

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Ash Wednesday
Feb 22, 2023
6:30 p.m.



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Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

Ash Wednesday

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome to Worship and Announcements

Silence for reflection.

Psalm 51:1-3, 6-12



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

† Greeting

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

To put this reading into context:

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. Sincere repentance will lead to a dramatic improvement of their condition.

Hear now the reading:

¹Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

**Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.**

²Yet day after day they seek me

and delight to know my ways,

**as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;**

**they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.**

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel is
announced.
Following the
reading of the
Gospel, we
give thanks
and praise to
Jesus Christ,
who is
revealed to us
through the
Gospel
reading.*

† **Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

To put this reading into context:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for

they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Homily: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

When have you felt like you’ve experienced the fullness of God’s presence, or felt God’s presence in a profound way?

Hymn of the Day: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

*Ash
Wednesday
marks the
beginning of
the Lenten
Season and
"returning to*

Invitation to Lent

† Call to Confession

Siblings in Christ, God in Christ comes among sinners to call them to repent and to gather them into God's loving

<p><i>God" with all our heart.</i></p>	<p>embrace. Through Christ, the entire forgiveness of our sin is accomplished and our acceptance as God's beloved is assured.</p> <p>Thanks be to God.</p>
<p><i>In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance. Ash Wednesday's liturgy includes and extended confession.</i></p>	<p>† Confession of Sin</p> <p>Most holy and merciful God,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.</p> <p>We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.</p> <p>We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.</p> <p>Have mercy on us, O God.</p> <p>We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.</p> <p>We have not been true to the mind of Christ.</p> <p>We have grieved your Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Have mercy on us, O God.</p> <p>Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.</p> <p>Have mercy on us, O God.</p> <p>Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.</p> <p>Have mercy on us, O God.</p>

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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, O God,
for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Making the sign of the cross with ashes upon the forehead is an ancient tradition of the Church. It is derived from the practice of penitents throwing ashes over their heads when they had finished their confession and prayers. The imposition of ashes is a voluntary act of Christian devotion; neither an act of pride nor shame, but meant to be an aid in "returning to God."

Those who desire to receive ashes in the spirit of humility and repentance may come forward at this time. If you desire to have ashes placed on your hand instead of your forehead, please extend your hand as you approach the pastor. May

this spiritual experience be one of renewal, cleansing, and closeness with God.

**Hymn During Imposition of Ashes: Our Father, We
Have Wandered ELW 606**

- 1 Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.
- 2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.
- 3 O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006

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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 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.

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

† Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate, that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness especially Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Willie, Char, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Jeanette, Andrew . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts aloud or silently. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead, including our Sunday School teachers and Lenten small group facilitators. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

You can also use this same QR code to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response to help the people suffering in Turkey

and Syria after the devastating earthquake. Please note “Earthquake” in the description field.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW 186

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.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

† Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

	<p>Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution</p>
<p><i>The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.</i></p>	<p>† Lord's Prayer (prayed by all)</p> <p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.</p> <p>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.</p>
	<p>† Invitation to the Table</p> <p>Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.</p>
	<p>† Communion</p> <p><i>Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."</i></p> <p><i>Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.</i></p> <p><i>Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.</i></p>

Communion Hymns:

Lamb of God ELW 336

- 1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod
and to become the Lamb of God

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh, wash me in your precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

- 2 Your gift of love we crucified,
we laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*
- 3 I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod
and to be called a Lamb of God. *Refrain*

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ELW 332

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*With the
blessing of
God, we go
out to live as
Christ's body in
the world.*

† Blessing

God, the giver of love,
‡ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608</p> <p>1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.</p> <p><i>Refrain</i> "Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"</p> <p>2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Serve in love. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

Blessings on your Lenten spiritual journey.

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Transfiguration Sunday Confession and Forgiveness adapted from "Prayer of Confession for Transfiguration" by Moira Laidlaw, accessed from Re-Worship blog by Christine Longhurst.

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Barbara Munch
Ushers: Larry and Chris Jacobson	Counters: Barbara Munch Michael Wancata
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Acolyte: George Young
Livestream: Trey Harrison	



Hungry for deeper connection with God and your faith community? So are we! All members and friends of Good Soil are invited to participate in small groups for the duration of the Lenten season.

Each group will meet once a week for 5 weeks to check in with one another, deepen relationships, and grow in faith together. Each group will be led by a lay leader and meet at a different time of the week, so sign up using this QR code for the day of the week and time that works best for you!

This Lenten Season we will be following the theme of "seeking" through The Sanctified Art. They have provided a themed devotional called, "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith". You can get a printed copy of the devotional from the church office or you can access it through the green button or link in last week's "Seeds" e-newsletter.