

Ash Wednesday

March 1, 2017



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tucson, Arizona

Season of Lent

The Lenten Season is observed during the six weeks prior to Easter. The traditional goal of Lent is to prepare believers for a proper celebration of the events of Holy Week, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The purple color of the altar paraments and vestments remind us that Lent is also a season of repentance. The Bible tells us that repentance is always the divine work of the Holy Spirit through the Law and the Gospel. The Law crucifies the old Adam, the sinful nature within us, and the Gospel raises up the new man, the new creation in us. For us, the Lenten focus on the cross and suffering of Jesus is not aimed at an emotional response. It is a pointed proclamation and confession of the Law and the Gospel, a preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Lent is properly a season of repentance when it brings the cross to sinners and sinners to the cross of Christ as the fountain and source of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

When we speak or preach from the “Passion of Christ,” we are speaking or preaching about Christ’s suffering and death on Calvary’s cross for the sins of the world. Yes, the Passion is about the purple robe and the crown of thorns; Christ carrying his cross; the soldiers with their hammers, the nails, and the spear; and Christ’s words from the cross. But more than the objects and events, the Passion is about Jesus taking on himself the sins of the world and then experiencing to the fullest degree the Father’s just wrath upon that sin. It is about forgiveness and salvation graciously offered in view of the shed blood of Calvary.

Ash Wednesday

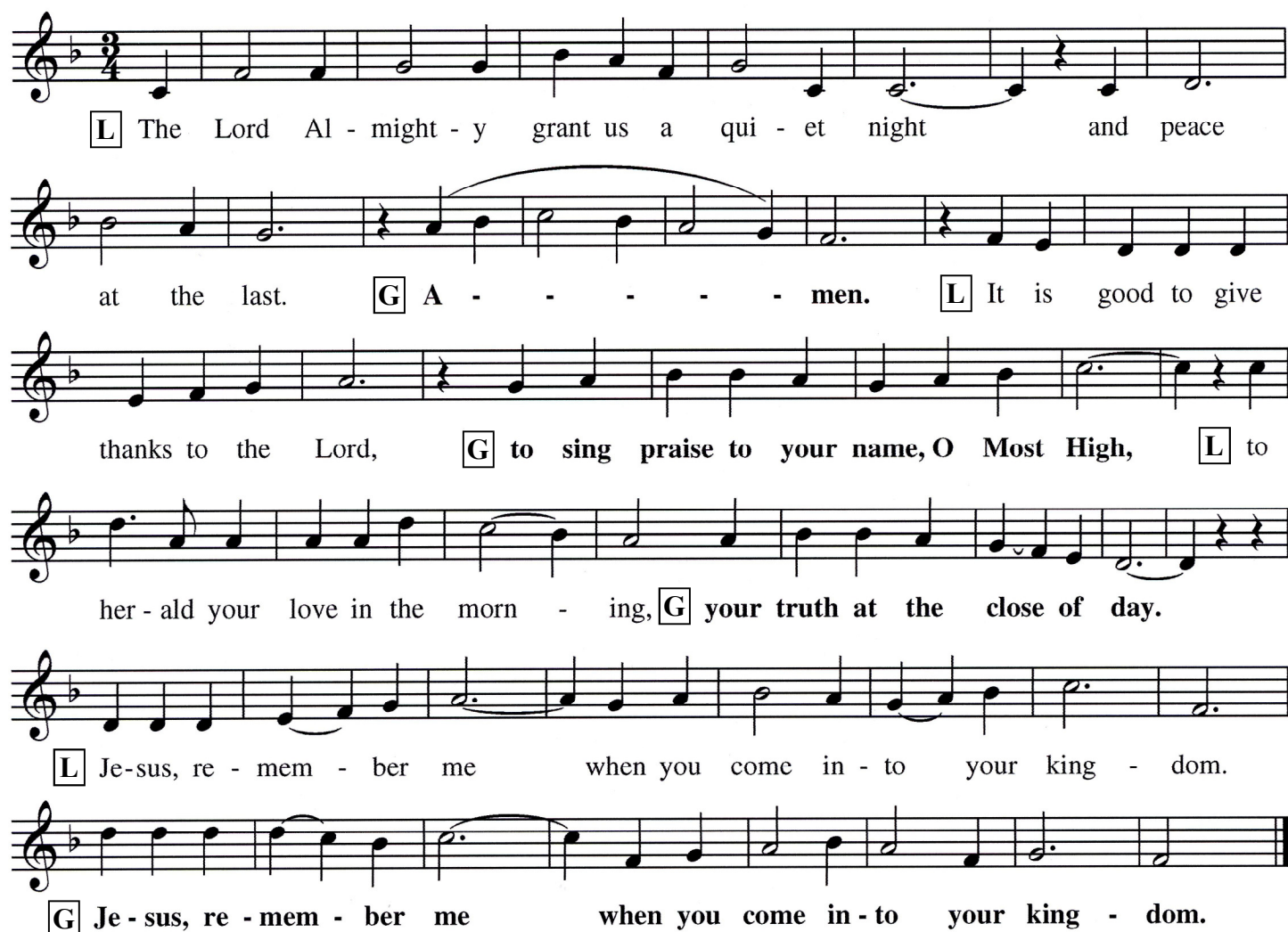
Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Ashes were used by God’s people to show repentance. The day derives its name from the practice of repentant people receiving ashes on their forehead. This practice goes back to at least the 8th century A.D.



Parts of the service designated "L" are for the Leader (Pastor). The Congregation is invited to join in the parts marked "G" for "Group."

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please stand



[L] The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et night and peace

at the last. [G] A - - - - men. [L] It is good to give

thanks to the Lord, [G] to sing praise to your name, O Most High, [L] to

her - ald your love in the morn - ing, [G] your truth at the close of day.

[L] Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

[G] Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

CONFESSION OF SINS

[L] Our help is in the name of the Lord,

[G] who made heaven and earth.

[L] Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

- [L] Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
[G] we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.
[L] By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun when we shall serve him in newness of life.
[G] Amen.

Please be seated

HYMN

Drawn to the Cross
Christian Worship #387

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV)

They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We

sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 38

- [L] O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
[G] or discipline me in your wrath.
[L] For your arrows have pierced me,
[G] and your hand has come down upon me.
[L] My guilt has overwhelmed me
[G] like a burden too heavy to bear.
[L] All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;
[G] my sighing is not hidden from you.
[L] I wait for you, O LORD;
[G] you will answer, O Lord my God.
[L] Come quickly to help me,
[G] O Lord my Savior.

PSALM PRAYER

- [L] Lord our God, you did not forget the pierced body of your Son, and his sighing was not hidden from you.
- [G] In your kindness look also on us, your children, weighed down with sins, and grant us the fullness of your mercy through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what

2 Corinthians 7:8-13a (NIV)

earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. By all this we are encouraged.

Please stand

GOSPEL

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on

Luke 23:32-34 (NIV)

his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Please be seated

HYMN

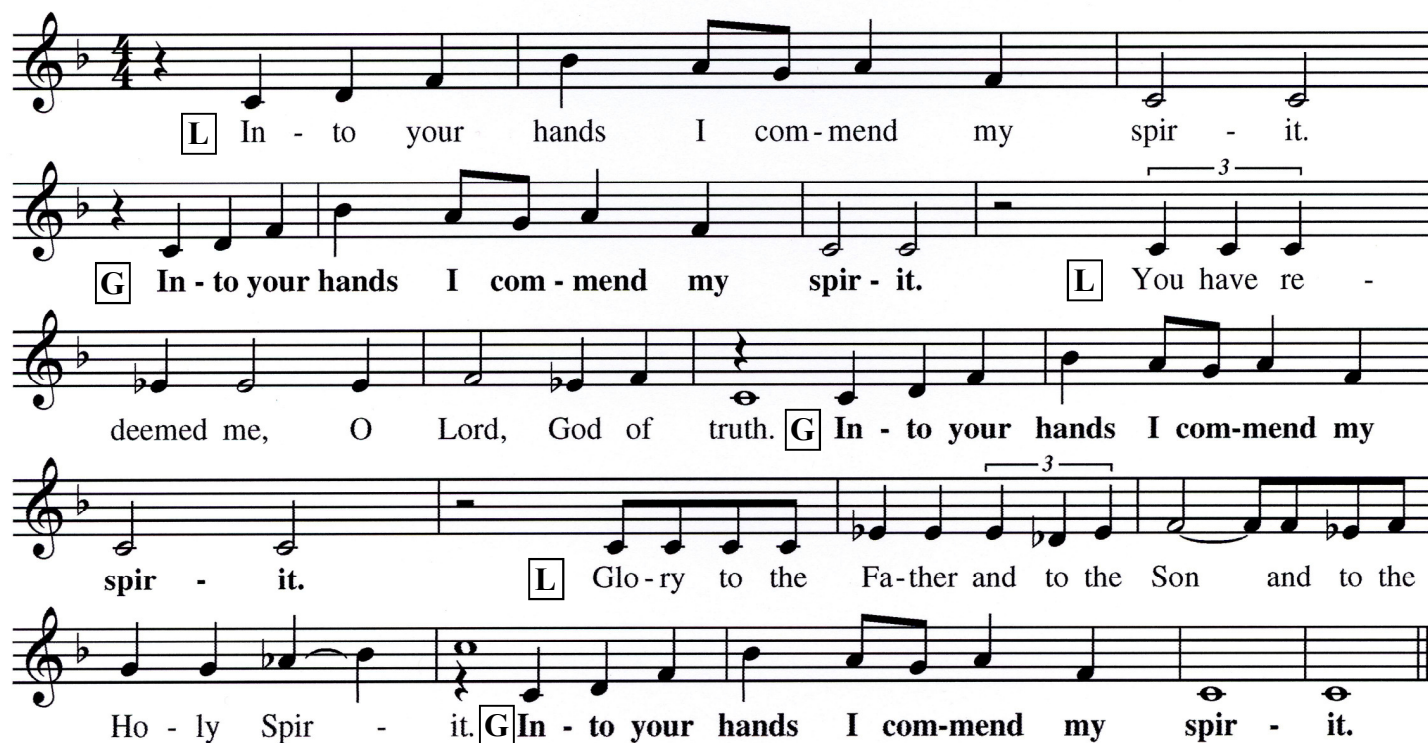
O Dearest Jesus
Christian Worship #117

SERMON

Luke 23:32-34
Turn to Jesus; He Longs to Forgive You

Please stand

SERMON RESPONSE



The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: [L] In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it. [G] In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it. [L] You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth. [G] In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it. [L] Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it. [G] In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with some measures containing rests. There are also dynamic markings like 'L' (Lento) and 'G' (Grave), and a triplet of eighth notes in the fourth staff.

[L] In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.

[G] In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it. [L] You have re -

deemed me, O Lord, God of truth. [G] In - to your hands I com-mend my

spir - it. [L] Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the

Ho - ly Spir - it. [G] In - to your hands I com-mend my spir - it.

Please be seated

OFFERING Members of Grace respond to their Savior's love with offerings that are given joyfully, generously, regularly, and in a way that is proportionate to how the Lord has blessed them. Their cheerful gifts support the mission and ministry of our congregation. If you are a guest tonight, please know that we do not expect you to contribute to our congregation's work. However, if you would like to give an offering to the Lord in response to his love to you, we are happy to receive it and put it to work in God's kingdom.

Please fill out the Friendship Register located in the red folder at the end of the pew and pass it along. Thank You!



If you prefer, use your smart phone to give online by scanning this QR code.

Please stand

PRAYER

[L] Hear my prayer, O Lord. [G] Lis - ten to my cry. [L] Keep me as the
ap - ple of your eye. [G] Hide me in the shad - ow of your wings. [L] In right-eous -
ness I shall see you. [G] When I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy.

[L] Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night.
[L] so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting
world may rest in your eternal change - less - ness
[L] Through Je - sus Christ our Lord.
[G] A - - - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

[G] Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal-low-ed be your name, your
king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heav - en. Give
us to-day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as we for-give
those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are
yours now and for - ev - er. A - men.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Tonight we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Jesus urges all who receive it to do so in a worthy manner in order to receive the blessings he promises. He also gives warning that no one receive it to their judgment. If you are a guest at Grace tonight and not a member of another Wisconsin Synod congregation, we would ask that you speak with one of the pastors about a time to discuss what exactly God says about Holy Communion before you come to the Lord's table. We look forward to that opportunity!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[L] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[G] Amen.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: SONG OF SIMEON

[L] Guide us wak-ing, O Lord, [G] and guard us sleep - - - ing. [L] that a-wake we may watch with Christ [G] and a - sleep we may rest in peace. [G] In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser vant now de - part ac - cord ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion which you have pre pared for ev 'ry people, a light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el. In peace, in peace.

BLESSING

[L] The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.
[G] Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

O Dearest Lord, Thy Sacred Head
Christian Worship #118

Those Assisting in Worship this Evening

Service..... Pastor Ron Koehler
Communion Assistant..... Pastor Tim Patoka
Organist Elaine Goldie
Sound and Recording Tech Chris Stuhr

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Grace-Tucson

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Lenten Services

Wednesday midweek services will be held at Grace-Benson, Grace-Sahuarita, and Grace-Tucson every Wednesday through April 5. The theme for our services is "Repent: Turn to Jesus." The sermons and service themes will rotate among the various sites, so worshipers who attend more than one site could hear a sermon repeated. See the schedule below for next week.



March 8

Grace-Benson	6 PM	Supper	"Repent: Turn to Jesus; He Longs to Forgive You"
	7 PM	Lenten Worship	
Grace-Sahuarita	6 PM	Supper	"Repent: Turn to Jesus and Not to Yourself"
	7 PM	Lenten Worship	
Grace-Tucson	10 AM	Lenten Worship	"Repent: Turn to Jesus; He Holds the Key to Heaven"
	6 PM	Supper	
	7 PM	Lenten Worship	"Repent: Turn to Jesus; He Holds the Key to Heaven"

We need volunteers to host the meals at Grace-Tucson (individuals, families, groups, or any combination). There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Fellowship Hall as well as an information sheet which explains how to host one of these meals. You may also contact the church office at 623-6633 if you're interested in helping.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 13

10 AM & 7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson
7:00 PM at Grace-Benson
7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita

Good Friday

Friday, April 14

7:00 PM at Grace-Sahuarita

Tenebrae Service
(Service of Darkness)

7:00 PM at Grace-Tucson

Worshippers are asked to leave this church service in silence, leaving in stillness and darkness until the dawn of a glorious Easter Day. Please visit with friends and family prior to entering church for worship.



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 16

Grace-Benson
Festival Worship—7:30 AM
Easter Breakfast—8:30 AM

Grace-Sahuarita
Outdoor Festival Worship—9:00 AM
Easter Breakfast—10:00 AM

Grace-Tucson
Sunrise Worship—7 AM
Easter Breakfast—8 AM
Easter Concert—9 AM
Festival Worship—10 AM

Grace-Vail
Easter Breakfast—9 AM
Festival Worship—10 AM



Grace Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a group of nearly 400,000 men, women, and children in nearly 1,300 congregations across the United States and Canada united by a common faith in Christ's saving love. We are committed to a common calling—encouraging each other in our faith and sharing God's gift of a Savior with the rest of the world.

For more information about our synod and what we believe visit: www.wels.net