



February 14, 2024
12:00 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Facebook Live/Virtual

www.facebook.com/HTLCBellerose

We are blessed that you
have joined us today.

Notes on worship:

BOLD type = people of God =You

Regular type = leader

Italic type = directions or explanations

Introduction to the Day



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.

WELCOME

Welcome to worship at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellerose! We are so glad that you are here to worship with us either in person or online. **If you are seeking a church to call home, welcome and we hope you find the comfort of Christ's Beloved Community here.** If Pastor Analyse or the Prayer Team can provide any care for you at present, please reach out in person or at pastoranalyse@holytrinitybellerose.org or the church office at office@holytrinitybellerose.org.

~Please stand as you are able~

GATHERING HYMN ELW 843 vs 1&3
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Create in Me A Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and renew a right spirit within me.

~Please be seated~

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 NRSV

Because of the coming day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community declares that God is gracious and asks God to spare the people lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

The first reading is from Joel beginning at the second chapter.

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.
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?'"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1-17

We will now read responsively from Psalm 51.

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

**²Wash 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.**

**⁴Against 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.**

**⁶Indeed, 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.**

**⁸Let 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.**

**¹⁰Create 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.**

**¹²Restore 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.**

**¹⁴Rescue 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.**

**¹⁶For 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.**

~Please stand as you are able~

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

NRSV

Mark's gospel presents the transfiguration as a preview of what would become apparent to Jesus' followers after he rose from the dead. Confused disciples are given a vision of God's glory manifest in the beloved Son.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew beginning at the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“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.

²“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. 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.”

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

~Please be seated~

BLESSING THE DUST

(Read responsively)

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt,
as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind

and be scattered to the four corners
or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial

did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust? This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes,
that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow.

And let us be marked not for shame.

Let us be marked not for false humility
or for thinking we are less than we are
but for claiming what God can do
within the dust, within the dirt,
within the stuff of which the world is made
and the stars that blaze in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

© Jan Richardson, from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*)

~Please stand as you are able~

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #793 vs 1&2

Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

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, 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.

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

**we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
☩ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

 *The Imposition of Ashes is offered for all those who desire to receive this sign of mortality, repentance, and renewal. At this time families are invited to take their ashes and make the sign of the **☩** on one another's foreheads, or on your own saying the prayer below:*

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 Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. **Amen.**

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us all, forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all. Keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

*~Please remain standing as you desire,
otherwise please be seated~*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war, especially the Ukraine and the Gaza Strip. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness especially *Bob Sarro, Janice Rajgopaul, Renee Hellenbrecht, Joseph Gallagher, Betty Innella, Dennis Aragona, Susan Henyan, Jackie Budds, Kenny Budds, Gloria Munsch, Daniel and Linda, Linda Lago, Anil Sharma, Ruth, and Rosetta Fiorella*, and the family of *Paul Hellenbrecht*. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Liberating God, you give us an example of holy living. We rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression in our world. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted.

Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

You redeem us from death, faithful God. We give thanks for those who served you in the church. Bring us with all the saints into everlasting joy. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you!

Let us share a sign of Christ's peace with one another. (In the method of your comfort level.)

~Please be seated~

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

~Please stand as you are able~

OFFERTORY HYMN

W&P #41

Give Thanks

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given
Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of our grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

~Please be seated~

COMMUNION

All are welcome to the Lord's Table. We receive communion in the form of a wafer and a small cup of wine or grape juice. Please tell the ushers if you need the bread and wine brought to you. If you are not yet receiving communion, or do not wish to receive today, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. Follow the usher's directions.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION HYMN ELW #485 vs. 1 , 2, 3, 5
I Am the Bread of Life

1 "I am the Bread of life.

You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

Refrain

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

2 "The bread that I will give

is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." *Refrain*

3 "Unless you eat

of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you."

Refrain

**5 Yes, Lord, I believe
that you are the Christ,
the Son of God,
who have come into the world. Refrain**

~Please stand as you are able~

TABLE BLESSING & COMMUNION PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food,
and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by
your power for the benefit of all and to your
glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and  give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #543

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

**1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never
alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my
own.
In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are
my own."**

**2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace
and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and
pure."**

**3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and
free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful
and free."**

DISMISSAL

What is our Mission? **Welcoming all to grow
in faith; living Christ's message of serving
and loving neighbors near and far.**
Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

***Thank you for worshipping
with us today. We are blessed by
your presence.***



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