

FEBRUARY 14, 2024  
12:00 PM + 7:00 PM

# ASH WEDNESDAY

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 51:1-17 video

## INVITATION TO LENT

Pastor: 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

## **OPENING HYMN #326   *Bless Now, O God, the Journey***

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Most Holy and merciful Father,

All: 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.

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Pastor: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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Pastor: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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Pastor: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness—the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitations of other people,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

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Pastor: Our anger at our own frustrations, and our envy of those whom we believe have more,

All: We confess to you, Lord.

Pastor: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

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Pastor: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Pastor: Restore us, Good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**All: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God,

**All: 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.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who desire to receive ashes should come forward to the stations.  
The pastors and worship leader will apply ashes to the forehead of each person  
and*

*speaking the words:*

*"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

## **12:00 SONG OF RESPONSE**

**#592      *Just As I Am, Without One Plea***

**7:00 SONG OF RESPONSE #814      *Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am***

## **SCRIPTURE READING...JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17** NRSV

Assisting Minister: 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;

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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.

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Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' " This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL...MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21 NRSV**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**All: 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.

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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.

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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.

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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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

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Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**REFLECTION** Pastor Lauren Dow Wegner

**MESSAGE SONG #334** *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*after each petition... Lord in your mercy,*

**All: Hear our prayer.**

**THANK OFFERING/GENEROSITY IMPACT**

- To make a gift online to the mission and ministry of Shepherd of the Hills, use this link: [shephills.org/give](https://shephills.org/give).
- Scan the QR Code with your camera phone to give now.
- By mail, send to 3525 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX 78746



*All Mid-Week Lenten and Easter Day special offerings support  
ELCA World Hunger and  
Global Refuge (previously Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services)  
<https://onrealm.org/shephills/-/form/give/Lent>*

**OFFERING RESPONSE #188** *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*(Stand Sing as plates come forward)*

**PRAYER OF THANKS**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMUNION INVITATION**

*As we celebrate this sacrament, all are invited to receive the  
Risen presence of Jesus.*

*Christ is really present—in bread and wine—  
forgiving sins and promising new life.*

*Bread/wafer— “The body of Christ given for you”;  
Wine— “The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

12PM Glenn Richter

7PM Choir

***LORD, FOR THY TENDER MERCIES' SAKE*   RICHARD FARRANT**

## **POST - COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER**

## **BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG #333   *JESUS IS A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND***

## **COMMISSIONING**

Assisting Minister: 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 fainthearted;  
support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and  
serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. And we WILL!**

**We depart in peace.**

## **PRAYERS**

**We pray** for Bob Moore and Rodney Varner.

**We pray** for family and friends of Shepherd members:

Milton Volney, uncle of Debra Wissman.

Wally Holmquist, brother of Mary Macauley.

Pauline Krc, friend of Terrie Thomas.

**We pray** for Jan Burnight on the death of her friend, Layne Walls. May the hope and promise of resurrection bring comfort and peace to all who mourn.

**God of Unity**, we thank you for the many different people and perspectives that fill your world and our lives each day. We pray that our church may continue to live out and share the welcoming love of Jesus for all people. As the root of conflict is so often misunderstanding and judgment of others, may we be instruments of your peace as you open our minds and hearts to see every person as your beloved.

**Holy God**, as war continues in the Holy Land, we lift to you prayers for peace and resolution. Draw near to the victims, and inspire leaders to seek your will and your guidance.

**Almighty God**, you inspire and equip us to serve your people, both here in our community and around the world. We thank you for our mission partners of Austin City Lutherans and the ministries of Mariposa Family Learning Center and Bread for All. We thank for our partnership with Upbring Ministries.

We are grateful to serve your people alongside Lutheran World Relief, Global Refuge, ELCA World Hunger, and other ministries across the world. We pray for our sister congregation in Aurora 8 de Octubre, Guatemala, and the ministry of ILAG. We pray for the mission of Charis in Haiti. We thank you for our Butterfly Christian Preschool and the many young minds and hearts that are formed in faith here. May we be your hands and feet!



*\*Prayers for family and friends are listed for 2 weeks,  
unless we are notified otherwise.*

## **WORSHIP TEAM**

<b>Pastor</b>	Pr. Lauren Dow Wegner
<b>Director of Worship/Arts</b>	Kevin McClure
<b>Accompanist</b>	(12:00) Glenn Richter, (7:00) Andrei Zimbalist
<b>Choir</b>	(7:00)
<b>Altar Steward</b>	
	(12:00)Linda Roesle; (7:00) Ken and Elnora McDonald
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	(12:00) Carole Morgan; (7:00) Alana Oehler
<b>AV</b>	Bill Dawson, Dave Wegner, Jamie Nichols, Peter Walsh, Jonathan Wolff, Vince and Jake Yokubaitis, Pete Forsberg
<b>Bread</b>	Kitt Richter
<b>Communion Servers</b>	(12:00) Carole Morgan, Linda Roesle, Kitt Richter (7:00) Alana and Charlie Oehler, Elnora McDoanld
<b>Hosts</b>	(12:00) Virginia Bosman; (7:00) Sandy and Larry Smith
<b>Accompanist</b>	Andrei Zimbalist
<b>Admin &amp; Community Life Coordinator</b>	Amanda Forsberg
<b>Campus Superintendent</b>	Philip Perry
<b>Children's Ministry Coordinator</b>	Megan Getman
<b>Communications Director</b>	Dabney Gomes
<b>Digital Ministry &amp; IT</b>	Dave Wegner
<b>Executive Director</b>	Bill Dawson
<b>Finance Controller</b>	Kevin Marlow
<b>Program Ministry Coordinator</b>	Joel Timmons
<b>Spiritual Wellness and Spiritual Director</b>	Rebecca Guengerich