



# ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5, 2025

7:00 P.M.

OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
7045 LYNDAL AVE. SOUTH, RICHFIELD, MINNESOTA

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OAK GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Our Mission Statement

*To Put the Love of Jesus into Action,  
As We Welcome, Serve and Love All People.*

## PRELUDE

### 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.

### + GATHERING HYMN

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW 606

### + CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Most holy and merciful God,  
**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.**

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+ *Please stand as you are able.*

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.

**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.**

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

**Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and the ways we have unknowingly exploited other people, we confess to you.**

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

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

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

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

**Restore us, and let your anger depart from us.**

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

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

**By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God has mercy on us, forgives us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthens us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps us in eternal life. **Amen.**

**PSALM** Psalm 51

*Chanted by Morva Klein and Greg Peterson*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.  
So, you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.  
You look for truth within me and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.  
Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities. Create in me a clean  
heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

**Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your  
righteousness, O God of my salvation. Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.**

Be favorable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

**Then you will delight with the appointed sacrifices, with burnt offerings  
and oblations; then shall they offer young bulls upon your altar.**

**+ READING** Joel 2:12-17

A reading from Joel:

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?"

Word of God, work of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

*Return to the Lord*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

ELW 608

**OFFERING**

**+ GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

## + WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### + LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### LAMB OF GOD

ELW 195



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.

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed here.

**Amen.**

**+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. Amen.

**+ BENEDICTION**

May God who has forgiven and fed us,

now make us strong for these days ahead.

May Jesus lead us, and we be found faithful to follow.

May the Spirit purify our hearts so that all might be blessed.

And now may the blessings of God, Creator, † Christ and Spirit be with us and remain with us always.

**Amen.**

**+ SENDING FORTH HYMN**    *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow*    ELW 327  
vss. 1 & 4

**+ DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, to love and serve the lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

## SCHEDULE OF LENT

### Mid-Week Lenten Worship with *Holden Evening Prayer*

The theme for our Wednesday Lenten worship this year is *Living with Questions*. Asking questions is a normal part of the human experience. We do not have to be ashamed of our doubts or hide our questions, before God and each other. In fact, God fully welcomes them and welcomes us. Each Wednesday in worship, Pastor Lee will share a message based on a question submitted by an Oak Grove member. (Not all questions that were submitted can be a part of this series. Please know that they may be addressed in a Sunday sermon in the future.) May your questions speak to all of us as we move together toward the great and joyous mystery of Easter resurrection.

**Week 1: March 12** *How Do I Pray When It Is Difficult to Pray?*

**Week 2: March 19** *Was Jesus 'Woke'?*

**Week 3: March 26** *Does God Really Help Those Who Help Themselves?*

**Week 4: April 2** *Why in Lutheran Worship Do We Still Reference the Old Testament?*

**Week 5: April 9** *What Was It Like Growing Up Gay in the Lutheran Church?*

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**Rev. Lee Hallstrom**, *Interim Pastor*

**Morva Klein**, *Organist*



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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 am to 2 pm