

## ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2014

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church ~ West Allis, WI*

The Detroit Lions have as one of their cheers, "Restore the Roar!" The book of Amos has this as its singular goal: to restore the rightful roar from *the* Lion, Lord Yahweh, the God of Israel. The temptation is to put our hands over our ears to drown out His roar. The world, the devil, and our old Adam tempt us to clip the claws on the Lion and clean up His bloody Passion we are called to follow. But the Bride of Christ is called to holy reverence before the LORD, the King of the universe. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and climaxing with His resurrection roar on Easter morning, we will listen and learn from the Lion using the Book of Amos.

+ **PREPARATION** +

*Stand*

### INVOCATION AND LENTEN EXHORTATION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all  
in remembrance of their Baptism.*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

**People: to God my exceeding joy.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Throughout this holy season, let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**People: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

**People: Yes.**

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in peace.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

### 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.

+ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** +

*Stand*

**INTROIT**

*Ps. 51:1-3, 10-12 (antiphon: v. 17)*

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**People: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

**People: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

**People: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit,

**People: Glory be to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**KYRIE**

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**SALUTATION and COLLECT 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.**

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Amos 1:1-2*

Lector: A reading from Amos, the first chapter.

The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. And he said: "The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

Lector: A reading from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless

night, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 3:1-17*

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

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

(5)

**HYMN OF THE DAY #512 "At the Name of Jesus"** (Stanzas 1-4)

At the name of Jesus Ev'ry knee shall bow,  
Ev'ry tongue confess Him King of glory now.  
'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

At His voice creation Sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces, All the hosts of light,  
Thrones and bright dominions, Stars upon their way,  
All the heav'nly orders In their great array.

Humbled for a season, To receive a name  
From the lips of sinners Unto whom He came,  
Faithfully He bore it Spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious When from death He passed;

Bore it up triumphant With its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures To the central height,  
To the throne of God-head, To the Father's breast,  
Filled it with the glory Of that perfect rest.

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY #512 "At the Name of Jesus"** (Stanzas 5-7)

*Stand for the final stanza*

In your hearts enthrone Him; There let Him subdue  
All that is not holy, All that is not true:  
Crown Him as your captain In temptation's hour;  
Let His will enfold you In its light and pow'r.

Christians, this Lord Jesus Shall return again  
In His Father's glory, With His angel train;  
For all wreaths of empire Meet upon His brow,  
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.

Glory then to Jesus, Who, the Prince of light,  
To a world in darkness Brought the gift of sight;  
Praise to God the Father; In the Spirit's love  
Praise we all together Him who reigns above.

**NICENE CREED**

**All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin**

(6)

**Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**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.

*Stand*

### **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: We poor sinners implore you

**People: to hear us, O Lord.**

Pastor: To prosper the preaching of your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and 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 our need of 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.**

Pastor: To turn our hearts to you; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and to graciously 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 God, you desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore you to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises you have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

### **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*The pastor and assistants receive ashes first, followed by the congregation. The ashes are placed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:*

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence.*

**HYMN #419 "Savior, When in Dust to Thee"**

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,  
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the insulting tempter's pow'r.  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high. Hear our penitential cry!

*Stand*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

**CONCLUDING COLLECTS**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, by the patient suffering of your only-begotten Son you have beaten down the pride of the old enemy. Now help us, we humbly pray, to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has of His goodness borne for our sake, so that following His blessed example we may bear with patience all that is adverse to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light in this mortal life. Even as your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in

great humility, grant that in the Last Day, when he shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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 #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.

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