to join us in worship this morning. We hope you'll feel at home here, and God's presence! We have a few helpful notes for you on the service to do that:

All hymns are in the red hymnal in the pew in front of you, or under your pew seat. You can find them using the number next to the hymn in the order of service.

The **bold** text indicates parts of the service where the whole congregation is invited to speak together.

Communion is celebrated using wafers and cups of wine or juice, distributed at the altar area. If you would like to receive communion, but do not wish to come to the altar, please let a service coordinator know and they will accommodate you.

Offering is not required to be with us in worship today, but we greatly appreciate any contribution you wish to make! If you wish to do so, you can place it in the basket at the end of your pew, or in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you need assistance, a service coordinator will be happy to help you!

Here at OFLC, we don't have pre-scheduled worship assistants. We allow folks to help out as the Spirit leads them, and that includes visitors as well! If you'd like to take part in worship, please see Pastor Aaron or a service coordinator before the service and they'll be happy to involve you!

PRELUDE

WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord, on this evening we are reminded that we are fashioned out of dust, live as dust in our earthly bodies, and in our deaths, return to dust. Yet your promises remind us that you make beautiful things out of dust. On this evening let us also be reminded of the infinite worth of ourselves and all people, and reflect on this truth as we journey through Lent. In Christ's name we pray.

A: Amen.

WORD

PSALM: 51:1-12 (read responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy,

blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & INSTRUCTIONS

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord, on this evening we are reminded that we are fashioned out of dust, live as dust in our earthly bodies, and in our deaths, return to dust. Yet your promises remind us that you make beautiful things out of dust. On this evening let us also be reminded of the infinite worth of ourselves and all people, and reflect on this truth as we journey through Lent. In Christ's name we pray.

A: Amen.

WORD

PSALM: 51:1-12 (read responsively)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy,

blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

This is the Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sung Acapella)

L: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 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.”

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - **LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE #712**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

This is the Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sung Acapella)

L: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6

The gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 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.”

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - **LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE #712**

INVITATION TO LENT

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.

A: Most holy and merciful God, 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 by what we have left undone.

L: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

L: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

INVITATION TO LENT

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.

A: Most holy and merciful God, 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 by what we have left undone.

L: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

L: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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. **Amen.**

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

Instructions on how to impose Ashes (in-person) will be given at this time. Those at home may impose ashes on their forehead, making the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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. **Amen.**

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

Instructions on how to impose Ashes (in-person) will be given at this time. Those at home may impose ashes on their forehead, making the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we journey through Lent, let us be reminded that this journey is not just for ourselves. Let us be reminded it is a journey that calls us deeply into life and relationship with you, and into life with all people, especially those who suffer, the poor, and all those in need.

Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

L: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

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

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, as we journey through Lent, let us be reminded that this journey is not just for ourselves. Let us be reminded it is a journey that calls us deeply into life and relationship with you, and into life with all people, especially those who suffer, the poor, and all those in need.

Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

L: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

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

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

All are welcome to God's Table, without exception! We believe that when we gather together at the communion rail, Christ comes to be among us in the bread and wine. We experience God's grace together in a very real and powerful way that strengthens us for life's journey!

LAMB OF GOD

195 Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

All are welcome to God's Table, without exception! We believe that when we gather together at the communion rail, Christ comes to be among us in the bread and wine. We experience God's grace together in a very real and powerful way that strengthens us for life's journey!

LAMB OF GOD

195 Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A: Thanks be to God.

LENT DATES

Palm Sunday, 9am, April 2nd
Maundy Thursday/Easter Cantata, 7pm, April 6th
Good Friday, 7pm, April 7th
Easter Sunrise Service, 7am, April 9th
Easter Service, 9am, April 9th

Lent Soup and Sandwich Suppers are back!

Join OFLC on Wednesday this Lent for Soup and Sandwich suppers. 5:30-6:30 each week in the Fellowship Hall. Consider this as your Lenten practice, sharing a meal with others in our community of faith and getting to know them! For those who wish to stick around after, we'll sing Holden Evening Prayer in the Fellowship Hall after supper.

LENT DATES

Palm Sunday, 9am, April 2nd
Maundy Thursday/Easter Cantata, 7pm, April 6th
Good Friday, 7pm, April 7th
Easter Sunrise Service, 7am, April 9th
Easter Service, 9am, April 9th

Lent Soup and Sandwich Suppers are back!

Join OFLC on Wednesday this Lent for Soup and Sandwich suppers. 5:30-6:30 each week in the Fellowship Hall. Consider this as your Lenten practice, sharing a meal with others in our community of faith and getting to know them! For those who wish to stick around after, we'll sing Holden Evening Prayer in the Fellowship Hall after supper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our Sunday School kids will be helping with parts of worship on Sunday, February 26th. Seminary Intern Wes Kimball will also be preaching, with Pastor Aaron presiding over communion. It should be a wonderful service to kick off Lent!

The Wednesday morning Bible Study, formerly known as the “women’s bible study” is now open to anyone! We study the upcoming Sunday gospel text each week. 10-11:30am every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Our Sunday School kids will be helping with parts of worship on Sunday, February 26th. Seminary Intern Wes Kimball will also be preaching, with Pastor Aaron presiding over communion. It should be a wonderful service to kick off Lent!

The Wednesday morning Bible Study, formerly known as the “women’s bible study” is now open to anyone! We study the upcoming Sunday gospel text each week. 10-11:30am every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Father's Lutheran Church

3903 Gilbert Ave SE, Rockford, MN 55373

Phone: 763-477-6300

Email: office@ourfatherschurch.org

www.ourfatherschurch.org

Rev. Aaron Fuller, Pastor

Tammy Jarvi, Director of Music

Melissa Ungaro, Coordinator of Internal Ministry & Administration

Brittni Bronczyk, Coordinator of Community Outreach

Lindsey Bervig, Director of Sunday School

Tiffany Distad, Coordinator of Engage & Confirm

Our Father's Lutheran Church

3903 Gilbert Ave SE, Rockford, MN 55373

Phone: 763-477-6300

Email: office@ourfatherschurch.org

www.ourfatherschurch.org

Rev. Aaron Fuller, Pastor

Tammy Jarvi, Director of Music

Melissa Ungaro, Coordinator of Internal Ministry & Administration

Brittni Bronczyk, Coordinator of Community Outreach

Lindsey Bervig, Director of Sunday School

Tiffany Distad, Coordinator of Engage & Confirm