

ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5, 2025



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



POULSBO
FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH

18920 4TH AVE. NE ☼ POULSBO WA 98370 ☼ (360) 779-2622



poulsbofirstlutheran.org ☼ welcome@pflc.org

A Reconciling in Christ congregation

*Ruth said [to Naomi], "...Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge."
~Ruth 1:16b*

Ash Wednesday: a synopsis

Ash Wednesday is the most somber day of the church year with a mood of penitence and reflection on our faith and life. Although penitence is to be taken seriously and practiced with care, this is not supposed to be an occasion to wallow in our sins. The word "Lent" means "springtime" which is a time of preparation, planting, and growth. Therefore, during the season of Lent, the focus of our penitence is for the preparation and growth of faith - a "holy springtime of the soul."

In this special service marking the beginning of the season, we use ashes as a symbol to remind us of our frailty. Ashes represent judgment, humility, repentance, mortality, God's condemnation of sin, and our complete dependence on God for faith and life. Ashes also represent cleansing and rebirth. Ashes are what remain when the old has been burned away and the new life is left to sprout and grow. So, we use ashes as a reminder of our sin and as a sign of the hope of the new life we share in Christ Jesus.

WORDS OF WORSHIP

L— Leader

C— Congregation

Assemble in the Narthex

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

L: PFLC was established near water and on land stewarded since time immemorial by the Suquamish, Port Gamble S'Klallam, and other peoples of the Salish Sea.

C: We recognize that God calls all to be in right relationship with their neighbors,

L: that the tribes are sovereign nations,

C: that there is a history of broken treaties and broken trust, and that there is much reconciling work to be done.

L: As Christians, we also recognize that in Christ there is new life, forgiveness, and hope for mending what is broken.

C: We pray the Holy Spirit will lead us in this work.

Developed by PFLC and Luther Seminary in partnership with American Indian alumni, including Herb Wounded Head '04 and Marline Whiterabbit Helgemo '87.

SILENCE FOR CENTERING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Alison Shane

CONFESSION

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

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION AND SELF-EXAMINATION

L: Most holy and merciful God,

C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company in 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.

L: 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, O God.

L: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

L: 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 redeemer Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen

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

C: Amen

Remember That You Are Dust (4x through)

Mark Mummert

Re - mem - ber that you are dust,
and to dust you shall re - turn.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a vocal line. It consists of two staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are: "Re - mem - ber that you are dust," on the first staff and "and to dust you shall re - turn." on the second staff. The music ends with a double bar line.

Change My Heart, O God (2x through)

Refrain

Eddie Espinoza

Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true. Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you. You are the pot - ter;
I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Refrain

End

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piano accompaniment. It consists of three systems of music, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The first system is labeled "Refrain" and "Eddie Espinoza". The lyrics are: "Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true. Change my heart, O God;". The second system is labeled "End" and contains the lyrics: "may I be like you. You are the pot - ter;". The third system contains the lyrics: "I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray. Refrain". The music features various chords and melodic lines, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

Beautiful Things

Michael Gungor/Lisa Gungor



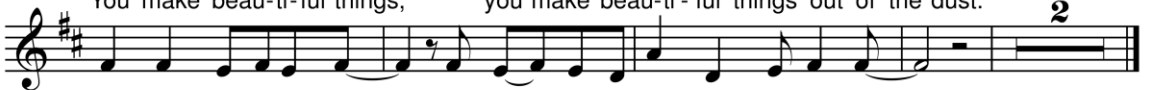
1. All this pain; I won-der if I'll ev - er find my way.
2. All this earth; could all that is lost ev - er be found?
3. All a - round, hope is spring-ing up from this old ground.



I won-der if my life could real - ly change at all.
Could a gar-den come up from this ground at all?
Out of cha-os, life is be - ing found in you.



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



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

ABSOLUTION

L: Almighty God looks upon us with mercy and by water and the word joins us to the saving death of Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, God raises us with Christ to new life. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

HYMN

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

Thomas H. Troeger/Thomas Tallis

1. All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2. Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3. Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar - ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new - born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

"ASH WEDNESDAY"

by Meta Herrick Carlson

Tonight we remember
that we come from the dust
both earthen and cosmic
thanks to bursts of atoms
billions of years old,
still chasing
the coattails of *kairos*.

We are the heavy elements:
carbon, nitrogen, oxygen,
pressed and held down
by the gravity of sin
trapped in the stillness,
waiting for nova until
wind, breath, spirit
fills the ordinary
and everywhere
with more.

Tonight we remember
that we come from the dust
by listening carefully
to the sound of our chests
rising and falling,
fragile with the wonder of dust
that lives.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray,

.... In Jesus' holy name we pray. **C: Amen**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

L: Word of God for the people of God. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

PRAYERS

After each portion of the prayers:

L: Merciful God,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

L: ... In Jesus name we pray.

C: Amen

OFFERING INTRODUCTION

Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me." ~Matthew 25:35-36, 40



L: Your donations to PFLC support ministries that provide clothing and shelter all over the world, including Lutheran World Relief (check out their ministries at lwr.org), North Kitsap Fishline (fishlinehelps.org), and Habitat for Humanity (kitsaphabitat.org), as well as help PFLC itself to be a space of shelter and a people who follow Jesus' call to clothe others. During this music offering, please:

- Prayerfully consider how generous you can be in this mission we share
- Fill out the Keeping in Touch form (QR code on the back of the bulletin or paper copy to add to your offering) as a symbol of offering of yourself to this mission. In the comment section, include your ideas of how you can answer Jesus' call to clothe and shelter this week.

MUSIC OFFERING

Speak to Me in Ashes

Cathedral Choir

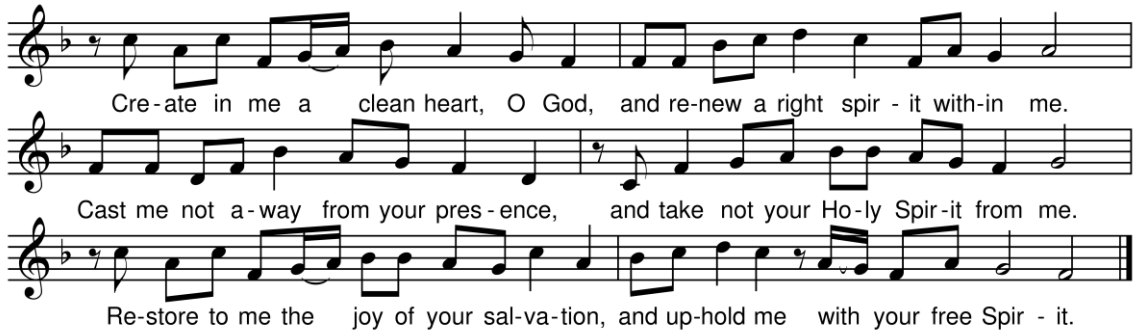
Karen Crane, Douglas Nolan

Cynthia Gilman, Director

Katie Bensch, soloist

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir - it with-in me.
Cast me not a-way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me.
Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: Hosanna! God is with you!

C: And also with you.

L: Let us give thanks to our God.

C: We give God thanks and praise.

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

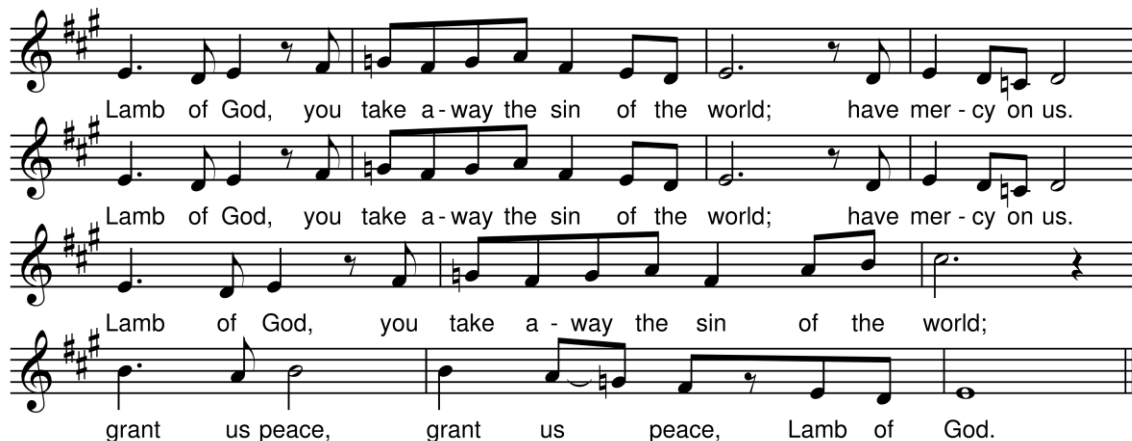
LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE DISTRIBUTION

We are all united as the Body of Christ in Holy Communion today. After we sing "Lamb of God" together, the online community will commune together. Please gather your communion elements now.

The onsite community will process forward during the communion hymn and receive communion by intinction.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

THE ONLINE ASSEMBLY COMMUNES TOGETHER

L: The body of Christ, given for you. (*eat the bread*)

The blood of Christ, shed for you. (*drink the wine*)

COMMUNION HYMN

Now Is the Time of Grace

Marty Haugen



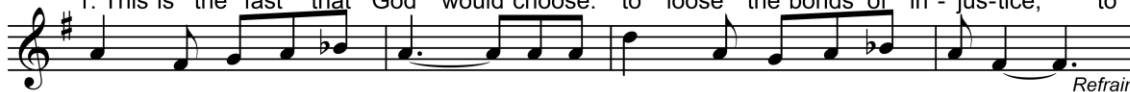
Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.



Turn now, and seek God's face, now behold God's in - vi - ta - tion.



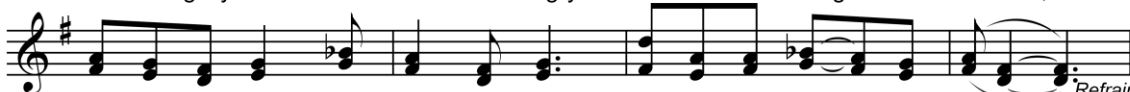
1. This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of in - jus - tice, to



let the cap - tives go free, and to break the yoke of op - pres - sion.



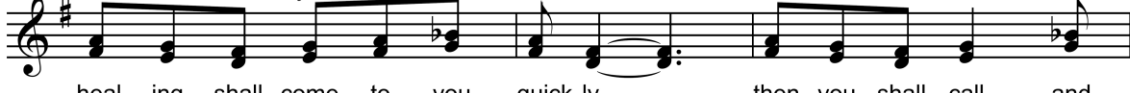
2. Shar - ing your bread with the hun - gry and wel - com - ing home - less in,



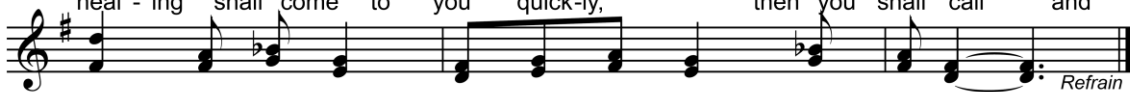
of - fer - ing hope and of - fring help, this is what God re - quires.



3. Then shall your light break forth as dawn, and



heal - ing shall come to you quick - ly, then you shall call and



God shall an - swer, God's love shall go be - fore you.

When the congregation has been united in the meal, the pastor will say the table blessing:

L: The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

L: God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son, awakened and renewed by the breathing of your Spirit 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

L: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

HYMN

When We Are Tested

Ruth Duck/Irish traditional

1. When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2. When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3. When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4. When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

SENDING

L: Go into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *From the Depths I Call to Thee (Aus der Tiefe rufe ich)*

J. S. Bach

[Please leave the sanctuary in silence]

VISION STATEMENT

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

To build community – To share the love of Jesus.

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YOUR SERVANT LEADERS TODAY

Worship Leader:	Melinda Madamba (she/her)
Preacher:	Pastor Alison Shane (she/her)
Accompanist:	Miriam Haddon (she/her)
Music Director:	Cynthia Gilman (she/her)
Streaming Technicians:	Lynn Gleason (she/her) Jeff Hora (he/him)

Let PFLC staff know you were here by filling out the Keeping in Touch/prayer request card or online form.

