

ASH WEDNESDAY

Life Under the Cross:

The Repentant Life

March 1, 2017

AS WE GATHER

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” With this admission, the season of Lent begins for each follower of Jesus. A verbal confession of human mortality spoken over us, while our baptized foreheads are marked with ashes. Yet this ashen stain is purposeful. It is the sign of the cross on which Jesus gave His life in love for all human beings. An instrument of torture and death—of brutally enforced mortality—has become for all people a tree of everlasting life through the forgiveness of our sins.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,

People: “return to Me with all your heart,

Pastor: with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

People: and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

People: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

(Be seated)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Since ancient times, ashes have symbolized contrition. Job confessed, “I . . . repent in dust and ashes.” They are also vivid reminders of our mortality: “For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The imposition of ashes is a fitting beginning to the forty-day Lenten journey. Although powerfully speaking the Law, contrition, and mortality, ashes also speak the Gospel—

applied in the shape of the cross, where sin and death were conquered by Jesus, and we are cleansed by the shedding of His blood. Each person present is invited to walk down the aisle and receive the imposition of ashes on their forehead as these words are spoken: “Dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”

Those who desire to receive the imposition of ashes are invited to come forward row by row.

(Rise)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pastor: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

People: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

SALUTATION & 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.

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 51

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

People: and cleanse me from my sin!

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,

People: and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

People: so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Pastor: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

People: and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Pastor: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

People: and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

People: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;

People: let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Pastor: Hide your face from my sins,

People: and blot out all my iniquities.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from your presence,

People: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Pastor: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

People: and sinners will return to you.

Pastor: Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,

People: and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

People: and my mouth will declare your praise.

Pastor: For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it,

People: you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Pastor: Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;

People: build up the walls of Jerusalem;

Pastor: then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;

People: then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

People: and to the Holy Spirit;

Pastor: as it was in the beginning,

People: is now, and will be forever. Amen.

(Be seated)

✧ WORD ✧

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joel 2:12–19* (Return to the Lord your God!)

“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 know? 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

6:00 CHOIR ANTHEM

“How Beautiful”

(Rise)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1-12*

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan.

Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY #418 “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust In God’s eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves. Since we have known God’s love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, We join in heaven’s praise.

SERMON

“The Repentant Life”

Matthew 3:1-12

(Rise)

NICENE CREED *found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*

(Be seated)

OFFERING 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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O God the Father, creating all things,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God the Son, redeeming all things,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God the Holy Spirit, filling all things,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God, who takes no pleasure in the death of any person but desires that all who have turned away from you would return from their own ways and discover fullness of life in you;

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God, who invited Adam and Eve after their turning away to be honest about their disobedience; who forgave your disobedient people Israel at the intercession of Moses; who put away David’s sins of murder and adultery when he confessed them before you with a broken and contrite heart; who spared the people of Nineveh when they repented in sackcloth and ashes;

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, who came into the world to save sinners; who received tax collectors and prostitutes and broke bread with them; who delivered Mary Magdalene from the powers of darkness; who in mercy looked with love upon Peter when he denied you; who moved him to weep bitter tears in godly sorrow that leads to returning;

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, who on the cross promised paradise to the thief who asked you to remember him in your kingdom; who bore our shame in your own body on the tree; who was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities, bearing the chastisement that brought us peace;

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God, who provides ample time and sacred space for us to get honest and return to you; who disciplines and brings back people whom you love; who does not want any person to be lost, but provides space and time for every person to change; who came to seek and to save lost people; and who as far as the east is from the west remembers our sins no more;

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God, we poor sinners ask you to hear us: That it may please you to bring us to truthful repentance; that, getting honest with ourselves, we may experience freedom from condemnation; that in due time your Spirit may

bring forth its fruit in our lives; that as we have let our bodies and our minds become servants of uncleanness and sin, so we may now yield them to you as servants of purity and wholeness; that, denying ungodliness and the passions of this present age, we may live sober lives of freedom learning to follow the ways of Jesus;

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O God, that we may consider all things as loss compared to knowing and loving Jesus; that through the many troubles of our body, life, and circumstance in this world, you would bring us at last to experience your full and gracious reign in our lives;

People: O God, we ask you to hear and answer our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

AGNUS DEI

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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, grant us peace.
(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 #609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

HYMN #550 "Lamb of God"

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain

**O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

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.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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.

HYMN #878

“Abide With Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev’ry plea. Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lector
Acolyte
Organist
Choir Director

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
Bob Reynolds
Emily Yakel
Michelle Prince
Nancy Hoelke

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Mid Week Lenten Services

Life Under the Cross

Wednesday March 8th ~ “A Life of Worship”

10:00am & 6:00pm

*Lenten Dinner served by our Jr High Youth
in the Fellowship Hall at 4:45pm.*

*Tater Tot Casserole, corn, carrots,
chocolate pudding & rainbow sherbet.*