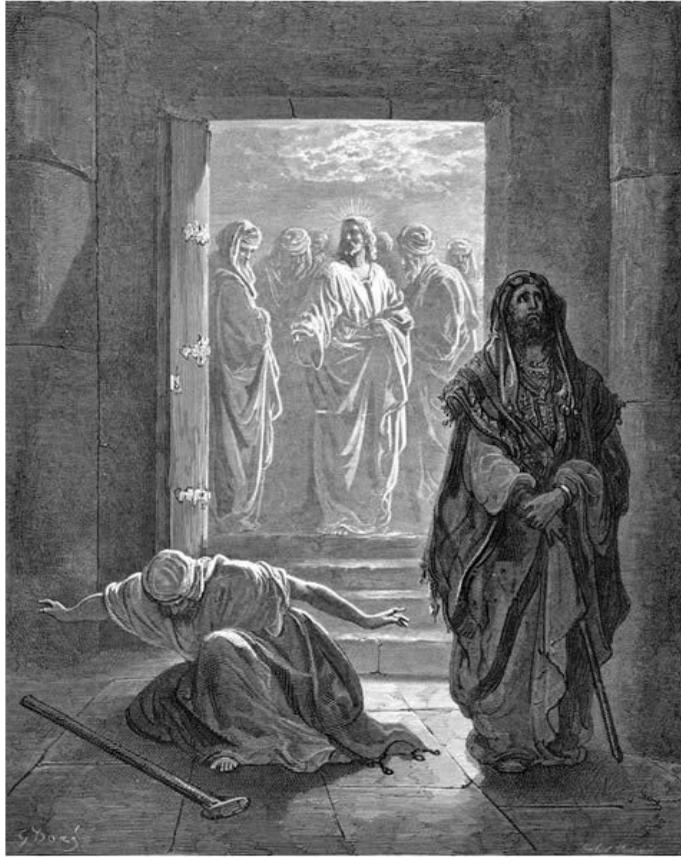


ASH WEDNESDAY

March 2nd, 2022



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
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Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Christian's 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and tomb, preparing for the proclamation of Easter. The 40 days are reminiscent of several biblical events: Jesus' 40-day fast at the beginning of his ministry, Moses' stay on Mount Sinai at the giving of the Law, Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God.

Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance (Genesis 18:27; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (c. A.D. 160–215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite for Christian burial: "... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust..." words that will someday be spoken over us all. The imposition of ashes is a practice that is observed widely by Christians of many traditions. (Christian Worship: Occasional Services).

At Martin Luther we will observe the imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday. After the confession of sins at the beginning of the service, the congregation will be invited to come forward to receive a mark of ashes in the shape of a cross. Traditionally this is done on the forehead, but if you wish you may receive this mark on the back of a hand instead. This is a reminder, not a sacrament. It is offered to anyone who wishes to participate and is not forced on anyone. Participants come forward one at a time, the minister marks the sign of



the cross, and says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The participant then returns to his/her seat and waits to hear the words of absolution. The ashes may be washed off right after the service is over, or they may be left as a reminder for the rest of the day.

## ORDER OF SERVICE

*With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh*

*CW 303:1-3*



1. With bro - ken heart and con - trite sigh, A trem - bling  
2. I smite up - on my trou - bled breast, With deep and  
3. Far off I stand with tear - ful eyes Nor dare up -



sin - ner Lord, I cry. Your par - d'ning grace is  
con - scious guilt op - pressed, Christ and his cross my  
lift them to the skies, But you can all my



rich and free - O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
on - ly plea - O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!  
an - guish see - O God, be mer - ci - ful to me!

*Stand.*

### CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,

by our own grievous fault  
in thought, word, and deed  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.

M: 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.**

M: 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 the Holy Spirit.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer and our failure to show the faith that is in us

**C: We confess to you, O Lord.**

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

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

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

M: For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

**C: Forgive us, O Lord.**

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

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

*Be seated.*

#### IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion. The minister applies ashes to the forehead or the back of a hand of each in the form of a cross, saying:*

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After all who desire have received ashes, the congregation stands and the minister says:*

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

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

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

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

#### ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*The congregation sings CW 303, stanzas 4 and 5:*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4. <b>No gifts, no deeds that I have<br/>done<br/>Can for a single sin atone.<br/>To Calvary alone I flee –<br/>O God, be merciful to me!</b> | 5. <b>And when, redeemed from sin<br/>and hell,<br/>With all the ransomed souls I<br/>dwell,<br/>My joyous song shall ever be:<br/>God has been merciful to me!</b> |
|---|---|

M: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Be seated.*

**Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 51a**

CW p.86

*Refrain*

**Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God,\*  
according to your unfailing love.

Wash away all my iniquity,\*  
and cleanse me from my sin.

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

*Refrain*

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

Surely I was sinful at birth,\*  
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins,\*  
and blot out all my iniquity.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,\*  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**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.**

*Refrain*

*Silence for meditation.*

M: Almighty and merciful Father, you freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

**First Lesson ----- Isaiah 59:12-20**

Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our rebellious deeds are with us,  
and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.  
Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against  
the LORD.

We turn back from following our God.  
We incite oppression and apostasy.  
We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our  
heart.  
Justice is turned back,  
and righteousness stands far away,

for truth stumbles in the city square,  
and honesty cannot enter it.  
The truth is missing,  
and anyone who turns from evil makes himself  
prey.  
The LORD looked and saw something evil—  
there was no justice.  
He saw that there was no one.  
He was appalled that there was no one who could  
intervene.  
So his own arm worked salvation for him,  
and his own righteousness supported him.  
He clothed himself with righteousness like armor  
and wore a helmet of salvation on his head.

**Second Lesson ----- 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2**

We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says:

*Stand.*

**Gospel ----- Luke 18:9-14**

Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: "Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evil-doers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.'

He dressed in garments for vengeance,  
and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak.  
He will repay in full what they have earned,  
namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his  
enemies.  
He will repay even the distant coastlands.  
From the west they will fear the LORD's name,  
and from the rising of the sun they will fear his  
glory,  
for he will come like a raging river,  
driven by the Spirit of the LORD.  
Then a redeemer will come for Zion  
and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion.  
This is the declaration of the LORD.

At a favorable time I listened to you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is  
the day of salvation!

"However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

"I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

*Seasonal Response*

M: We all have gone astray like sheep, but the LORD has charged all our guilt to him. By his wounds we are healed.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day ----- In Adam We Have All Been One**

CW 396

1. In Adam we have all been one, One huge rebellious man;  
We all have fled that evening voice That sought us as we ran.
2. We fled our God, and losing him, We lost our brother, too.  
Each singly sought and claimed his own; Each man his brother slew.
3. But your strong love, it sought us still And sent your only Son  
That we might hear his shepherd-voice And, hearing him, be one.
4. O Savior, when we loved you not, You loved and saved us all;  
O great good Shepherd of mankind, Oh, hear us when we call.
5. Send us your Spirit; teach us truth To purge our vanity.  
From fancied wisdom, self-sought ways, O Savior, set us free.
6. Then shall our song united rise To your eternal throne,  
Where with the Father evermore And Spirit you are one.

**Sermon ----- Luke 18:9-14**

*Repent Like You Mean It*

*Stand.*

*Luther's Explanation of the 1st Article of the Apostles' Creed*

**C:** I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, my eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

*Prayer of the Church*

**M:** Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

**C:** Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

**C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

*Time for silent meditation follows.*

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

**C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer*

**C: 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.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al - so with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: **We lift them up un - to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*



C: **Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:**

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution*

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

*O Christ, Lamb of God*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated.*

#### DISTRIBUTION

*In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.*

*During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:*

Hymn ----- Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

CW 98

1. Jesus, I will ponder now On your holy passion;  
With your Spirit me endow For such meditation.  
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish  
Of your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
2. Make me see your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,  
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And your crucifixion;  
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound you,  
How for them you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.
3. Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your passion,  
But its cause to me make known And its termination.  
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;  
This indeed the cause has been Of your crucifixion.
4. If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By your holy passion.  
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!
5. Grant that I your passion view With repentant grieving.  
Let me not bring shame to you By unholy living.  
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure  
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?
6. Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from you, Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above Sing your praise forever.

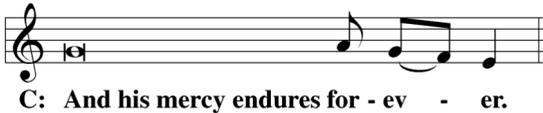
*After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:*

*Song of Simeon*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- Glory Be to Jesus**

CW 103

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains  
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;  
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind.
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream  
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem.
4. Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies,  
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.
5. Oft as earth exulting Lifts its praise on high,  
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.
6. Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!



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