

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God’s people through His word for His world

Ash Wednesday: The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives
March 5, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.

The palm fronds we held and waved with our hands with hosannas a year ago have since withered and turned to the ashes we bless this night in hope. Lent returns, reminding us that the Christian life is one of repeated, daily repentance and faith because, though our deliverance is made sure, we walk by faith in the “not yet” of complete holiness and final release from sin. Repentance means we come this night with empty hands, that is, the confession of our total need of God’s mercy, grace, and deliverance. We come to the God who has revealed Himself in love in the forgiveness of our sin by means of His own sacrifice for us and for our salvation. The ashes of our failings and sin are placed over the sign we received at our Baptism, and we are welcomed to repentance and faith freely given by the hand of the Lord.

Prelude “Ah, Holy Jesus” Brenda E. Austin
Handbell Choir

Please stand

+ PREPARATION +

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection

P: O Lord,
C: **have mercy.**
P: O Christ,
C: **have mercy.**
P: God the Father in heaven,
C: **have mercy.**
P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C: **have mercy.**
P: God the Holy Spirit,
C: **have mercy.**
P: Be gracious to us.
C: **Help us, good Lord.**

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In the time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please sit

+ The IMPOSITION of ASHES +

*The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation.
The pastor or an assistant places the ashes on the forehead of each person
in the sign of the cross, saying:*

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

After receiving the ashes, each person returns quietly to his or her pew.

Anthem

“Create in Me”
Sanctuary Choir

Terre Johnson

Create in me a clean heart, O God
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from thy presence
Cast me not away from thy presence
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me
Thy Spirit from me

Create in me a clean heart, O God
Create in me a clean heart, O God
And renew a right spirit within me
And renew a right spirit within me

Restore to me the joy of thy salvation
Restore to me the joy of thy salvation
And uphold me with thy free spirit
And uphold me, uphold me with thy free
spirit

Create in me, O God

+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +

Hymn

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

Hymn No. 419

Please stand

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the 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.

C: **Amen.**

+ SERVICE of the WORD +

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.
Dear heavenly Father, we are reminded of our dependence upon You as the giver of life and salvation through Christ's cross and resurrection. Keep us ever mindful that You have filled our empty hands with Your blessing. Guard us from seeking the earthly reward of human praise only, to the neglect of the reward that You give us by Your grace; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please sit

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-19

L: 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?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹In response to his people the LORD said:

I am sending you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a mockery among the nations.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual (spoken responsively)

Hebrews 12:2

P: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

C: **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame**

P: and is seated at the right hand of God.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

L: ^{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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Lenten Verse

Music in hymnal, page 157

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: [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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please sit

Hymn of the Day

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”

Hymn No. 761

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message

“The Hand of the Lord Who Freely Gives”

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

- P:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P:** For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who enter this holy season of Lent in true repentance and faith—that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh; cleanse our hearts; and renew a right spirit within us—let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For all who do not know the gracious invitation of God through His Son to return to Him—that many may hear and be drawn to the Lord’s merciful and saving hands—let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For those who have wandered from the faith—that the Holy Spirit restore them to the only hope of salvation—let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For the government and those placed in positions of authority—that they perform their duties with honor for the good of the people—let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** For those who suffer from sickness, injury, or need—that the Lord’s healing hand rest upon them, giving them strength to bear their infirmities with patience—let us pray to the Lord.
- C: Lord, have mercy.**
- P:** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

Please sit

Offering Moment

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Anthem

“And Can It Be?”

Dan Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

And can it be, and can it be
Amazing love, how can it be
And can it be that I should gain
An int’rest in the Savior’s blood
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me

He left His Father’s throne above
So free, so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself of all but love
And bled for Adam’s helpless race
’Tis mercy all, immense and free

For O my God, it found out me
And can it be, and can it be?
Amazing love, how can it be
No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him, my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach th’eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ
my own
Amazing love, how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me
Amazing love

Please stand

Offertory

Music in hymnal, pages 159-60

Lord’s Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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.**

Benediction

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”

Hymn No. 722

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“Nimrod” from Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

+

+

+

Portions of this service from SundaysandSeasons.com. Copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #47667. Hymns and other portions of this service from Lutheran Service Book. Copyright 2006 Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri. LSB License #10005343. “Create in Me,” by Terre Johnson. Copyright © 2014 Birnamwood Publications. A division of MorningStar Publishers, Inc. “And Can It Be?” by Dan Forrest. © Copyright 2014 by Beckenhorst Press, Inc.

Serving Tonight	
Worship Leader	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor James
Scripture Reader	Brook Price
Ushers	Jim Micsan(lead) Jeff Peterson
Choir Director	Anne Lee
Handbell Director	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Greeter	Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door) Nancy McGarry (welcome center)
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Closer	Allen Millman

Board of Servant Leaders

Laura Blackburn, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Larry Austin
Paul Kasulis
Jennifer Pelletier
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

Gary James, Assisting Pastor

Room 209; pastorgary@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

Room 101; preschool@gslcva.org; 703-437-4511

Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

Room 212; georgia@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x803

Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

Room 209; jeff@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x811

Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

heidi@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

Room 215; anne@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x807

Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

Room 210; michele@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x806

Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

Room 208; holly@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x213

Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

matt@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

childministry@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Julie Schorfheide, Communications Assistant

julie@gslcva.org

Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

commassist@gslcva.org

Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

chloe@gslcva.org

Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

