

## Ash Wednesday Service Schedule

7:30am	Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
12:00pm	Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
6:30pm	Choral Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

CHURCH OF  
**ST. LUKE**  
IN THE FIELDS

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## THE BURNING OF THE PALMS IN PREPARATION FOR LENT

*The people gather in a circle around the palms to be burned. All remain silent for a brief period.*

*The presider greets those assembled and begins:*

Dear People of God:

At the end of our last Lent, we carried these branches to welcome the Messiah. In preparation for a new Lent, the church's holy springtime, we have gathered these holy branches to be burned. Tomorrow on Ash Wednesday, the ashes will be placed on our foreheads. For us these ashes signify an ending and a beginning, a season of repentance, a time of purification and cleansing, a time of fresh growth.

Presider: The Lord be with you

People: ***And also with you***

Presider: Let us pray:

Almighty God, you are a consuming fire and refine our humanity into the beauty of divinity; bless us as we burn these palms to the glory of your holy Name. May these ashes signify

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*As members of the Body of Christ gathered at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields, we are called to ministries of worship, witness, formation and hospitality. We seek to add to the legacy we have received, and to participate fully in the life of both our city and the larger church.*

{St. Luke's Mission Statement}

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to us our mortality and dependence on your merciful providence all the days of our lives, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we receive everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

*As the palms are burned, the people say together the following verses from Psalm 51:*

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
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.  
Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

## BLESSING OF THE PALM ASHES

*Presider:*

Bless O Lord these ashes, by which we are reminded that we are dust. Give us contrite hearts as we walk the pilgrim way of Lent that we might follow Christ in his ascent to glory, who reigns with you forever and ever. **AMEN**

*The presider concludes:*

God of tender mercy, you fashioned us from the dust of earth and bid us follow your Gospel call in the company of the Church. Look on us with kindness as we prepare the ashes which will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey. Grant that we who make the desert pilgrimage may come to the font of rebirth with a renewed passion for justice. May our offerings serve your people and bring us peace, may prayer sanctify all our deeds, and may we come at last to the table of your heavenly kingdom where you reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

*The presider blesses and dismisses the people:*

Presider: Let us bless the Lord, the maker of all our endings and beginnings.

People: ***Thanks be to God. AMEN.***

*Please join us inside the chapel for the 6:15 pm Eucharist.*

*You are welcome to join us after the service for our Shrove Tuesday Supper in the School Dining Room.*