

# Living Word Lutheran Church

*Ash Wednesday & the Imposition of Ashes*

*February 14, 2018*



***“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”***

**PASTOR: Rev. Eric Hullstrom**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9 am at the Meridian Habitat & Community Center**

(Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study available during the school year)

14422 Meridian East Puyallup, WA 98374

*LWLC Office: 11707 101<sup>st</sup> Ave E, Bldg B 253-445-4292 Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm, M-F*

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[www.LivingWordLutheranChurch.com](http://www.LivingWordLutheranChurch.com)

**Mission Statement:** “We, God’s people of Living Word Lutheran Church, grounded in Holy Scripture, are called to follow and share the inspired Word of God in Christ, to live as faithful and obedient servants, reaching out to all people with the love of Jesus Christ.” **Motto:** “Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Word Alone.”

Affiliated with LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission For Christ)

*Please silence all electronic devices, including cell phones, upon entering the sanctuary.*

Ash Wednesday & the Imposition of Ashes	Living Word Lutheran Church Order for Worship	February 14, 2018
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**Prelude / Announcements**

**We Worship with Thanksgiving!** (Psalm 100:4)

**Opening Hymn**

**“Father I’ve Failed You”**

*TUNE: Beautiful Savior*

*Verse 1*

Father, I've failed You.  
See my sin and selfishness;  
See how I've nourished my foolish pride.  
Touch with Your mercy;  
Speak Your forgiveness  
Through all the guilt I've tried to hide.

*Verse 2*

Jesus, my brother,  
Human, Holy Savior,  
You feel the weakness I feel within.  
You are my Righteousness;  
You are my Confidence,  
For when I'm weak, Your strength begins

*Verse 3*

Moment by moment, Marvelous, Almighty God,  
Resting in You, I am truly free. Teach me to trust You;  
Teach me to walk in You, My Lord, my Strength, my Liberty.

Words by Ken Bible, Music from Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842, © 1994 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song #1173674

**We Worship with Confession**

Pastor: Remembering our baptism into Christ Jesus, we gather as we are to live, in the name of the Father,  
and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.      Congregation: **Amen**

(Brief silence for personal reflection & self-examination)

P: Most Holy and merciful Father:

**C: we confess to You and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven, and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, LORD.**

P: We have been deaf 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, LORD.**

P: We confess to You, LORD, all our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

**C: Have mercy on us, LORD.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

**C: We confess to You, LORD.**

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**C: We confess to You, LORD.**

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**C: We confess to You, LORD.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

**C: We confess to You, LORD.**

P: Accept our repentance, LORD, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty...

**C: Accept our repentance, LORD.**

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us...

**C: Accept our repentance, LORD.**

P: For our waste and pollution of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**C: Accept our repentance, LORD.**

P: Restore us, good LORD, and let Your anger depart from us.

**C: hear us, LORD, for Your mercy is great. Amen.**

P: Accomplish in us, O God, Your Word and work of salvation, **C: that we may show forth Your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross, and Passion of Your Son, our LORD, **C: bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

P: Almighty God, the Father of our LORD, Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, nor that we should perish, but rather that we may turn from wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore Him through our LORD Jesus Christ to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be dedicated to growth in holiness and grace, and that at last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Peace be with us all.

**C: Amen.**

**LWLC Choir**

**"Ave Verum Corpus"**

**by W. A. Mozart**

*English Translation: Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary.  
Who has truly suffered, and was sacrificed on the cross for mortals.  
His side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood.  
Be for us a foretaste of Heaven during our final judgment.*

### We Hear and Read God's Word.

**This reading is from the Book of Joel, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter** (ESV).

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

<sup>14</sup> Who 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?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;<sup>16</sup> gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders;  
gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep  
and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

**This reading is from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to the Corinthians, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter** (ESV).

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,

and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(Here Ends this Reading.)

All stand and sing: (LBW p.63)

***Return to the LORD Your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and abounding in steadfast love.***

**The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter. (ESV). **C: Glory to You, O LORD.****

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But when 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.

<sup>16</sup>"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(The Gospel of Our Lord.)

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

**We confess before God and one another the faith that unites us  
in the words of the Nicene Creed.**

**WE BELIEVE** in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**WE BELIEVE** in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end.

**WE BELIEVE** in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one Holy Christian and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***"Have Mercy"***

***Cantors sing verses 1-3, Congregation sings responsively the refrain.***

**Cantors: vs 1-** In our arrogance and pride We come to You. In our weakness and our guilt We look to You.

**Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.**

**Cantors: vs 2-** In our trouble and our pain We come to You. In our darkness and our grief We look to You.

**Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.**

**Cantors: vs 3-** Mighty God of love and power We come to You. You are here, and You are now. We look to You.

**Congregation: O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy, O Lord, our Lord, Have mercy.**

Sermon

Eric Hullstrom, Pastor

**We Worship in Thanksgiving By Offering Our Gifts**

*The offering is received*

As the congregation stands, the ushers bring the offering forward. (LBW p.75)

**The Offering Hymn**

**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 uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

**Prayers of the church** (Each petition ends with “LORD, in Your mercy”; the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer”.)

**HOLY COMMUNION** (spoken)

P: The LORD be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the LORD.

P: Let us give thanks to the LORD, our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**The Words of Institution & The 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: Lutherans believe the LORD’s Supper is a holy sacrament in which Christ comes to us with His grace, love, compassion, and forgiveness. The crucified and risen Christ is present in, with, and under the bread and wine – He promises: “This is my body... This is my blood”. Therefore the Apostle Paul says we should examine ourselves lest we eat or drink in an unworthy manner (1 Cor. 11:27ff.). Martin Luther wrote, “Anyone who does not believe these words (‘this is My body given for you... this is My blood shed for you.’), is neither prepared nor worthy; for the words, ‘FOR YOU’ requires simply a believing heart.” Therefore, all (including children who have received instruction) who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and LORD and who see His presence in the sacrament are welcome to commune with us.

**Communion Hymns****“Ashes to Ashes”**

Ash - es to ash - es, Dust to dust- This flesh is  
not for - ev - er. Spir - it to Spir - it,  
Life to Life- All that You are Is all I will  
be; Soon, Lord, in You for - ev - er.

**"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, As of old on  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van-guard  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,  
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
 on the way; As the Light of light, de - scend - ing  
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

For with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -  
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the  
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes, the pow'rs of hell to  
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 van - quish, As the dark-ness clears a - way.  
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

**THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Immediately after receiving communion, those who desire the imposition of ashes will receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead with the words; "*Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*" After which, we are to contemplate our brokenness and our need for grace.

Conclusion of the Confession

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of this resurrection.**

Declaration of grace and the plea for mercy

Silence for reflection

**“Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”**

1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, And did my sov - 'reign die?  
 2 Was it for sins that I had done He groaned up - on the tree?  
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And shut its glo - ries in  
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While His dear cross ap - pears,  
 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay The debt of love I owe;

Would He de - vote that sac - red head For sin - ners such as I?  
 A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!  
 When God, the might - y mak - er, died For His own crea - tures' sin.  
 Dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, And melt my eyes to tears.  
 Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: It's all that I can do.

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.  
 Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824*

## Blessing

## Dismissal

Musician: Mary Kaye Owen      Choir Director: Dan Owen

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### **Thank you for worshipping with us this evening!**

*If you are a visitor, please sign the Guest Book. We encourage you to pick up a 'Welcome' packet at the Ushers table to introduce you to our church.*

### **LENT IS NOT ABOUT SELF-HATRED**

Jesus is not looking for self-torture, self-hatred, woe-is-me thinking, 40-day starvation and oceans of tears. (Many great saints and plain fools have thought that's what He wanted.) Lent is for soberly looking into yourself and getting down to what's real. Self-hatred is not being real. How could it be right to despise someone whom God loves and treasures? The Sundays aren't counted in the 40 days of Lent, because every Sunday carries with it a part of the glow of Easter Sunday. So it's not all gloom and doom. But even on the Sundays, the theme of **repentance** (turning from our ungodly ways) holds true. When you repent, you please God whether you fast or not, and that is what most counts for Lent.

Lent's strictness and sternness doesn't mean you can't cozy up to the one you love, or discover new love. It doesn't mean you can't dance a St. Patrick's Day jig, or enjoy a good college basketball game, or get a belly or laugh from a funny moment, during worship or prayer. Rather, in Lent you put a stop to the fevered pursuit of pleasure, especially pleasure from the entertainment field's realm of fantasy, and instead let **joy** seek you in the real world. Then, when the moments of joy come, they're recognized as a gift from a loving God. Just as life itself is.

### **Refocus for Lent**

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.  
 Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.  
 Give up worry — trust God to provide.  
 Give up discouragement — be full of hope.  
 Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.  
 Give up hatred — return good for evil.  
 Give up anger — be more patient.  
 Give up pettiness — become mature.  
 Give up jealousy — pray for trust.  
 Give up gossiping — control your tongue.  
 Give up sin — turn to virtue.  
 Give up giving up — persevere.

—Author unknown

### **The significance of Lent**

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday.

Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness of Judea Province, which, according to the Gospel, lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps Christians focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness.

The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence.