

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lenten Fasting and Repentance

February 13, 2013

AS WE GATHER

In today's readings we hear about fasting. Luther said that fasting is fine outward training. Isaiah seems to say that fasting is not pleasing to God. So what is fasting and why would we consider doing it, and why so much talk about fasting and giving things up in Lent? Fasting is abstaining from something for the sake of some special spiritual purpose. Christians have practiced fasting during Lent as a spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter; done properly, fasting can remind us that we are indeed beggars before God and live by His grace and mercy. As Isaiah notes, there are some ways of fasting that can be spiritually damaging, like turning it merely into a game, or imagining that we can make up for sins by it. Proper fasting means gladly receiving salvation through Christ, responding by giving up whatever it might be for the sake of another, and as a reminder of our total dependence on God.

WELCOME

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #956

“Create in Me”

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ: today, we begin a journey traveled by our Christian forefathers in the faith and by the Church throughout the world, the journey of Lent. Our journey begins with repentance on this Ash Wednesday, as we confess our sins and turn to our Lord Jesus Christ for amendment of our sinful lives. Our journey invites us to participate in practices that reflect the self-giving sacrifice of our Lord Jesus: fasting, prayer, and generosity. Our journey leads us toward Holy Week and the re-telling of the central story of our faith--the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lenten journey is daily dying to sin and being raised to live anew as God's forgiven people, chosen to bless the world. I invite you to embark on this journey, trusting that our Father will guide us, preserve us, and renew us.

(1)

CONFESSION

Pastor: Holy and merciful Father,

People: we confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Pastor: For our failure to love you, with all our heart, mind, and strength,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For our failure to love our neighbors as ourselves,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For our holding on to grudges and refusing to forgive others as you have forgiven us,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For our reluctance to share generously and joyfully the time, talent, and treasures you provide,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For our suspicion of strangers which hinders our sharing of the Gospel,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For our refusal to speak well of our neighbor and to put the best construction on our neighbor's words and actions,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For our arrogance toward others,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Pastor: For all of the ways in which the confession of our lips does not show forth in our lives,

People: Accept our repentance, O Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

Pastor: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

Pastor: 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, in the name of Jesus, I forgive you. I also exhort each of us to live a life of true repentance, led by His Holy Spirit, 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.

People: Amen.

(2)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing. You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Joel 2:12-19 (*Return to the Lord with all your heart.*)

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing—grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” Then the LORD will be jealous for his land and take pity on his people. The LORD will reply to them: “I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:20b---6:10 (*Be reconciled with God.*)

We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain. For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation. We put no stumbling block in anyone’s path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

6:00 ANTHEM

“Who Shall Separate Us?”

Choir

(Rise)

GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (*Alms giving, prayer, and fasting*)

“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN #610 “**Lord Jesus, Think On Me**”

Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me Your loving servant be And taste Your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me Amid the battle’s strife;
In all my pain and misery, O be my health and life!

Lord Jesus, think on me Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out Your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me That, when this life is past,
I may the eternal brightness see And share Your joy at last.

SERMON “**Return to the Lord in True Repentance**” Joel 2:12-19

(Rise)

NICENE CREED (*as found in the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Rise)

THE LITANY

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: hear us.

Pastor: God the Father, in heaven,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

People: Spare us, good Lord.

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

People: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy nativity; by your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and Passion; by your precious death and burial; by your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

People: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

People: Help us, good Lord.

Pastor: To prosper the preaching of your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

People: We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: To draw all to yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith, to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

People: We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

(5)

Pastor: To turn our hearts to you; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

People: We implore you to hear us, good Lord.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

People: we implore you to hear us.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: grant us your peace.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: hear us.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

SANCTUS HYMN #433

"Glory Be to Jesus"

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life blood From His sacred veins!

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem!

Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

Lift we, the, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

(6)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. At your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy you provided a ram as a substitute. We give you thanks that on Calvary you spared not your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN

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O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #570 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(7)

HYMN #547 "The Lamb" Stanzas 1-4

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Refrain Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

HYMN #423 "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"

Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.

Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.

Jesus, mya our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, you provide the true bread from heaven,
Jesus Christ, and in His body and blood You generously forgive our sins.
Grant us the power of your Holy Spirit, that, fed and nourished at this
Table, we may mark this year's Lenten journey with faith active in love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

(8)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be

gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

Pastor: As a people called to repentance and renewal on the journey to eternal life, go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN #422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward during the reading of the Psalm.

Those not wishing to come forward may depart in silence.

MEDITATION PSALM Psalm 90

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

For we are brought to an end by Your anger; by Your wrath we are dismayed.

You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

For all our days pass away under Your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;

yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

Who considers the power of Your anger, and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on Your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Let Your work be shown to Your servants, and Your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

In Today's Service

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolyte

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Frank Gabler, Pat Graf

AJ Olson

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller



Lenten Mid-Week Worship

February 20, 2013

10:00am & 6:00pm

The Passion of the Christ
"Taking a Closer Look"

A Lenten Dinner consisting of Chili & French Bread will be served
beginning at 4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.