



ASH WEDNESDAY

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin

March 1, 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY

A Note about our Worship

On this day the Church begins a holy season of prayer and repentance. We direct our attention especially to the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus. This year during Lent, beginning next week, each Wednesday we will hear a portion of the Passion of our Lord according to St. Matthew, chapters 26 and 27. Each week the sermon will focus on a different question asked by one of the characters from the Passion account. Today our Ash Wednesday service has a threefold focus:

The imposition of ashes – the stark reminder of pending death

The hearing of the Word of God – the Words of eternal life

The Lord's Supper – Jesus gives His body and blood for the forgiveness of your sins



Ringling of the Bell

(Pastors enter. All are silent, face the crucifix, and meditate upon His act of mercy.)

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Ash Wednesday Prayer

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.

Imposition of Ashes

Those desiring to receive the sign of the cross with ashes upon the forehead or upon the topside of the hand, please come forward at the usher's invitation.

Meditation - 613 608

Psalmody *Psalm 51:1-13*

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

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.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

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.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Hearing of the Word

Old Testament Reading *Joel 2:12-19*

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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . . ¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in

heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn 563 *Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness*

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

O Lord our God, the Father of mercies,

You have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that the wicked turn from their ways and live.

Out of Your infinite goodness, You have delivered up Your only-begotten Son to His death on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.

For His sake, remember not our ingratitude and indifference, but have mercy upon us and forgive us all our sins.

As Your dear Son was wounded for our transgressions and by His stripes we are healed,

let us daily meditate upon His Passion with true repentance and sincere faith, that His death may be our life, His righteousness our salvation, His conflict our victory and everlasting peace.

Replenish us with Your Holy Spirit that, loving You with our whole hearts, we may walk by faith according to Your Word, blameless in Your sight.

Teach us to love one another, to bear one another's burdens, and so to follow in the way of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve and who gave His life as a ransom for many.

May the preaching of the cross become a message of peace and the very power of Your Gospel unto the ends of the earth, that all the nations may be delivered from the darkness of their sins and glorify Your gracious name with all Your saints in light.

Grant courage and strength to the ministers of Your Word to preach Christ and Him Crucified, both in season and out of season, calling sinners to repentance and believers to rejoice in Your salvation.

May the death of Your Son be our comfort in our last hours, and let us depart in peace to rise with Him to life everlasting; for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Note for those desiring to commune... Our practice of close communion is the Biblical and historic practice of the Christian church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for His people since it seeks to prevent spiritual damage to those who do not recognize the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine in this Holy Supper (1 Cor. 11:29). Furthermore, it does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's deep concern for doctrinal truth (Romans 16:17) and the Bible's witness that the Lord's Supper is the highest expression of fellowship and doctrinal unity (Acts 2:42). For this reason, guests who are not a member of a sister LCMS congregation are asked to speak to a pastor before communing.

The Lord's Supper

Admonition to Communicants

As we come before the altar of the cross upon which our Lord was sacrificed for the punishment of our sins, let us take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood, and take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood. Let us receive the bread and wine, that is, His true body and blood, as His guarantee and pledge to us.

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Agnus Dei – Lamb of God page 198

Distribution Hymns 562 616 610

Post Communion Prayer

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled to serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you

And † give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn 422 *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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