



February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Blessing

Answer me, O LORD, for Your steadfast love is good;

According to Your abundant mercy, turn to me.

Hide not Your face from Your servant; for I am in distress;

Make haste to answer me.

Draw near to my soul, redeem me;

Ransom me because of my enemies!

Psalm 69:16-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:7

Imposition of Ashes

As a sign of repentance, you are invited to come forward to receive ashes upon your forehead or the back of your hand. We receive this sign as we hear the words:

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:19

Prayer *Please Stand*

Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that we who with prayer and fasting have put on the armor of our Christian warfare may be defended against all spiritual wickedness and, at the last, obtain the victory, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Processional Hymn

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

♪ Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow th’ 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 th’ 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, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 419; Music: The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 166 -Text: Robert Grant 1779-1838;
Tune: Spanish c.1600; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

A Time of Silence

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 sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

Amen.

Kyrie

O Lord,

Have mercy on us.

O Christ,

Have mercy on us.

O Lord,

Have mercy on us.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

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.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Gradual Hymn

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

♪ On my heart imprint Your image, Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory and salvation!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 422-Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Stromme 1856-1921;

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Holy Gospel Please Stand

John 18:1–11

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the

place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 418-Text: based on Claudius F. Hermaman 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan b.1930;
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Proclamation of the Word

“The Powerless I AM”

John 18:1–11

Apostles' Creed *Please Stand*

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn

Music: “On my Heart Imprint Your Image,” Hymn 422

♪ Holy, holy, holy Jesus, Blessed Lord and King of all.

In Your pow'r and might come free us From the devil's lies and thrall.

Let our proclamation be Sweet hosannas unto Thee.

As we journey through Lent's wasteland, Hold us in Your scarred, yet graced hand.

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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei Hymn *Music: "On my Heart Imprint Your Image," Hymn 422*

♪ Lamb of God, for sinners given, In Your nail-pierced hands is balm.

Lamb of God, for sinners riven, In Your cross is peace and calm.

Let this proclamation rise: "I am baptized into Christ,"

Is my ward and my protection, And my death and resurrection.

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Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated* "Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"

♪ Baptized into Your name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly, Among Your saints, Your chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin. Your Spirit now shall live within.

♪ My loving Father, here You take me To be henceforth Your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, here You make me The fruit of all Your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me When threatening clouds around I see.

♪ My faithful God, You fail me never; Your promise surely will endure.
O cast me not away forever If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled: Forgive, lift up, restore Your child.

♪ All that I am and love most dearly, Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely; Help me Your faithful child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own Serve any will but Yours alone.

*Baptized into Your Name Most Holy-Text: Johann Jacob Rambach 1693-1735, tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78
Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel 1697-1775, setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on You and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated* "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

♪ Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.

♪ Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.

♪ Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

♪ They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 435 -Text: James Montgomery 1771-1854

Tune: Ludwig M. Lindeman 1812-87, setting: Lutheran Book of Worship 1978; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Postlude

Door Offering