



Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021 | 7 p.m.

Augustana

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Worship | Grow | Go

Lent starts today with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the joy of Easter. As we hear in today's scripture, now is the acceptable time to return to God. During Lent we reflect on the meaning of our journey of faith, which begins in the waters of baptism and is completed in Jesus' resurrection promise. At the heart of this Ash Wednesday worship is the reminder of God's constant love and mercy.

The ashes we receive today remind us of our human frailty, but what seems like an ending is really an invitation to see each day as a new beginning, in which we are embraced by Christ's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our foreheads, we walk through the days of Lent, claimed and sent into the world to serve.

Prelude

"Aria" –Flor Peeters
Daniel Romero, organist

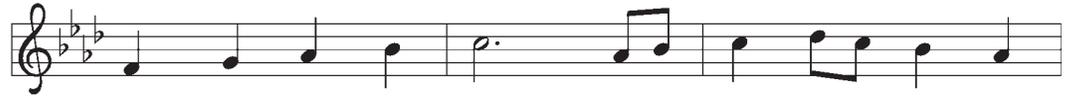
Welcome

Gathering Hymn

ELW 319: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816
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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.

**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

Isaiah 58:1–12

A reading from Isaiah.

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.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–17

The refrain will be sung first by the cantor, then by the assembly, and again by the assembly after the verses as indicated.

Refrain:

Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

Psalm 51:1

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress
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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 ev- | er 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. *Refrain*

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 pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. *Refrain*

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. *Refrain*

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,

and my mouth shall pro- | claim 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.

Refrain

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

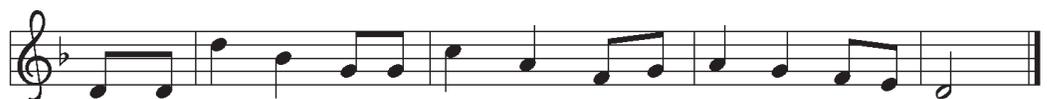
³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

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.

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.**

Sermon

Pastor Caitlin Trussell

Silence is kept for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

ELW 599: Lord Jesus, Think on Me

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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

Almighty God, you created us out of the dust of the earth and it is to dust we shall return. Today we reflect on our mortality and our penitence, reminding us that we are brought to eternal life by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, you 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. **Amen.**

Offering

“Dust and Ashes” –David Haas
AVE

Offering Prayer

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

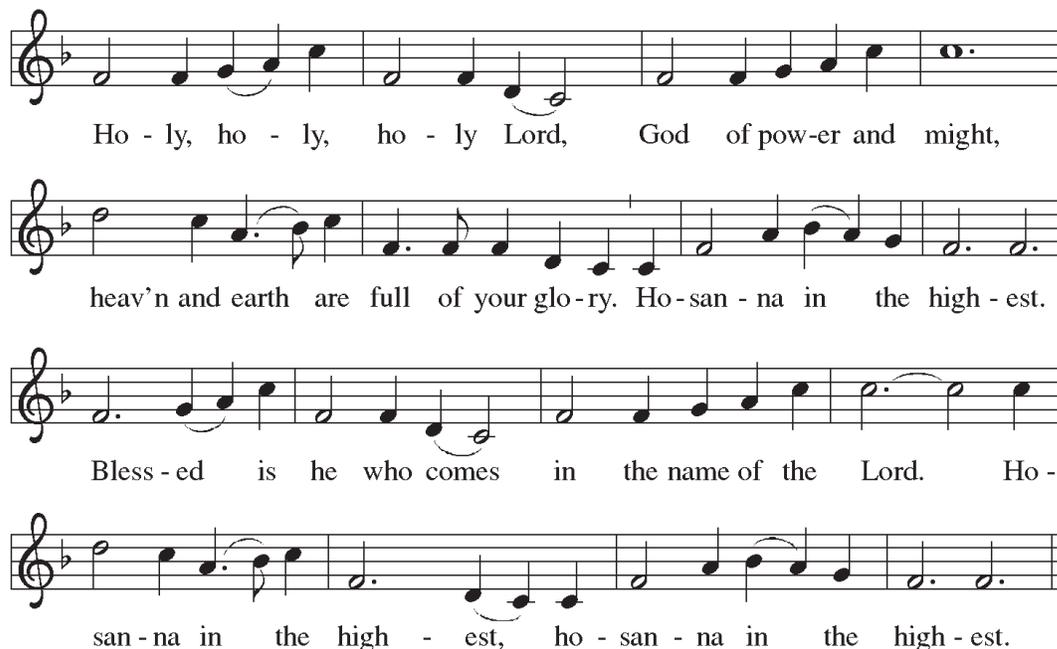
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Lord's Prayer

**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

We are connected by the Holy Spirit to God and to each other across time and place through our baptisms. In this same Spirit, we share bread and wine with confidence in Christ's real presence with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion. You may use bread or crackers and wine or juice from your home. We invite you to share this bread of life and cup of blessing as we all are one even though we gather separately for now.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Post Communion Blessing

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✠ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Little Prelude and Fugue in G Minor,” BWV 558 –J.S. Bach
 Daniel Romero, organ

Welcome!

- To download a copy of this today's sermon, visit Augustana's website, www.augustanadenver.org, and click on [Online Worship/Devotions](#).
- Secure online gifts may be made through the [Giving page at Augustana's website, www.augustanadenver.org](#). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.

Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild (February): Wendy Stalheim

Staff

Senior Pastor: Ann Hultquist

Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Shanna VanderWel

Children's Faith Formation Director: Valerie Taron

Nursery Director: Amy Hamik

Faith Community Nurse: Sue Ann Glusenkamp

Minister of Music and Organist: Daniel Romero

Choristers and Cantabile Director: Angela Howard

Finance Administrator: Lisa Mikolajczak

Publications Administrator: Lyn Goodrum

Administrator of Volunteer Ministry and Building

Use: Julie MacDougall

Livestream Technician: Emily Friesen

Building and Grounds Manager: Asmir Hodzic

Custodian: Andrija Malbasa

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens, Amy Tamminga,
Erin Saboe Willoughby

Augustana Early Learning Center Director: Wendie
Edwards

President of the Congregation: Michael Zumwalt



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God's work. Our hands.

Sunday Worship

Join Augustana on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/) or YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8QQ4ybjC4GuBH_mdvVRCdA) for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (www.augustanadenver.org) for downloadable worship resources and past worship videos.

Online Bible Studies with Pastors

Join the preaching pastor, Sunday, 9–9:45 a.m., for a deeper dive into the worship readings for that Sunday as we grow in faith together. [Sign up here](#) to access the Zoom link through our weekly email, the Augustana ePistle.

Faith Formation for Children and Youth

Weekly Faith Formation videos for children age 4 through 4th grade are available each Sunday through [Augustana's website \(www.augustanadenver.org\)](#).

Contact **Shanna VanderWel** (shanna@augustanadenver.org) for Zoom links and information about online studies for youth in grades 5–12.

Online Coffee Hour

Join us for coffee and conversation via Zoom, Sundays, 10–10:30 a.m. [Sign up here](#) to access the Zoom link through our weekly email, the Augustana ePistle.

We Are One at 1:00

Online devotions, "We Are One at 1:00," is offered at 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday on Augustana's Facebook page, or watch them later at your convenience (www.facebook.com/augustanadenver/ or www.augustanadenver.org).

Listen to Dial-a-Care!

Listen to a 3-minute devotion recorded daily by Augustana staff and members (303-996-2733).

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