



Ascension Lutheran Church and School

Ash Wednesday ~ February 17, 2021

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

WELCOME to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

NURSERY AVAILABLE We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

(**P**) = Pastor, (**C**) = Congregation, (**A**) = Reader/Assisting)

Why Ashes?

Why ashes? On Ash Wednesday, many congregations practice the imposition of ashes. But why? The imposition of ashes can be a powerful, tactile reminder of both Law and Gospel in which worshipers of any age can take part. Many times, the words “dust you are, and to dust you shall return” are spoken as ashes are received on the forehead. These words remind us that as a result of sin and the fall, death is a reality. Ashes also call to mind the practice in Scripture of wearing sackcloth and ashes as a sign of sorrow and repentance of sin. Typically, however, the ashes are marked in the shape of the cross, pointing us to the promise of forgiveness of sin through Jesus’ crucifixion for us. After leaving worship, we will each eventually wash off the ashen cross. As we splash water on our foreheads, we remember our Baptism, where we were cleansed of sin through water and the Word. Whether literally marked with ashes or not, we all enter this penitential season of Lent praying that God Almighty would have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Four Significant Days Lenten Series

THEME: “Significant Problem: Last Day in the Garden”

AS WE GATHER

As we enter the Lenten season, we encounter a significant problem: we have fallen into sin just as Adam and Eve did, which means we are banished from the Garden of Eden just as they were. The wages of sin is death, and without access to the tree of life, we are all doomed to die. We are dust, and to dust we shall return. Yet, in Jesus, we find that we are not doomed to dust forever, but Jesus will raise us from the dead to join Him in a new Eden, a new paradise forever.

PRELUDE

“I Take The Cross”
by R. G. Huff/Jay Rouse
Ensemble

WELCOME

HYMN

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessed 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!

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Joel 2:12–13

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Worshippers who desire to receive ashes come forward at this time and stand before the pastor. The pastor applies the ashes in the shape of the cross to the forehead or hand while saying to each person, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”)

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me, wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM 51:1-12

(tune: "Go to Dark Gethsemane")

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love. According to Your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

C sings: **Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin;
Make my spirit pure within.**

P Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgression, and my sin is ever before me.

**Let Your Holy Spirit be
My companion constantly.**

P Against You, You alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight; so you are right in judging me; You are justified in condemning me.

**Fill my life once more with praise.
I will serve You all my days.**

P I have been evil from the day I was born, a sinner from my mother's womb. Sincerity and truth are what You require; fill my mind with Your wisdom.

**Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin;
Make my spirit right within.**

P Let me hear of joy and gladness; let the bones that You have crushed rejoice.

**Let my tongue its skill employ
To proclaim Your saving joy.**

P Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**In Your mercy pity me;
From transgression set me free.**

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

**Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin;
Make my spirit pure within.**

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

**Let Your Holy Spirit be
My companion constantly.**

P Give me the joy of Your saving help again, and sustain me with Your bountiful Spirit.

**Let my tongue its skill employ
To proclaim Your saving joy.**

✠ THE WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING.

Genesis 3:1–24 (ESV)

(Adam and Eve fall into sin. God banishes them from Eden, reminding them that they will die and return to dust.)

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”²And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who

was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."¹⁶ To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. ²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:45–58 (ESV)

(We have borne the image of Adam—the man of dust, but we shall bear the image of Christ—the man of heaven at the resurrection.)

⁴⁵ Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second Man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the Man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the Man of heaven. ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 6:7–13 (ESV)

(Jesus sends out the Twelve with a message of repentance and healing.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁷ And He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰ And He said to them, “Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

“Deliver Me, O Lord”
(tune: “My Song Is Love Unknown”)

Deliver me, O Lord;
Salvation is from You.
My enemies with sword
Attack and rise anew.
Protect me, God;
In You, I trust
To raise from dust
This beggared fraud.

SERMON

“THE LAST DAY”

Genesis 3:1–24
Pastor Jim Sprengle

APOSTLES’ CREED

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 everlasting. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Ⓟ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
Ⓒ **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 blessing of almighty God—the Father, who saw mankind’s hopeless condition, the ✠ Son, who showed the depth of God’s love, and the Holy Spirit, who has opened our eyes of faith in Christ—be upon you now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN

“O Christ, You Walked the Road”
(tune: “Lord Jesus, Think on Me”)

O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand’ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation’s pow’r
And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung’ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food Your grace imparts.

When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand’ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation’s hour
To fight our ancient foe.

DISMISSAL

P Go in God’s amazing grace and peace in this Lenten journey.
C Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Our Mission Statement: *Go and Share Jesus Christ*
Our Vision Statement: *Take part... Join Jesus on His mission*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God's witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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