



*March 6, 2019*  
*Ash Wednesday*

*Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. The Scripture readings for Ash Wednesday issue a strong call for Lenten preparation through contrition and repentance. Lent is the time of the church year when the passion and death of our Savior come into sharp focus, and when the sins of God's people may be most keenly felt.*



*The name "Ash Wednesday" stems from the Biblical custom of expressing sorrow and mourning by smudging one's face with ashes, in much the same way as we wear black clothing. Throughout the Christian era, when Christians would come for worship on Ash Wednesday, their pastor would place on their foreheads a smudge of ashes mixed with olive oil in the shape of a cross, while proclaiming a powerful reminder of sin's deadly effect: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Only by the cross of Jesus do we have forgiveness and new life, which gives us strength for the journey.*

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## Ash Wednesday

March 6, 2019

*Remain seated*

### SELECTED VERSES OF PSALM 51

- M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;  
C: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.**
- M: Wash away all my iniquity  
C: **and cleanse me from my sin.**
- M: For I know my transgressions,  
C: **and my sin is always before me.**
- M: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
C: **so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.**
- M: Surely I was sinful at birth,  
C: **sinful from the time my mother conceived me.**
- M: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;  
C: **you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.**
- M: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
C: **wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.**
- M: Let me hear joy and gladness;  
C: **let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**
- M: Hide your face from my sins  
C: **and blot out all my iniquity.**

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

M: Do not cast me from your presence  
C: **or take your Holy Spirit from me.**

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

M: You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;  
C: **you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

M: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
C: **a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

### **INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT**

**M:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

### *Silence for reflection and self-examination*

### **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.**

#### **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.**

**FIRST LESSON****ISAIAH 59:12-20 (pg. 1119)**

<sup>12</sup>For our offenses are many in your sight,  
and our sins testify against us.  
Our offenses are ever with us,  
and we acknowledge our iniquities:  
<sup>13</sup>rebellion and treachery against the LORD,  
turning our backs on our God,  
inciting revolt and oppression,  
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.  
<sup>14</sup>So justice is driven back,  
and righteousness stands at a distance;  
truth has stumbled in the streets,  
honesty cannot enter.  
<sup>15</sup>Truth is nowhere to be found,  
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.  
The LORD looked and was displeased  
that there was no justice.  
<sup>16</sup>He saw that there was no one,  
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;  
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,  
and his own righteousness sustained him.  
<sup>17</sup>He put on righteousness as his breastplate,  
and the helmet of salvation on his head;  
he put on the garments of vengeance  
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.  
<sup>18</sup>According to what they have done,  
so will he repay  
wrath to his enemies  
and retribution to his foes;  
he will repay the islands their due.  
<sup>19</sup>From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,  
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.  
For he will come like a pent-up flood  
that the breath of the LORD drives along.  
<sup>20</sup>"The Redeemer will come to Zion,  
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,"  
declares the LORD.

**PSALM 130 (3:30)****CW Pg. 114***The congregation sings the psalm in unison.***ANTHEM (6:30)*****"Out of the Depths"*****SENIOR CHOIR**

## SECOND LESSON

REVELATION 3:14-22 (pg. 1870)

<sup>14</sup>“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup>I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup>Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>20</sup>Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup>To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

## VERSE OF THE DAY

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

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

LUKE 18:9-14 (pg. 1597)

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

<sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

<sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

*Be Seated*

## 🎵 HYMN OF THE DAY

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

CW 98

6:30: Congregation sings verses 1-3, 5-6; choir sings verse 4.

## SERMON—ISAIAH 59:12-20

REV. DANIEL WALDSCHMIDT

“Let Us Turn Back to Our God”

1. By repenting of our sins
2. By looking to our Redeemer in faith

*Stand*

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Be Seated*

## OFFERING

*We ask that all worshipers would do us the honor of completing a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and placing it in the offering plate during the gathering of the offering.*

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

**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 all doubt that we are forgiven.

*Time for silent meditation*

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.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Be Seated*

♪ HYMN

*"Jesus Sinners Does Receive"*

CW 304, st. 1-4

*Stand*

M: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

#### BLESSING

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: **Amen.**

*Be Seated*

♪ CLOSING HYMN

*"Jesus Sinners Does Receive"*

CW 304, st. 5-7

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Preacher  
Presiding Minister  
Accompanists

Senior Choir Director  
Choir Accompanist

YOU ARE  
DUST  
AND TO  
DUST  
YOU SHALL  
RETURN



Rev. Daniel Waldschmidt  
Rev. Kirk Lahmann  
Rosanne Hahn (3:30)  
Sarah Seelow (6:30)  
Susan Musgrave  
Sarah Seelow