

# *Welcome to Edison Lutheran Church*

Edison  
Lutheran Church

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Pastor John Guthridge



Ash Wednesday  
March 5, 2025  
7:00 pm

*Welcome to worship.*  
Masks are welcome. If you are joining us from your car,  
**please tune your radio to 98.7 FM** or join us for the  
livestream via Facebook or our website,  
[edisonlutheranchurch.org](http://edisonlutheranchurch.org).

*Welcome to Edison Lutheran Church*

# Ash Wednesday

Wednesday

March 5, 2025



## Gathering

BELL TOLL

WELCOME AND GREETING

PRELUDE

"Largo"

- Arcangelo Corelli

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*



- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- <sup>4</sup>**Against 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. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R**

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- <sup>9</sup> Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup> **Create in me a clean | heart, O God,**  
**and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of | your salvation**  
**and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R**
- <sup>13</sup> Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- <sup>14</sup> **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,**  
**and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- <sup>15</sup> O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- <sup>16</sup> **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.**  
**You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise. **R**

## GREETING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Word

### FIRST READING:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Blow 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—

<sup>2</sup>a 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.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup>rend 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.  
<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;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather 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.

<sup>17</sup>Between 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?' "

L Word of God. Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING:

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

*The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God.*

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat 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.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For 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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

P Word of God. Word of Life.

**C Thanks be to God.**



♦ 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.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show. Real treasure is not found in material wealth or people's admiration, but in the regard of God who sees in secret.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>But 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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so 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.

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<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.      **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor John Guthridge



◆ HYMN OF THE DAY “Restore in Us, O God” **ELW 328**  
**All Verses**



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

## INVITATION TO LENT

AM Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love. Sustained by the gifts of word and sacrament, let us be carried through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

P Most holy and merciful God,

**C 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.**

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, O God.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

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

**C Have mercy on us, O God.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

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

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



## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

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.

**C Amen.**

*(Congregation invited forward to receive ashes)*

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

*(after all have returned to their seats)*

AM Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

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

AM By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.  
Amen.**



## ABSOLUTION

P Cling to this promise: the word of forgiveness I speak to you comes  
from God. In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I  
forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**



## Choral Anthem "Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee"

- Psalm 130, para. Martin Luther - arr. K. Lee Scott

1. Out of the depths I cry to thee, Lord, my sins bewailing, my sins bewailing!  
Bow down thy gracious ear to me, make thou my prayer availing, my prayer availing.  
Mark not my misdeeds in thy book, gracious Lord, most holy; on my sins in mercy  
look; who can stand before thee?  
Hear my prayer, hear my cry, hear my supplication. Thou my hope, thou my light, thou my  
soul's deliv'rance.

2. With thee there is forgiveness, Lord, love and grace abounding, and grace abounding.  
The greatest thought or deed or word were else by empty sounding, but empty sounding.  
All who in thy sight appear come in sinful measure; all before thee bow in fear seeking thy  
good pleasure.  
Hear my prayer, hear my cry, hear my supplication. Thou my hope, thou my light, thou my  
soul's deliv'rance. Amen

### PRAYER

AM Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

### 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.**

# Sending

## BLESSING

**P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## DISMISSAL

**AM** Go forth 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

"Prayer"

- Cesar Franck



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### Why an Ash Cross?

The ash cross we receive in worship carries a dual symbolism. First, ashes are a reminder of our mortality and an ancient sign of grief and repentance. As the ashes are applied, we hear God's pronouncement of the curse that results from humanity's sin: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19) By receiving the ashes on our foreheads, we acknowledge our rebellion against God, and lament death's subsequent reign.

But the law's curse against sin is not the last word for us, and so we receive the ashes in the shape of the cross of Christ, by whose wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5) As Paul writes in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." God was not content to allow sin the last word, and so God entered creation in the person of Jesus Christ and submitted to the death we inflicted on him only to overcome it on the third day. After receiving our worst, he returned with his best: forgiveness, life, and salvation. By receiving the cross on our foreheads, we boast in God's work which delivers us.

As Christians, our lives in this world are lived under these two words of God: the law's condemnation of our sin, and the gospel's forgiveness given in Jesus Christ. As we enter the season of Lent, we proclaim this reality with the sign of the ash cross on our forehead, daily being turned from our sin and its consequence to receive the forgiveness and life won for us on Good Friday and Easter.

*Edison Lutheran Church - Welcoming.....Nurturing.....Serving*



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