

**Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Peekskill, NY**

Ash Wednesday 2023

Matins, p. 32-40

Versicles & Gloria Patri	p. 32
Invitatory & Venite	pp. 33-34
Hymn	# 329
Psalm	# 57, p. 135
Lessons & Responses	p. 34
Sermon	
Te Deum	pp. 35-37
Kyrie & Lord's Prayer	p. 39
Salutation & Collects	p. 40
Benedicamus & Benediction	p. 40

Vespers, pp. 41-45

Versicles & Gloria Patri	p. 41
Psalm	# 57, p. 135
Lessons & Responses	p. 42
Hymn	# 329
Sermon	
Versicle	p. 42
Nunc Dimittis	pp. 43-44
Kyrie & Lord's Prayer	p. 44
Salutation & Collects	p. 45
Benedicamus & Benediction	p. 45

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Lessons & Responses	p. 42
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Salutation & Collects	p. 45
Benedicamus & Benediction	p. 45

Joel 2.12-19

12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. 14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. 17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God? 18 Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people. 19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen.

Matt. 6.16-21

16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. 19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

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