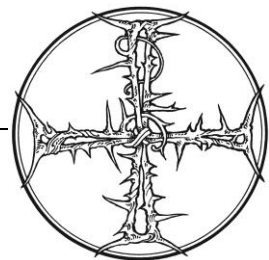


Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
Estes Park, CO



Stand

Invocation

Address

P In the prophet Joel we read, “Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” Lent is a season during which the whole church is encouraged to assess our faithfulness to the Lord Jesus, to recognize where we have fallen short, to repent of our sins, and to return to the Lord through the Means of Grace.

In the Holy Scriptures, ashes symbolize repentance. On this occasion, ashes mark our foreheads as a reminder that “we are dust and to dust we shall return.” These ashes are in the shape of a cross, as a reminder that through the cross of Christ our sins are forgiven. Marked with the sign of our humanity and our redemption in Christ, we are called to daily die to sin and be raised to new life with Christ. The new life in Christ is marked by the fruit of the Spirit as a way of life to which we now aspire by the grace of God. So, “return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:13).

Opening Hymn “*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*” **LSB 418**

Silence for reflection.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 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. |

The Imposition of Ashes

Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward one at a time. After those in the sanctuary have received ashes, Pastor will make the sign of the cross for those attending via Zoom.

Pastor imposes ashes upon the forehead with the sign of the cross – a reminder of the cross placed upon our forehead at the time of Baptism – with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The congregation remains silent.

After all who wish to receive ashes have done so, the pastor asks the congregation to stand for the following prayer.

P Let us pray. 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.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P 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.**

Absolution

LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm *Psalm 51: 1-19*

P¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

P⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C⁶ **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

P⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

C¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

P¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

C¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

P¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C¹⁶ **For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

P¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

C¹⁸ **Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

P ¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

C **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.**

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.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare Your people, O LORD, and make not Your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to His people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

^{20b} We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹ Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² 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. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:1-6, 16-21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ [Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

² “Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when 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.” . . .

¹⁶ “And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon Hymn “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee” LSB 607

Sermon

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

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Benediction

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.**

Closing Hymn

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

LSB 610

Offerings may be placed in the plates by entrance to the sanctuary.

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