

**Ash Wednesday  
In-Person and Online Worship Bulletin  
March 5, 2025**



**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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# Welcome to Peace Lutheran Church

## Mission Statement

**We are called to be an inclusive community, sharing God's grace through worship, service, and hospitality.**

**We of Peace Lutheran Church welcome all people to full participation in the life of the church regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or physical or mental disability.**

*Ash Wednesday -- Do you focus first on your own needs or on others' needs?  
We typically assume that these are two distinct categories.  
Scripture shows us that from God's perspective, our needs and the needs of our neighbor are similar and interconnected.  
God is not satisfied until everyone's needs are met.*

⊕ ----- GATHERING ----- ⊕

***We gather in silence.***

**WELCOME**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: People of God, what do you need today?

C: **A new and right spirit within us.**

P: Then come, let us worship God,  
whose Spirit moves through us  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to break every yoke,

C: **to share our bread with the hungry  
and our homes with the poor;  
to clothe the naked  
and honor each member of God's family.**

P: We gather in the name of our triune God ☩  
who calls us to repentance,  
who cleanses our hearts,  
who opens our lips,  
so that our mouths might declare God's praise.

C: **Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Saving God, you never forget those who need you. You take the part of the poor, the captive, the bound, and the broken, and call your people to do the same. Pour your Spirit into our hearts and wash away everything that keeps us from knowing one another as kin, so that we may be a watered garden in a thirsting world, answering the needs of every part of your creation.

C: **Amen.**



## FIRST READING

## Isaiah 58: 1-12

<sup>1</sup> Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
<sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced  
righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
<sup>3</sup> "Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast  
day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
<sup>4</sup> Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
<sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?  
<sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many  
generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

- <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 ever 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.**
- <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 purer than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- <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 spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of <sup>1</sup> your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- <sup>13</sup> Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored 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, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim 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.

## SECOND READING

## 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10

<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.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter  
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

[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.

<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.**

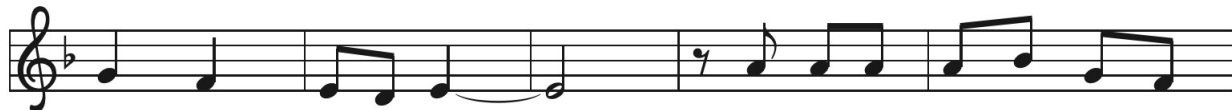
**REFLECTION**

**Pastor Hannah DiPasquale**

*Silence for Reflection*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

*Refrain*

**\*INVITATION TO LENT**

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—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey 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.

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

## EXTENDED CONFESSION & REFLECTION TIME

“From dust you came, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19b)

This verse—spoken to us when we receive the imposition of ashes on our foreheads—reminds us of our humanity. So in full honesty, recognizing that life is messy and life is complicated, **make a list of 5-10 challenges you are struggling with**. Name anything that is hard or heavy in this moment. Perhaps you ask yourself, “What do I need in this moment?” and write down some of your needs. Write them down in a journal, on a notecard, on the doodle page provided, or in your heart. Challenge yourself to think of the core emotion underlying each challenge. For example, instead of simply saying, “I’m busy,” perhaps you might confess: “I overcommit myself because I worry that others will think I’m selfish if I say no.” Name your challenges and your confessions, offering them all to God.

Take a moment to look over your list. Ask God for forgiveness for the things you can control. Ask God for grace for the things you cannot.

*Time of music and silence to reflect and write.*

## 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.

*All are invited to come forward and receive ashes.*

**SONG:**

***Remember That You Are Dust***

**ACS 919**

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains two first endings: the first ending is marked '1\*' and the second is marked '2'. The lyrics 'Re - mem - ber that you are dust, and to' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'dust you shall re - turn.' The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases connected by slurs.

*\* May be sung in canon*



**\*PRAYER**

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.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: God in your mercy,  
C: **receive our prayer.**

**OFFERING & SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Lenten Proclamation*  
*Choir & Campanas de Paz*

--James Chepponis

*Gifts for the work and ministry of Peace Lutheran Church can be placed in the offering plates or mailed to the Church Office or sent through on-line giving on our website.*

**\*RESPONSE TO THE GIFT**

*Create In Me*

**ELW #188**

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God,

C: **Now we offer you a portion of these gifts,  
a harvest of the love you planted.**

**God, we have supplied the gifts, and you have supplied the purpose.  
Now bless our gifts and use them in your service. Amen.**

## SETTING LENT INTENTIONS & TIME OF PRAYER

So often it is difficult for us to answer the question, 'What do you need?' In this quiet time, check in with yourself. What do you need at this moment? What do you need in this season? What do you need to draw closer to God?

**Write down your hopes you have for this Lenten season.** Write them down in a journal, on a notecard, on the doodle page provided, or in your heart. As you write, consider these written hopes to be intentions that you are setting for the six weeks ahead. Set an intention: the fast you will choose, the alms or service you will give, the prayer you will hold onto, the behavior you will seek to change. Think of this not as a *giving-up*, rather an *adding-to*.

These are not intended to be aimless wishes on stars, but instead, thoughtful intentions for your one wild and precious life. How might God be repairing what feels broken in your life?

*Time of music and silence to reflect and write.*



## \*LENTEN BLESSING

P: *To receive this blessing,  
all you have to do  
is let your heart break.  
Let it crack open.  
Let it fall apart  
so that you can see  
its secret chambers,  
the hidden spaces  
where you have hesitated  
to go.*

*Your entire life  
is here, inscribed whole  
upon your heart's walls:  
every path taken  
or left behind,  
every face you turned toward  
or turned away,  
every word spoken in love  
or in rage,  
every line of your life  
you would prefer to leave  
in shadow,*

*every story that shimmers  
with treasures known  
and those you have yet  
to find.*

*It could take you days  
to wander these rooms.  
Forty, at least.*

*And so let this be  
a season for wandering,  
for trusting the breaking,  
for tracing the rupture  
that will return you*

*to the One who waits,  
who watches,  
who works within  
the rending  
to make your heart  
whole.*

— "Rend Your Heart" by Jan Richardson

## \*PRAYER

P: Holy God, who journeys with us in all the places of our lives: Be with us throughout this season. Open our hearts to know and speak truth in our lives and to see you as our way and our life. Guide us to trust that you are working to make all things new and whole. And teach us to pray...

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in Heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive  
those who sin against us  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el Cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre,  
venga a nosotros tu Reino,  
hágase tu voluntad  
en la Tierra como en el Cielo.  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.  
Perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como también  
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.  
No nos dejes caer en tentación,  
y líbranos del mal.  
Porque tuyo es el Reino, tuyo el Poder,  
y tuya la Gloria,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me*

ELW 599



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the\_e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: Now may God,  
whose prophetic voice still perseveres,  
who speaks for the little, the lost, and the least,  
whose eye is on the sparrow,  
bless you and sustain you.  
Today God has answered your need,  
and now the Spirit sends you out  
to answer the world's need.

C: **Amen.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(No Postlude during Lent)

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