

St. Luke Lutheran Church

"Energized by God's Love"

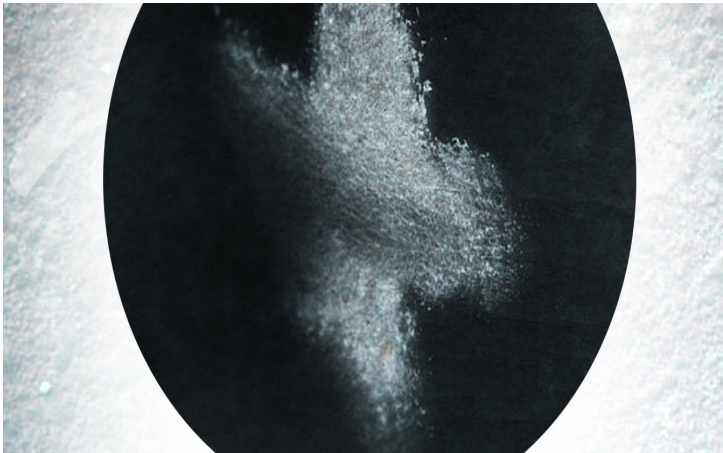
Dynamisé par l'amour de Dieu

1025 The Dalles Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (408) 736-9216

The Rev. Daniel Tisdell

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship
Ash Wednesday Service**

March 5, 2025



Dear Members & Guests - Welcome to Worship!

God has greatly blessed us with your presence this evening.

Thank you for responding to his invitation.

If you have a prayer request, please send it by email or voicemail to
Letty
in the church office.



Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

GATHER IN SILENCE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“LITANY”

Beth Stauter

(By Franz Schubert)

LITANY

PSALM 51:1–17

[OT] Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

[NT] *Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.*

[OT] For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

[NT] *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.*

[OT] Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

[NT] *Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.*

[OT] Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

[NT] *Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.*

[OT] Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

[NT] *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

[OT] Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

[NT] *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.*

[OT] Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

[NT] *Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.*

[OT] O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

[NT] *For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.*

[C] The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

GATHERING "I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT" ELW #815 SONG

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

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.

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 — 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.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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.

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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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.

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?""

CHOIR ANTHEM

“A LENTEN PRAYER”

St. Luke Choir

(By Lloyd Larson)

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. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

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

After the Gospel is announced, please respond: **Glory to you, O Lord**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–21

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

"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.

"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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. 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.

"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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[P] The Gospel of the Lord

[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Dan Tisdell

HYMN OF THE DAY *“OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED”* ELW #606

INVITATION TO LENT

Pastor Dan Tisdell

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

[P] In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.**

[P] God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us

by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek the way you set before us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[C] Amen.

[P] With honesty of heart, let us confess our sin.

[P] Merciful God,

[C] Forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet.

Silence.

[P] Oh God...

[C] We were silent when we should have said something.

Silence.

[P] O God...

[C] We acted when we knew better.

Silence.

[P] O God...

[C] We were still when we know we should have moved.

Silence.

[P] O God...

[C] For the wrong we have done, for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[P] People of God, look to the ✝ Son, given to heal you and set you free because God loved the world so much. Take hold of life—eternal life!

[C] Amen.

HYMN

“O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER”

ELW #751

(During the Imposition of Ashes)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(At conclusion)

[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 Savior,

[C] Bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

[P] Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

[C] Amen

(We will not pass an offering basket tonight. If you wish to give, there is a plate for offerings near each entrance to the sanctuary. This can be done during the imposition of ashes or any other time.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

For each petition,

[P] Hear us, O God,

[C] **your mercy is great.**

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving

[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 our thanks and praise.**

[P] It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

[C] **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

[P] O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

[C] **Come, Holy Spirit.**

[P] Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

[C] **Come, Holy Spirit.**

[P] With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

[C] **Amen.**

THE LORDS 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - THE EUCHARIST (be seated)

Our Lord Jesus is the host of his table. He invites all to come to him. Everyone is welcome to commune with communion fellowship cups in the basket or bread and your choice of wine or grape juice by intinction. If you are not communing, please receive a blessing of the day.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

[P] Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

[C] Amen.

SENDING “O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE 40 DAYS” ELW #319
HYMN

BLESSING

[P] Beloved, we are God’s own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace.

[C] Amen.

DISMISSAL

[P] Go in peace. Remember the poor.

[C] Thanks be to God.

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