

**Welcome to worship at
New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Ash Wednesday
March 5, 2025**

Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

THE
HARDEST
PART



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.

The Rev. Scott Staub, pastor
Nicole Young, seminarian minister
Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry
Lindsey Waltermeyer, Grace band leader

We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!

**All worship can be viewed online at
newhanoverlutheran.org
facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch
and on YouTube.**

**May your worship experience strengthen you
with God's love and grace.**

Prelude *Lord, Hear My Prayer*

"Lord, Hear My Prayer" by Franklin Ritter. © 2004 Lorenz Publishing Co., a division of The Lorenz Corp. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Welcome

Please rise as you are able.

Opening Dialogue and Hymn Carolyn Fleming, leader/cantor

Leader
freely

Come and see, the time is here.

All

Now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Leader

Turn to us, O sav - ing God.

All

Let your light shine in our dark - ness.

Leader
a tempo

Come, a - bide a - mong us now.

All

Bring to the world a - bun - dant

life.

"That You May Have Life" Words and music © 2005, 2007 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

All

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my
2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my
3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my

Life: Such a way as gives us
Strength: Such a light as shows a
Heart: Such a joy as none can

breath; Such a truth as ends all strife; Such a
feast; Such a feast as mends in length; Such a
move; Such a love as none can part; Such a

D.S.

life as con - quers death.
strength as makes his guest.
heart as joys in love.

"That You May Have Life" Words and music © 2005, 2007 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

God's mercy, grace, and peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

Word

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

Psalm 103



Antiphon



Re - turn, re - turn to God, who is



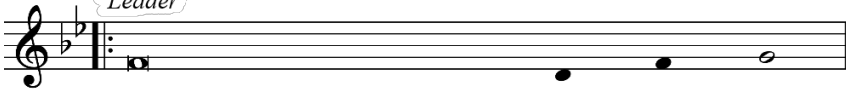
gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger and a -



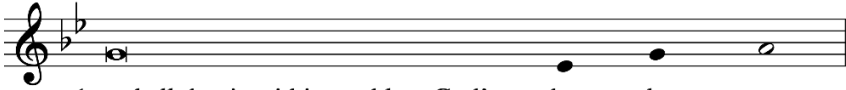
bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Verses 1 and 2

Leader

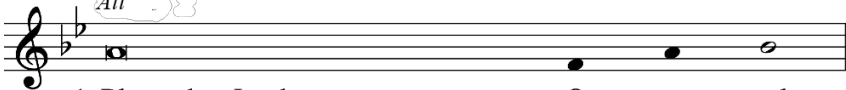


1. Bless the Lord, O my soul,
2. who forgives all your in - iquity,

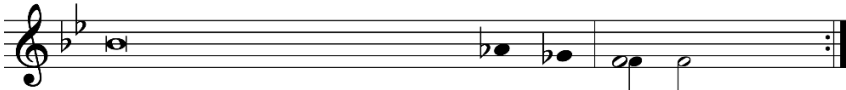


1. and all that is within me bless God's ho - ly name.
2. who heals all your dis - eases,

All



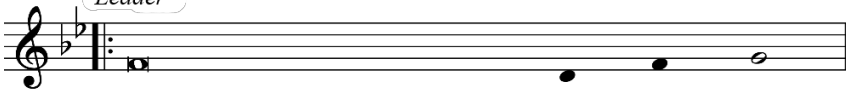
1. Bless the Lord, O my soul,
2. who redeems your life from the Pit,



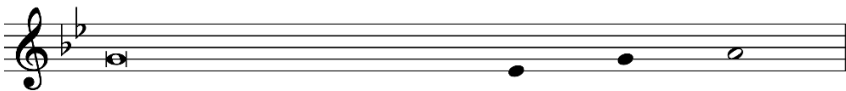
1. and do not forget all God's ben - e - fits, *To Verse 2*
2. who crowns you with steadfast love and mer - cy. *To Antiphon*

Verses 3 and 4

Leader

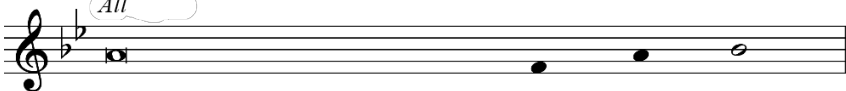


3. God satisfies you with good as long as you live
4. God knows how we were made,



3. so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
4. and remembers that we are dust.

All



3. God will not al - ways ac - cuse,
4. God's love en - dures for - ever.



3. nor will God's anger last for - ever. *To Verse 4*
4. God's righteousness is ev - er - last - ing. *To Antiphon*

Gospel Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW #666

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please rise as you are able.

Intercessions

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for everyone in need, here and throughout the world.



Refrain

All



Watch, O Lord, with all those a - wake this night,



Watch, O Lord, with all those who weep; Give your



an-gels and saints charge o-ver all who sleep.

Verses

Leader/Cantor

All



1. Tend your ail - ing ones:
2. Soothe your suf - f'ring ones: in your love, Lord;
3. Hold your griev - ing ones:
4. Guard your lit - tle ones:

Leader/Cantor

All



- Rest your wea - ry ones:
Heal af - flict - ed ones: in your love, Lord;
Raise your fall - en ones:
Guide your seek - ing ones:

Leader/Cantor

All

To Refrain



- Bless your dy - ing ones:
Shield your joy - ous ones: in your love, O Lord of all.
Mend your bro - ken ones:
Grant us all your peace:

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Please be seated.

The Imposition of Ashes

People come forward and receive ashes on hand or forehead, or receive a blessing with arms crossed.

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 our 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.

Offertory

Sending

Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Nunc Dimittis

All

Now Lord, you let your
ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My
own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a
light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

"That You May Have Life" Words and music © 2005, 2007 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Benediction

Leader *freely* *All*

Bless God's ho - ly Name. Thanks be to God.

Leader

Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

All *a tempo*

A - men, A - men, A - men.

"That You May Have Life" Words and music © 2005, 2007 by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

"The Worship has ended, please go in peace."

Postlude

Melody in G

William Stickles

"Melody in G" by William Stickles. © 1952 Ethel Smith Music Corp., New York. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23853. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Announcements

Serving Today: 12:00 Head Usher: Steve Weidner, Usher: Terry Santangelo, Acolyte: Usher

7:00 Head Usher: Jim Gross, Usher: Yvonne Peto, Acolyte: Faye Weidner

Sunday Head Usher: George Trowbridge, Ushers: Sharon and Bill Tracey, Lector: Stacey Rothermel, Children's Sermon: Ariel Hansley, Acolyte: Genesis Garcia, Communion Assistants: Carolyn Fleming and Nikki Young

Altar Guild members serving this month: Nancy Gross, Sue Care, Brenda Hunsberger and Kay Kurtz.

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

2941 Lutheran Road

Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 9 AM – 2 PM

Call 610-326-1335 for an appointment



Contact Information

Pastor, The Rev. Scott Staub

psstaub@gmail.com

Director of Children, Family & Youth Ministry, Nikki Young

nikki.young@newhanoverlutheran.org

Church Office Manager, Susan Gutshall

susan.gutshall@newhanoverlutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry, Patricia Nyce

patricia.nyce@newhanoverlutheran.org

Food Ministry Director, Chris Fatzinger

Cfatzinger@chris-cooks.com

Grace Band Director, Lindsey Waltermeyer

goldielw@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director, Barbara Eisenhart

eisenbarb@aol.com

Peer Support Recovery Ministry Team

peersupport@newhanoverlutheran.org

Sexton, Jen Boyer

jcboyer0408@gmail.com

Bookkeeper, Maria Boyer

mariaboyer@comcast.net

Cemetery, Norm Hunsberger

nhunsberger29@gmail.com

Do you know how to count using tallies? Here's how you do it!



Using tally marks, count the number of times in worship today that you hear these words:

ASHES _____ LENT _____

DUST _____ CROSS _____

JESUS _____ SIN _____



PRE-READER

Ash Wednesday

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- Ash Wednesday is the beginning of **Lent**.
- During Lent, we remember that our God is full of **grace and compassion**.

The season of Lent lasts 40 days. Color and decorate this number.





An important part of Lent is prayer.

Color these pictures showing times and places we can pray.



“Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate!”



From Dust to Dust

What does it mean that we come from dust and will return to dust? Dust is usually stuff that collects on old bookshelves or tables when we don't clean them! So what does it mean that you are dust? Ask three people after worship what they think this means and write their answers here:



READER

Ash Wednesday

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- Today marks the beginning of the **season of Lent**.
- Lent lasts for **40 days**.
- During Lent we remember that our God is full of **grace and compassion**.

40 Days

In the Bible, there are many stories about things happening for **40** days. Look at the pictures below and see if you can name these Bible stories where something happened for **40** days. Then color them.



1. _____

2. _____

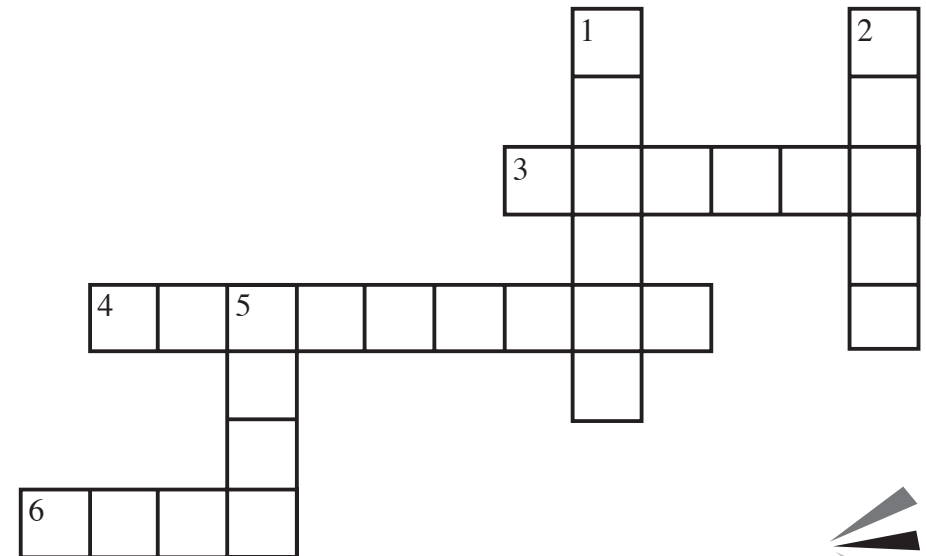
3. _____

Who is God? Who are you?

Today's reading from Joel talks about God being slow to anger and abounding in love, wonderful characteristics that describe our loving God. Below is a box of characteristics that can describe people. Circle all of the ones you think God is. Then underline all of the ones you are. Be honest!

Forgiving	Selfish	Picky
Proud	Awesome	Brave
Generous	Impatient	Musical
Caring	Powerful	Shy
Serious	Lazy	Polite
Funny	Tolerant	Passionate
Dishonest	Gentle	Unwilling
Artistic	Smart	Surprising
	Rude	

Ash Wednesday Crossword



ACROSS

- The way we talk to God, an important part of Lent.
- The day of the week.
- The church season that begins today.

DOWN

- A word that means we can't live forever. The opposite is immortal.
- The number of days in this church season.
- The stuff that collects on tables or shelves when we don't clean.



Look it Up!

One of today's readings is Psalm 51:1-17. Check out versus 10-12. Do you recognize those words? Do you know a song with those words? These are well-known verses from the Bible. They ask God to take us and make us new. What do you think those words mean?

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

“What Wondrous Love Is This” Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Text and music are in public domain. Arrangement by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.