



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**March 2, 2022**  
**Noon Service of Holy Communion**

**GREETING**

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

**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 Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**HOMILY**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God at the margins,

**We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way.**

**We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.**

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of Christ, leading you from death into life.

**Amen.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*People may come forward to receive the ashes.*

*Minister mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

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

*After all have returned to their seats, the service continues.*

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 Beloved, our Savior,

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

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. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As a sign of the community we strive to become and the work of prayer we shoulder together, let us face one another by turning to the center aisle as we pray for the life of the world, the intentions of all the faithful, and for any in sorrow or need.

*Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:*

God in your mercy,      or      Bless we the Lord!  
**Hear our prayer.**                      **Thanks be to God!**

## SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, you feed us with the harvest of the land, and you provide for our every need. Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor, and transform them into a feast that welcomes all, in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

### LENTEN ORDER for HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn: (spoken)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise you, O God for the nearness of your Word.

We thank you, O God, that there is no journey too far for your Word to travel.

Your patience with the time it takes a human body  
to adjust to proximity of your grace is beyond belief.

Give us ears to hear, eyes to see, tongues to taste, and arms to embrace your hospitality:  
your steadfast love, our land of milk and honey.

In the night in which Jesus was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering God's love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering; within this meal;  
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

As there is no place on earth where the bread of life cannot be broken and shared.  
it shall always gladden God's heart whenever we pray:

**God, our Mother, God,  
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.**

## **PRAYER**

Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, whose arms are spread in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.      **Thanks be to God.**

## **SERVING TODAY:**

Homilist and Presiding Minister: Pastor Gracious Moyo; Intercessor: Evelyn Bonander.

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WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston – and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

We gather on Sunday mornings at 10:30am for a hybrid worship service. Join us in person at 66 Winthrop St. in Cambridge, just minutes from Harvard Square or visit our website [www.unilu.org](http://www.unilu.org) to learn how to join us by zoom. All are welcome to join!

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