

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday



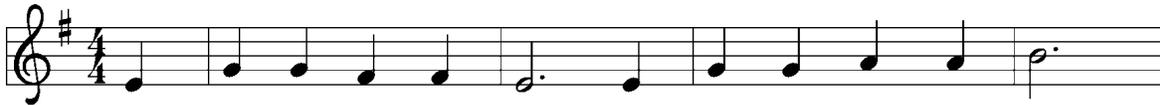
Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the LORD. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

Ash Wednesday

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYER PETITIONS, PRELUDE, REFLECTION,
LIGHTING OF CANDLES

GATHERING HYMN

“LORD Jesus, Think on Me” LBW #309



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

THE CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father:

We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own 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, LORD.

We have been deaf 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, LORD.

We confess to you, LORD, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives, **we confess to you, LORD.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, **we confess to you, LORD.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, **we confess to you, LORD.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, **we confess to you, LORD.**

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

Accept our repentance, LORD, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, **accept our repentance, LORD.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, **accept our repentance, LORD.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, **accept our repentance, LORD.**

Restore us, good LORD, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, LORD, for your mercy is great. Amen

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. 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 LORD,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God,

The Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our LORD.

Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The LORD be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray...

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 HOLY WORD

THE RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 103: 8-14

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

For you know well how we are formed;

you remember that we are but dust.

THE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the LORD. **Thanks be to God**

THE LENTEN SENTENCE

Return to the LORD, your God,

Who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O LORD.

"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.

"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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. But 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.

"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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

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

The Gospel of the LORD. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Please Sit

SERMON: *Pastor Jamie Retallack*

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Be Thou My Vision” WOV #776



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy and righteous God, teach us, your church, to be honest about our sinfulness. Turn our hearts back to you to receive the fullness of your forgiveness and redemption. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Open wide your hand to satisfy the needs of every living thing. Send your Spirit to places suffering from drought or floods. Fill every habitat with life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up reconcilers who point us to the sources of injustice and teach us how to build relationships. Establish your lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Soothe the souls of people who feel like they are beyond your mercy (*especially*). Wash away the barriers that keep us far from you, and restore joy in our lives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Fill our fasting bodies with your Spirit of justice. Lead us into the challenging work of feeding and freeing all people. Fulfill your purpose in us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reveal the treasures of heaven through the witness of all your saints (*especially*). Give us the will to journey faithfully and to bear Christ's salvation to all who yearn for it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our LORD.

Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the LORD be with you always. **And also with you.**

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the LORD. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our LORD.

Amen.

THE 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.

THE PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O LORD, holy Father, through Christ our LORD. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy LORD, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our LORD Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

THE AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please sit

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

THE POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, LORD, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

THE PRAYER

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our LORD.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN:

"Our Father, We Have Wandered" WOV 733



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the LORD.

Thanks be to God.