

# ASH WEDNESDAY

*The season of Lent is a time of penitence for the people of God. Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of Lent, a time for “wilderness wanderings” for the people of God, a time to contemplate many things, not the least of which is prayer and it’s basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. As ashes are imposed, we are reminded of our own mortality.*

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 innocent bitter 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 the Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

We will now perform an early church tradition, the Imposition of Ashes. You may come forward to receive the ashes in the sign of the cross upon your forehead. The ashes symbolize our sinful state before God. Because we do sin, they remind us of the fact that we will die because of our sins, yet they also suggest cleansing and renewal. They point to the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life that God gives us in Jesus Christ. This is a rite to help us focus on and confess our sins, but also to remind us of our own mortality. As with Adam, from ashes we come, and to ashes we return. If you choose not to participate in this rite, rest assured that it in no way reflects upon neither your repentance nor forgiveness. If you do not wish to receive the ashes, please remain seated.

## *Lenten Service for Ash Wednesday*

### **Communion Statement**

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 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 and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, guests who are not confirmed members of a LCMS congregation and have not previously communed at this altar, are asked to first speak with our pastor.

If you are unable to do so before the service, it is out of Christian love and care for your souls that we ask you to refrain from communing this morning.

For further study, please see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

If you desire to receive a blessing for yourself or your children, please approach during communion, cross your arms over your chest and bow your head as you kneel at the altar rail.

## *The Blood Markings*

### **Imposition of Ashes**

**Opening Hymn** *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* (vs. 1-3) **LSB 440**

### **Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

“Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” God made Adam, man of dust, in His image.

**Who are we, Lord, that You are mindful of us and care for us? You have made us little less than Yourself, crowning us with glory and honor.**

“Ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” We deserve God’s curse for we have sinned.

**You turn us back to dust, Lord. Before the day we die, we come to You with ashes upon our lives, the mark of the curse. We turn from our sin to face You, Lord. Forgive us and restore us, for Jesus’ sake, and speak to us another word besides “ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”**

Assembled to hear God’s Word and receive His blessed Son, we admit that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore, we take refuge in God’s infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ. God, be merciful to us.

**May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

<b>First Lesson</b>		<b>Exodus 12:21-23</b>
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (vs. 4-6)</i>	<i>LSB 440</i>
<b>The Passion History</b>		<b>Luke 22:1-16, 28-37</b>
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Lamb of God, Pure and Holy</i>	<i>LSB 434</i>
<b>Sermon</b>	“Marked for Salvation”	<b>Exodus 12:21-23</b>
<b>Offering</b>		
<b>Prayer of the Church</b>		

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

In every time and place we give You thanks, holy Lord, almighty Father. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

### Our Lord’s Prayer

### Jesus’ Words Instituting the Lord’s Supper

### Distribution of Holy Communion

**Hymns during Distribution** *LSB 570, 611, 609, 563*

### Thanksgiving

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.

**We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,

**having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.**

### Benediction

**Hymn** *Not All the Blood of Beasts* *LSB 431*

### **Exodus 12:21-23 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup>Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. <sup>23</sup>For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

### **Luke 22:1-16, 28-37 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. <sup>2</sup>And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people. <sup>3</sup>Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. <sup>4</sup>He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup>And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd. <sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” <sup>9</sup>They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” <sup>10</sup>He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup>and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>12</sup>And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” <sup>13</sup>And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup>And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ... <sup>28</sup>“You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, <sup>29</sup>and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, <sup>30</sup>that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>31</sup>“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup>but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup>Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” <sup>35</sup>And he said to them, “When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.” <sup>36</sup>He said to them, “But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup>For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.”