

Ash Wednesday
February 22, 2023
12:00 pm & 7:00 pm Worship Service



PLEASE ENTER IN SILENCE FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Gathering Hymn

Return to God – see insert

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God, **out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: Joel 2: 12-14

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community remembers God's gracious character and asks God to spare the people.

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?

Psalm 51

see insert

Second Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,

and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

Gospel

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

“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.

Message

Hymn of the Day *All Things of Dust to Dust Return ~ ACS 920*

Confession of Sin

You may sit or stand for confession, or come forward to kneel at the altar rail.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.**

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.**

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.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

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.**

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.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Imposition of Ashes

Please come forward to receive the ashes.

After all who wish to receive ashes, we say:

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,

forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen us in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

Prayer for the Start of Lent

at the start

Is this the fast I choose?

Will I wake with the sun each morning?

Will I start with thank you?

Will I peel back the cage around my frame to let you in

or will I get too busy? Will my Bible collect dust on the shelf,

along with my journal, along with my sense of self,

or will I roll back the stone and wade in?

Every new season beckons something of us –

Attention, beauty, the chance to create.

This season is no different.

So, like moths to the light, will we find our way toward God,

or will we hover, circling fake suns?

I am seeking something deeper.

I am kicking off my shoes.

I am starting this season on holy ground.

~ Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LCC | sanctifiedart.org

Musical Offering *Speak to Me in Ashes ~ Douglas Nolan (All Saints Choir, 7pm only)*

We are not passing the offering plate; instead, the plate is sitting near the door to the worship space to receive financial gifts which support our ministry. You can also give using the Vanco App. on your digital device.

Offertory Hymn *Come to the Table ~ ELW 481*

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. 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 God thanks and praise

Holy, Holy Holy ~ ELW 190

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.

Holy Communion

You are beloved of God, and this meal is for you. Come forward to the altar rail and stand or kneel to receive communion. The bread is gluten-free and there is wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

Communion Hymn *Our Father, We Have Wandered ~ ELW 606*

Post Communion Blessing

Sending Prayer

Merciful God, **accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church ~ ELW 321

Dismissal

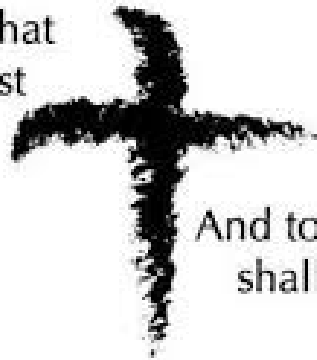
Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

All Things of Dust to Dust Return ~ Gerald Near

Remember that
you are dust



And to dust you
shall return

**ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION STATEMENT**

As God's forgiven people:

- + We welcome all in Christ's love.
- + We grow together in faith and life.
- + We serve all with joy.

Welcome to All Saints Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here! Our gathering is made complete by your presence. If you need help with anything, please don't hesitate to ask an usher or someone who looks like they know what they are doing.

Who Can Come to the Meal?

You are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us at the table, whether you are a guest, member, believer, or doubter at any age. God offers this meal to you and all creation so that you will know you are loved and invited into the community of God's people. We believe this meal transforms us together into the body of Christ for the sake of the world.

How Do I Participate in the Meal?

The usher will direct your row to come forward down the center aisle. If you cannot come forward, please let an usher know, and we will come to you. The pastor will give you a piece of gluten-free bread, and then the assisting minister will serve you wine (red) or grape juice (white) in an individual cup. Return to your seat down the side aisle.

Children

Children are always welcome in worship at All Saints! You can also pick up activities for children at the door to the worship space to take to your seat.

Rest Rooms

Men's and Women's restrooms are located in the hall south of the sanctuary (to your right as you sit in the church). Family/non-gender restrooms are located down the west hall behind the kitchen.

Assistive Listening


If you require an assistive listening device, please see the ushers or pick one up from the soundboard south of the sanctuary.

Offering

We collect an offering of financial gifts as part of our worship, symbolizing our response to God's generosity, demonstrating that our money is meant to serve God. We use this offering to fund our ministry here at All Saints, we well as sending some on to fund ministries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, of which we are a part and other local and global ministry. All Saints has a strong tradition of generosity – we invite you to join us as we offer ourselves for the sake of the world!

Fellowship

We share fellowship with coffee, tea, water, and snacks after each worship service. Please join us – we'd love to get to know you.

<p>ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH 4800 All Saints Rd. NW ABQ NM 87120 505-898-3932 Preschool: 505-897-2144 On the web: allsaintsabq.org office@allsaintsabq.org</p>	<p>Follow us on Facebook: https://fb.me/ASLCABQ</p> 	<p><u>Church Office Hours</u> Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>In case of emergency:</u> Pastor Kristin Schultz: 505-270-1957</p>
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