



February 14, 2024

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

*God writes His Word on our Lives, building us into a Family engaged
in Spirit-filled Service.*



LAKE OCONEE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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In this service for Ash Wednesday, we are drawn to Calvary to receive forgiveness. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of forgiving one another as we have been forgiven by Christ through the cross.

Ash Wednesday – Guided to Forgiveness

Invocation and Call to Worship

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Return to the Lord your God.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Behold his miracle of mercy.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Receive his gift of grace.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Abide in his steadfast love.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Rest in his unfailing faithfulness.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: In ancient times, people might display their sorrow over sin by scattering dust and ashes on their heads, a reminder that in Eden, God decreed death as the penalty for sin: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). Yet God also promised that a Savior would come to destroy the power of the tempting serpent who had brought sin and death into God’s creation. In his suffering, the inspired prophet Job spoke of his trust in the Lord’s promise: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth” (Job 19:25). Confident in his Redeemer’s love, Job confessed his sins, “I

despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).

Remembering that the promised Savior, Jesus our Redeemer, shed his blood on the cross for us, we take onto ourselves a mark of repentance. You are invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive the mark of ashes, a reminder that we, like Job, repent in dust and ashes.

People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Imposition Of Ashes

The ashes symbolize our mourning for our sins. The sign of the cross symbolizes cleansing and renewal and points to the gift of forgiveness that God gives in Jesus Christ.

*Those who wish to receive ashes should approach the altar.
If you prefer not to take part, please remain in your seats.*

Pastor: God has had mercy on us, and for the sake of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, he has forgiven our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit!”

The Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Heavenly Father, although we are all too aware of our sins and failures, we repent with humble confidence, knowing that Jesus shed his blood on the cross for us. By your grace, your undeserved favor for sinners, you have brought us out of the domain of sin and transferred us into the kingdom of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have forgiveness for our sins. Lead us by your Spirit to walk in love as Jesus walked, and to bear witness to the fact that our Redeemer lives! Hear our prayer, and accept our praise in Jesus’ holy name.

People: Amen.

The Hymn

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus"

Hymn 606



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Old Testament Reading

Psalm 103:11-14

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 23:33-34

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Confession of Our Faith in The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Hymn "Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing" Hymn 421



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

THE MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord and Savior, we begin this season of Lent marked with the ashes of repentance. As we remember your suffering and death for us, we trust in your steadfast love and look to you for mercy and forgiveness. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, through your death and resurrection, we have been delivered from the domain of sin and death. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have been brought into your kingdom. Our sins are washed away in your blood, and we have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, you prayed for forgiveness for those who nailed you to the cross. As you have forgiven us, lead us by your Spirit to forgive others as we have been forgiven and to walk in love as you did. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, through these 40 days, we will remember your suffering and death for us. As we praise you for your saving love, we look forward with joy to the celebration of your resurrection on Easter morning. When you return on the Last Day, we too will be raised as you were raised, and we will receive the crown of life. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

The Words of Institution

The Distribution of Communion

Hymn

Jesus, Sinners Doth Receive

Hymn 609 v 1-4, 7



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;
been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my
I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Blessing

Pastor: May the merciful God, who is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, empower you to live according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

People: Amen.

The Hymn

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” (422)



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Lenten Wednesday Services for this year:

February, 21, 2024 12pm soup 1 pm service

February, 28, 2024 6pm soup 7pm service

March 6, 2024 12pm soup 1pm service

March 13, 2024 6pm soup 7pm service

March 20, 2024 12pm soup 1pm service

Join us next week in our Guided to the Cross special service for Lent, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive hope. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of hope as we remember that Christ went to the cross to save us forevermore.