



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

Ascension Lutheran Church
1105 N. Washington Blvd.
Ogden, UT 84404
801.782.2810

Offerings may be placed in the offering tray at the back of the nave by the baptismal font.

Welcome to worship

Opening Song

♪ ♪ Be Still and Know ♪ ♪

Verse 1

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know that He is holy.
Be still oh restless soul of mine, bow before the Prince of Peace,
Let the noise and clamor cease. Be Still.

Verse 2

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know that He is faithful.
Consider all that He has done. Stand in awe and be amazed,
And know that He will never change Be still.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

All Amen.

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love
with the words of Psalm 51.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

All ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

P Beloved in Christ,
In the words of the psalmist we hear assurance
that God will grant mercy and restore joy.
In ✝ Christ our sins are forgiven.
We have a place in God's house forever.

All Amen.

Verse 3

Be still and know that He is God. Be still and know He is our Father
Come rest your head upon His breast, listen to the rhythm of
His unfailing heart of love, beating for His little ones
Calling each of us to come. Be still... be still.

Calling on God

L Let us pray: Holy One, Merciful God,
All make yourself known to us.
Be present with us in this often troubled journey of life.
Create in us hearts that are open to transformation.
Give us the patience of practice in this Lenten journey—
ordering our days with time enough to be with you. Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P As a people forgiven and freed, we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ through American Sign Language.

Jesus Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

We Proclaim

A reading from Joel, the 2nd chapter

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

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?' "

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L The word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand as you are able.

♪ ♪ **Nothing Can Trouble** ♪ ♪

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us**

Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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

[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.”

Mt 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Word of God that is still speaking,

All Praise to you, O Christ.

[You may be Seated](#)

Message

Pr. Debra Jimenez

Hymn for today

[Please stand as you are able.](#)

Change My Heart Oh God

Chorus

Change my heart oh God, Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God, May I be like You

Verse

You are the potter, I am the clay
Mold me and make me,
This is what I pray *Chorus*

[You may be Seated](#)

Invitation to the Imposition of Ashes

On Ash Wednesday, we remember we all are in need of reconnection with God's holy love.

God's church is where God's mercy is the order of every day.

In this Ritual of Ashes, we are reminded that we are part of the dust and debris of this earth. Our lives have times of growth and decay and death.

Placing the sign of the cross on our foreheads with ashes is a reminder of this difficult reality but also a reminder of the presence of God, the grace of Christ, and the power of the Spirit in all of it.

So come when you are ready and mark the beginning of your Lenten Journey. Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

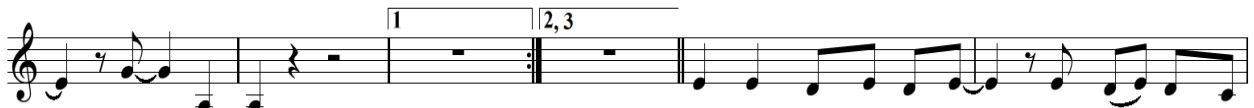
Repent and believe the gospel, then turn to God and remember that God loves you.

Beautiful Things

*Words and Music by
Michael Gungor and Lisa Gungor*



1. All this pain. I won - der if I'll ev - er find my way; I won - der if my life could real - ly change
2. All this earth. Could all that is lost ev - er be found; Could a gar - den come up from this ground
3. All a - round hope is spring - ing up from this old ground. Out of cha - os, life is be - ing found



at all. You make beau - ti - ful things, You make beau - ti -
at all?
in You.



ful things out of the dust. You make beau - ti - ful things, You make beau - ti - ful things out of us.

After all who desire ashes have received them...

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.

May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence,
reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
are we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All Amen.

Blessing for the Journey

Benediction

Please stand as you are able.

P Return to me says the Lord, and I will return to you. *Zechariah 1:3*
God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever.

All Amen

Do You Want to Fast this Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- ♥ *Fast from hurting words and say kind words.*
- ♥ *Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.*
- ♥ *Fast from anger and be filled with patience.*
- ♥ *Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.*
- ♥ *Fast from worries and have trust in God.*
- ♥ *Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.*
- ♥ *Fast from pressures and be prayerful.*
- ♥ *Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.*
- ♥ *Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.*
- ♥ *Fast from grudges and be reconciled.*
- ♥ *Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Pietrafitness.com

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