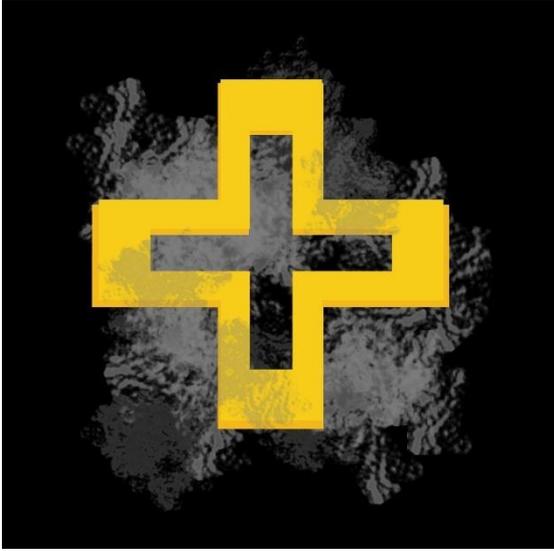


Ash Wednesday



North East Lutheran Parish
Saskatchewan

ASH WEDNESDAY

Dust and Ashes

March 5th, 2025



AS WE GATHER

We are called to remember our mortality as human beings. We are dust and ashes. We are sinful. We will all die one day. Yet, we also remember our immortality that is gifted to us because of Christ and His saving work on the cross. Lent is a desert journey from the dust and ashes of Ash Wednesday to the cross and forgiveness of Good Friday, and then ultimately, to the joys of Easter and new life. But we do not fast-forward through the desert. We still must wander through Lent in humility and faith.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN # 418 - O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: We begin our Lenten journey toward the cross.
People: **We follow Jesus through the wilderness.**

Pastor: We commit ourselves to prayer and fasting.
People: **We commit ourselves to serving God and our neighbors.**

Pastor: We remember our mortality.
People: **We remember God's mercy.**

Pastor: For as Adam, we came from the dust,
People: and to dust we shall return.

Pastor: As Adam, we have sinned,
People: and we need God's forgiveness.

CONFESSION *Psalm 51:1–12*

Pastor: Our heavenly Father knows our frailty and our need for forgiveness, life, and salvation. He invites to return to Him with broken and contrite hearts.

People: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

People: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Pastor: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

People: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

People: Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

People: Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

People: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Each person is invited to come forward and the pastor will make the sign of the cross on the forehead or the hand with ashes, saying:

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

IMPOSITION HYMN # 611 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be

ABSOLUTION *Psalm 103:1–14*

Pastor: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

People: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,

Pastor: who forgives all your iniquity,
People: who heals all your diseases,

Pastor: who redeems your life from the pit,
People: who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Pastor: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
People: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Pastor: He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.
People: The LORD is merciful and gracious,

Pastor: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
People: He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

Pastor: He does not deal with us according to our sins,
People: nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Pastor: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
People: so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

Pastor: as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

People: As a father shows compassion to His children,

Pastor: so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

People: For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Pastor: Even though we are dust and ashes, God removes our sin and makes us whiter than snow through the blood of Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. God has removed our sin as far as the east is from the west.

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of dust and ashes so that He might bring new life to the world. Strengthen us as we share His words of forgiveness and life, that many rise from the dust of despair and look to You for hope and new life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. _____, the _____
chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

CREED *Apostle's Creed* (found on inside back cover of Hymnal)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For peace and salvation, for reconciliation and unity, let
us pray to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For endurance and encouragement, let us pray to the
Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For pastors, teachers, and all ministers and leaders in
Your Church, let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who labor in difficult or dangerous vocations,
let us pray to the Lord.
People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For favorable weather and the nourishment of Your creation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who have not known the light of Christ or have fallen away into the darkness of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all those who suffer illness and grief, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

Hymn # 547 – The Lamb

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: **Amen.**

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