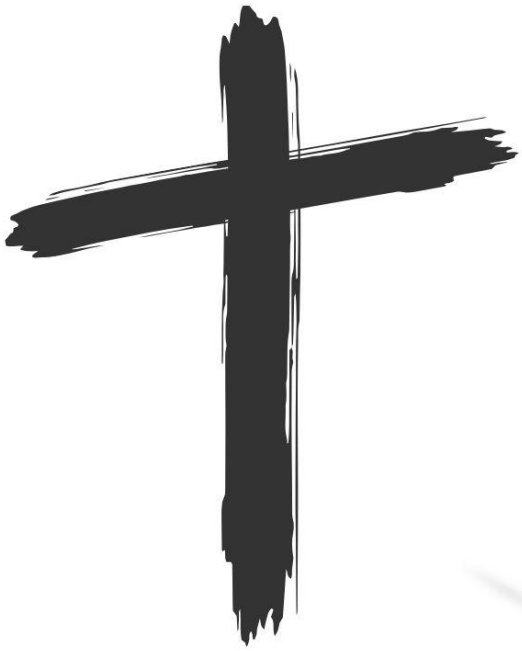


Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th, 2025

Incarnation Lutheran Church

3005 Devine Street, Columbia, SC 29205

803.256.2381

GATHERING

• Our Lector is Susan McArver • Our Crucifer is Bill Williamson •

We invite you to enter the sanctuary in silence and to be in prayer as preparation for worship

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 606 Our Father, We Have Wandered
AZMON

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12
1 Shout 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. 2 Yet 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. 4 Look, 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. 5 Is 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? 6 Is 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? 7 Is 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? 8 Then 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. 9 Then 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, 10 if 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. 11 The 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. 12 Your 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.

After the Reading: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17 *Read responsively*

[1]Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
[2]Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
[3]For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
[4]Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
[5]Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
[6]Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
[7]Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
[8]Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
[9]Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
[10]Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
[11]Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
[12]Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
[13]Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
[14]Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
[15]O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
[16]For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
[17]The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

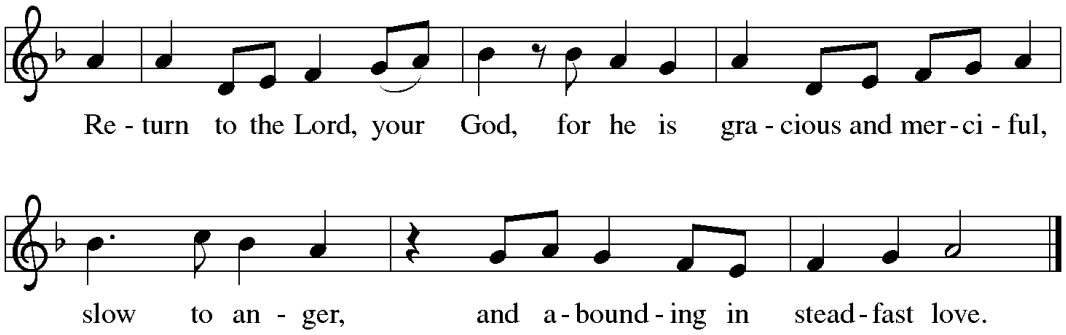
[20b]We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21]For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. [6:1]As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. [2]For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! [3]We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, [4]but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, [5]beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; [6]by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, [7]truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; [8]in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; [9]as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not

killed; [10]as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

After the Reading: The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: p.151



GOSPEL READING: Luke 18: 9-14
Before the Reading: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[9][Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: [10]Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11]The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12]I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' [13]But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' [14]I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

After the Reading: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please be seated.*

HOMILY Pastor Emily Willhide

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 601 Savior, When in Dust to You
ABERYSTWYTH

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN *Sit or kneel as able.*
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God, **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.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

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, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** *Please be seated.*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES
Please come forward to receive ashes. If you are unable, please remain seated in your pew and the Pastor will come to you.

PRAYER *Please stand as able.*
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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes "*God, in your mercy.*" We respond: "**Receive our prayer.**"

Please be seated.

MEAL

ANTHEM: "What Wondrous Love is This" Arnold Sherman

OFFERTORY HYMN: ELW 686 (verse 1) We Give Thee But Thine Own
HEATH

OFFERING PRAYER *Please stand as able.*

Let us pray.

Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

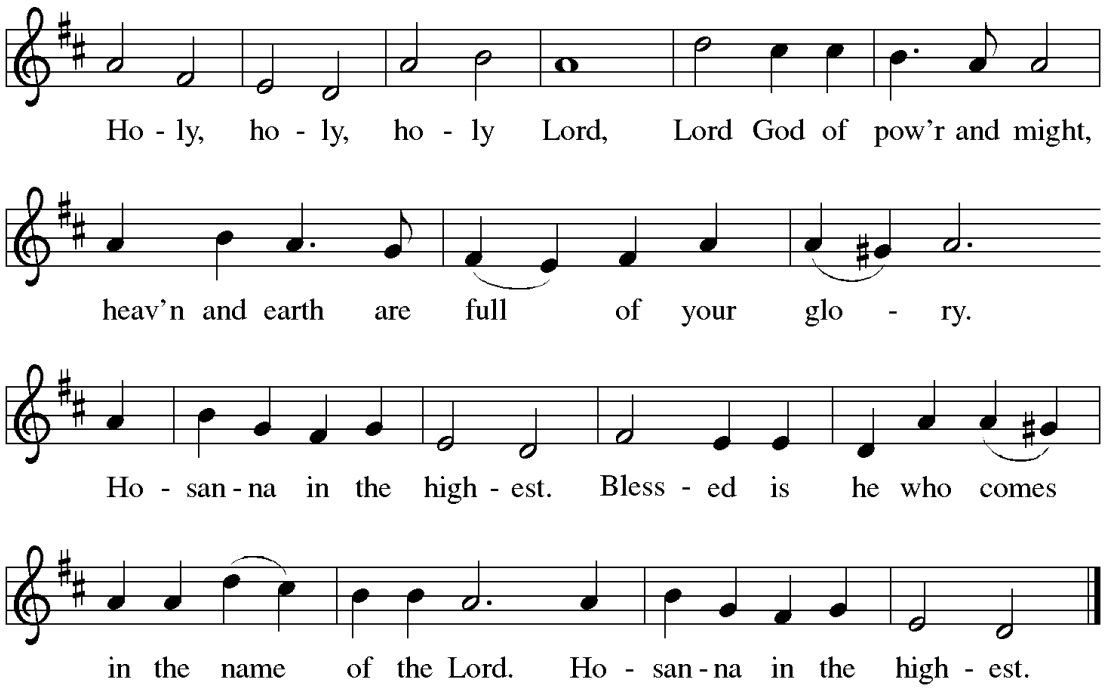
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE p.108

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy… we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: p.153



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER
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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
The gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION
We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. The communion cups are in trays at the front of the church. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**.

LAMB OF GOD: p.208

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 592 Just as I Am, Without One Plea
WOODWORTH

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please stand as able.*

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✢ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 599 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

SOUTHWELL

We depart in silence.