



# ASH Wednesday

March 5, 2014

+ PREPARATION +

## AS WE GATHER

*The season of Lent is a time of sober reflection and repentance for the people of God. Holy Week is the time to focus on the actual suffering of Jesus; for now it is enough that we humbly acknowledge our great need and God's good grace in answering that need with a Savior. Today begins the 40 days of Lent of special devotion, attention to almsgiving, sacrificial acts, and catechesis that will culminate in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The service begins with a simple marking of the forehead in the sign of a cross, the somber recall that we came from dust and will return to dust, and the honest confession of a heart seeking the mercy God has already promised in His Son.*

+ PREPARATION +

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*(The congregation shall stand at the end of the distribution of ashes.)*

**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.

## THE INVOCATION

HYMN

*"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"*

*TLH #140 (Vs. 1-4)*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

*Psalm 51:1-7, 9,11*

**Pastor:** *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

**Cong:** **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

**Pastor:** *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.*

**Cong:** **Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge.**

**Pastor:** *Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

**Cong:** **Surely You desire truth in the inner parts; You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**

**Pastor:** *Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

**Cong:** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.**

**Pastor:** *Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.*

**Cong:** **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

**Pastor:** *Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

**Cong:** **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

## ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Upon this confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

**People:** Amen

+ WORD +

## OLD TESTAMENT

(After the reading:)

**P:** This is the Word of our Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

Joel 2:12-19

## PSALM

Psalm 6:1-10

Pastor: *O Lord, rebuke me not in Your anger,\*  
nor discipline me in Your wrath.*

Cong: **Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;\*  
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.**

Pastor: *My soul also is greatly troubled.\*  
But you, O Lord—how long?*

Cong: **Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;\*  
save me for the sake of Your steadfast love.**

Pastor: *For in death there is no remembrance of You;\*  
in Sheol who will give You praise?*

Cong: **I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears;\*  
I drench my couch with my weeping.**

Pastor: *My eye wastes away because of grief;\*  
it grows weak because of all my foes.*

Cong: **Depart from me, all you workers of evil,\*  
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.**

Pastor: *The Lord has heard my plea;\*  
the Lord accepts my prayer.*

Cong: **All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;\*  
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.**

All: **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.**

**EPISTLE** 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

(After the reading:)

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**

All: **Christ hath humbled Himself and become obedient unto death: even the death of  
the cross.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Luke 23:26-34

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

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

*(The Gospel is read.)*

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**NICENE CREED**

TLH p.22

**SERMON HYMN**

*The Seven Words on the Cross  
I – Jesus, in Thy Dying Woes*

TLH #180

**SERMON**

**OFFERTORY**

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"*

TLH p.22-23

**OFFERING**

**PEACE OF THE LORD**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

+ **SACRAMENT** +

*(Please see the Communion Statement on page 6)*

**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.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

*It is truly meet, right, and salutary....*

**SANCTUS**

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

TLH p. 26

**PRAYER**

P: Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of all creation, for in Your mercy You sent to us Your only Son to be our Savior, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You sent forth prophets with Your Word, to call forth repentance in Your people. In view of the atonement Your Son would win, You forgave Your sinful people and graciously restored them to You.

We give You thanks that on Calvary You did not spare Your Son but sent Him into the world to offer His life as a ransom for many. Even now He comes to us as He has promised - the very same body and blood once sacrificed on the tree of the cross now present in the bread and wine He offers to us for the forgiveness of our sins. Remembering His death that gives us life, we proclaim His resurrection and ascension to Your right hand, and we await His coming in power as Lord and Judge of all. Gather into one all Your holy people, from all the ends of the earth, that united in Christ we may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

### DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

<i>"Just As I Am, without One Plea"</i>	<b>TLH #388</b>
<i>"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"</i>	<b>TLH #342</b>
<i>"Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"</i>	<b>TLH #324</b>
<i>"Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness"</i>	<b>TLH #371</b>

### DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we are dust and to dust we shall return, yet even in ashes and dust there is hope. Marked with the sign of the cross in our baptism and bearing the good fruit of repentance and faith, we pray You not to forsake Your children but to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that the words which we have spoken may be accompanied by actions of faith and repentance, now and throughout this holy season of Lent; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(Silence for reflection)*

### BLESSING

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. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C: Amen.**

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*"Not All the Blood of Beasts"*

**TLH #156**



### 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.