



Ash
WEDNESDAY



Our Mission: To
boldly glorify God.

Elim Lutheran Church

Scandia, Minnesota

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

Introduction: On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Prelude

The Greeting: ELW – page 251

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

Hymn: *ELW 601 – Savior When in Dust to You*

Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Special Music: *Pie Jesu*, By Marcy Pyrtle; Arr. by Jay Althouse (7:00 p.m.)

*Pie Jesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem.*

*Agnus Dei
Qui tollis peccata mundi.*

*Merciful Lord Jesus,
Grant to them rest.*

*Lamb of God,
Who takes away the sins of the world.*

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

Sermon

Hymn: *ELW 592 – Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

Confession: ELW – page 252

Communion

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to receive communion

Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

Prayer after Communion

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. **Amen.**

Prayer

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.

If you wish to receive ashes on your forehead or on top of your hand, please come forward down center aisle, as directed by the usher, following the final blessing and dismissal. Return to pews by side aisles and depart in silence.

Blessing/Dismissal

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

As you receive your ashes and exit in silence, remember these words: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. Thanks be to God.

Imposition of Ashes

After you have received ashes, you are invited to return to the pew for prayer and self-examination, or to depart in silence. There will be no formal closing to the service – it will end when all have departed.

Worship Participants

Presiding Minister: Pastor Steve Melander

Organist/Pianist: Brian Voss

Special Music: Elim Adult Choir, Janet Beckman, Director (7:00 p.m.)

Throw-away Jesus

The crucifix of scrap wood was created to remind us that in the weeks leading to the crucifixion of Jesus, the people Jesus ministered to had been told they were scrap/junk/had no value. Jesus taught them they were Children of God, that God loved them, and they were **of value**. They were **not** junk.

The act of crucifixion was brutal and reserved for those of **no value** by the Romans. When Jesus was crucified, God took that shameful punishment and turned it into the sign of His love, His grace and salvation for His people.