

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Divine Service One

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2015

7:15 PM

ASH WEDNESDAY

Heavenly Father, in our selfish pride we don't always want to admit our sin. We falsely believe that somehow we can be good enough to satisfy You, and we feel more than satisfied with our own efforts. Today, on Ash Wednesday, prepare us to follow our Savior along the road that led to His suffering and death. Help us to believe that He walked that road **for us**, that in His own body He carried our sins to the cross, and that He suffered the punishment we rightly deserve for our sin and self-satisfied pride. Let us look not to our own efforts but to the mercy and forgiving love found only in Jesus Christ. Hear our prayer for His sake. Amen.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Cor. 11:17-34), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to speak with the Pastor prior to communing with us for the first time. We thank you for respecting our belief and practice regarding the Lord's Supper.



Ash Wednesday

Divine Service One

GOD HAS A WORD FOR THAT

"Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die? Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?" (*LSB* 437:1). These words of Isaac Watts set the tone for our Ash Wednesday worship. We begin our time in Isaiah 40–55 with a verse where God calls the exilic community in Babylon a worm (41:14). The hopelessness of the exiles is epitomized in Psalm 22:1, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" and in Psalm 22:6 where David says, "I am a worm and not a man." Ash Wednesday is a time to acknowledge who we are in God's sight and then receive His gracious absolution. Our God, the Holy One of Israel, declares us loved and forgiven. And He goes one step further. In Jesus Christ, our God transforms worms into mountain movers (Isaiah 41:15). God has a word for that—grace!

Stand

Ash Wednesday Address

P 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.

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.

Silence for reflection.

Litany

- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **hear us.**
- P** God the Father in heaven,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** God the Holy Spirit,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
- C** **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** 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:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
- C** **to hear us, O Lord.**
- P** To prosper the teaching 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:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** 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 prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

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

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sit





+ The Imposition of Ashes +

Those who wish to receive ashes should approach the chancel rail. Using the right thumb, the pastor places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:

"For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

*After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place.
No statement of dismissal is given.*

The following hymn will be sung during the imposition of ashes:

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

+ Confession and Absolution +

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Since we are all returning to dust and ashes, let us then confess our sins to God our Father:
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess 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. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Stand

+ Service of the Word +

Psalm 143



Cantor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*

In your faithfulness answer me, in your | righteousness!

**Cong.: Enter not into judgment with your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore you.**

**For the enemy has pursued my soul;
he has crushed my life | to the ground;***
 he has made me sit in darkness like | those long dead.

Therefore my spirit faints with- | in me;*
my heart within me | is appalled.

**I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that | you have done;*
I ponder the work | of your hands.**

I stretch out my | hands to you;*
my soul thirsts for you like a | parched land.

Answer me quickly, O LORD! My | spirit fails!*
Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down | to the pit.

**Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in | you I trust.***

**Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift | up my soul.**

Deliver me from my enemies, | O LORD!*

I have fled to you for | refuge!

Teach me to do your will, for you | are my God!*

Let your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!

For your name's sake, O LORD, pre- | serve my life!*

In your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!

Cantor: And in your steadfast love you will cut off my | enemies,*
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your | servant.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Kyrie

[P] In peace let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[P] For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[P] 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.

[C] Lord, have mercy.

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

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[P] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

[C] Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] 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.

G Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 41:14–16

Fear not, you worm Jacob,
you men of Israel!
I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD;
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,
new, sharp, and having teeth;
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,
and you shall make the hills like chaff;
you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away,
and the tempest shall scatter them.
And you shall rejoice in the LORD;
in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Hebrews 9:27–28

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

**G Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel: John 11:32–40

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

437 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Sermon

"Do Not Be Afraid, O Worm"

Based on the Old Testament Reading

Stand

Nicene Creed

C **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 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.**

Prayer of the Church

After each portion of the prayer:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Sit

Offering

*(Please add your name to the red fellowship
book and pass it to your fellow worshippers.)*

Stand

Offertory

C 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.**

+ Service of the Sacrament +

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; whose blood purifies consciences from dead works to serve the living God, and is better than the blood of goats and bulls, and the ashes of a heifer. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

- P** 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."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

C 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.

Sit



Distribution

Choir: Kyrie (by Matthew Armstrong and Erik Meyer)

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

Stand

Post-Communion Cantic

Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now 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 ev'ry people:

A light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

God the Father, You created our bodies. God the Son, You redeemed our bodies with Your holy precious blood and Your innocent suffering and death. God the Holy Spirit, You sanctified our bodies to be Your holy temple by Holy Baptism. We give You thanks that, in this sacrament, You have given us the true body of Him over whom death has no power, the very medicine of immortality even as we are returning to dust and ashes; and we pray that You would strengthen and preserve our faith until You raise our ashes to receive the crown of life and we hear those blessed words, "well done, good and faithful servant"; for You are one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P 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.

C Amen.

562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall



Soli Deo Gloria !

(To God alone be the glory.)

Acknowledgments

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