

Ash Wednesday



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

"In Nomine Iesu"

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As We Gather

We have these forty days of Lent in which we may look within ourselves as people of faith in our day. How are we like or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh? Most important, as we gather for worship, we will see what Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent sufferings and death.

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Since this is also a sign of our common confession of faith, we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. If you wish to commune for the first time at St. Paul's, please speak to Pastor before the service.

Thank you to the Paulette's who prepared our pre-service meal tonight. Please join us next week for ham or turkey sliders, chips, veggies and dessert provided by Community Concerns. Proceeds will go to Marion Cares. Enjoy more fellowship before we join together in worship.

Please take a moment to fill out the registration card found in your pew rack.

Piano: *"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" Setting* by Valerie A. Floeter
Organ Prelude: *"The Pleading Voice"* — F. Chopin's *"Etude,"*
Arr. by John M. Rasley

Welcome

Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell

+Preparation+

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

Confessional Address

P Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord, during this prayerful and penitential season of Lent, 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. To begin this journey of repentance, and as a reminder of our mortal nature, let us now humble ourselves before the Lord, our Maker and Redeemer.

When we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.” It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life. We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Confession of Sins

Psalm 51

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

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
C and cleanse me from my sin!

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

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

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

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

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

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

P Hide your face from my sins,
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

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

P Cast me not away from your presence,
C **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

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

P Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
C **and sinners will return to you.**

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

P O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare your praise.**

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

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

P Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
C build up the walls of Jerusalem;

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

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
C Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

P A Christian custom on Ash Wednesday is to receive a mark of the cross made with ashes upon the forehead. Ashes are a symbol of repentance and of our mortality, especially when we hear the words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." But the sign of the cross reminds us that we have been saved, forgiven, and renewed, and that in Jesus we have new and everlasting life.

Please be seated and those desiring ashes come forward as directed. As he makes the sign of the cross with the ashes, the pastor reminds the penitent, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The penitent responds, "Amen."

Silence is kept as the ashes are applied.

(Those in their seats may meditate on Lenten hymns 418-441.)

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

Absolution *(please stand)*

P 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.
C Amen.

P 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.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.

C **Create in us new and contrite hearts that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness;**

P through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

(be seated)

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;

¹³ and 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.

¹⁴ Who 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?

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather 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.

¹⁷ Between 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?'"

¹⁸ Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ The 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **O Lord, have mercy.**

Gospel Reading (*please stand*)

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹ "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 our Lord.

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

(be seated)

Sermon Hymn *“Not All the Blood of Beasts”* LSB #431

Sermon

Apostles' Creed *(please stand)*

All I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ever-lasting. Amen.

(be seated)

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory: *“A Lenten Meditation”* — L. Lefebure-Wely,
Arr. by Edward Broughton

Prayer of the Church

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

+ SACRAMENT +

Preface *(please stand)*

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.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P 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.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Lord's Prayer

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as he has taught us:
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.**

The Words of Our Lord

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.”

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

(be seated)

+ Distribution Hymns +

“Your Table I Approach”

LSB #628

“Lord Jesus, Think On Me”

LSB #610

Post-Communion Thanksgiving *(please stand)*

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, (+) and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

LSB #440

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude

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Join us in worship throughout this Lenten season.

Midweek Lenten Services

February 21 & 28

March 6, 13, 20

6:30 p.m. Worship