

ASH WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2022
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

The minister enters the sanctuary in silence.

All who are able, stand

The psalm verses are read by the pastor and congregation.

PSALM: Psalm 51:11-13

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again,
And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

EXHORTATION

P: Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love – the discipline of Lent – help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

There is silence for reflection and self-examination.

CONFESSION

P: Most holy and merciful Father:

C: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C: we confess to you, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C: accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward and kneel at the rail.

Worshippers who prefer not to receive ashes may remain at their pew and spend the time in quiet meditation.

During this time, you may wish to turn to page 239 in the Lutheran Book of Worship and meditate on Psalm 51.

The pastor returns to the sanctuary to continue the service.

All who are able, stand

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: 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.

C: Amen

All sit

FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:12-19, Return to God

“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?’” ⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ⁹The 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.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 103:1-13

The pastor and congregation read the psalm responsively. The pastor begins.

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

P: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

C: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

P: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

C: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

P: He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

C: The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

C: He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

P: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

C: as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

P: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10, Now is the day of salvation

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. ^{6:1}Working 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.

P: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

All who are able, stand

VERSE

The verse is spoken by the pastor and congregation.

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34, The lamb of God

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

²⁹The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

³⁰“This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because He was before me.’
³¹I myself did not know Him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that He might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on Him. ³³I myself did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

All sit

SERMON

After the Sermon, PRAYER CARDS can be handed towards the center aisle and given to an usher.

All who are able, stand

HYMN: “Chief of Sinners though I Be” LBW 306

(Green book)

**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.**

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

**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.**

PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS

P: Gathered by the Spirit, let us return to the Lord our God and pray for the church, the world, and all who yearn for new life.

After each portion of the prayers:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the one in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

COMMUNION

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.

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper. Amen.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me. Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

All sit

DISTRIBUTION

All who are able, stand

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

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

C: Amen

BLESSING FOR THE LENTEN JOURNEY

P: Along the ways of peace may the almighty and merciful Lord lead us. Show us your ways, O Lord,

C: and teach us your paths,

P: so that our ways are directed

C: to keeping your commandments.

P: The crooked shall be made straight

C: and the rough places smooth.

P: Lord, hear our prayer,

C: and let our cry come before you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you led the children of Israel through a mighty sea to freedom and to the promised land. So lead us now on our journey through these forty days of the Easter renewal. Bless what we do in your name during these days, that it may lead to a greater commitment of faith in you and in your Son, into whose death and resurrection we were baptized. Hear us, Father, for his sake.

C: Amen

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.

C: Amen

You are invited to remain in silent prayer after the service.

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

“Chief of Sinners though I Be” LBW 306. Text: Public Domain.

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PRAYER CARD

If you have a Prayer Request, use the **YELLOW** card that is available in the narthex, from an usher, or in the pew racks. Ushers will collect the cards before the Sermon so that prayers can be offered during the Intercessions.

If you are visiting with us, please use the Information Update on the reverse side of the card. Include your name and address and other important information. If our congregation can assist you in any way, please put that information on the card or speak to the Pastor.

ASSISTANCE

The ushers can supply parents of small children with soft toys, books, and a weekly children's worship bulletin. The parlor (the room behind the sanctuary) has a loud speaker and window so that, if necessary, parents can use it as a cry room and still see and hear the service. Large-print editions of our worship service are also available from the ushers.

HOLY COMMUNION

Based on the teachings of Scripture and in response to the Lord's admonition that, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup (1 Cor. 11:28)," we ask that those who attend the Lord's Supper ask of themselves the following questions:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner in need of God's grace? (1 John 1:8-9)
2. Are you truly sorry for your sins? (1 Cor. 11:26-29)
3. Do you believe in Jesus as your Savior? (Romans 5:6)
4. Do you intend with the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life? (2 Cor. 5:15)
5. Do you believe you receive Christ's true body and blood in the Lord's Supper? (Mark 14:22-24)
6. Do you trust God and His promises and accept as true all He teaches in Holy Scriptures? (John 8:31-32)
7. Have you been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? (Matthew 28:19-20)

If your answer to these questions is yes, then we welcome you to the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions, burdens, or doubts concerning the sacrament, please speak with the Pastor before communing. Adults and children not receiving the Body and Blood of Christ may instead come forward to receive a blessing. Please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

Gluten free rice wafers are available. Please indicate this by clearly raising your index finger. Those who wish may use the method of intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) for receiving the sacrament. You may receive the wine from either an individual cup or the common cup. In the center of the individual cup tray will be cups holding **white grape juice** for anyone who would prefer that over wine.

Please inform an usher if you are unable to come to the altar; the elements will be brought to you.



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