

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent - a period of 40 days of prayer for God to help us move to acts of prayer, fasting, and charity, and restore in us a clean heart. It is a time for the church, and all the world, to remember that we belong to one another and to God. Tonight, we embody this through the ritual of receiving ash on our foreheads. The ash reminds us of our sin and mortality, that we are dust and to dust we shall return. The form of the cross proclaims to us that Christ is the source of forgiveness and new life.

Our Wednesday evening worship will look a little different this year with Pastor Adam on sabbatical, but please plan to join us for midweek Lenten evenings that will help us learn about ourselves as people of faith and of Faith, and to grow deeper in our relationships with God and each other: “Grounded: Plugging into Faith”. Plan to join us in the Great Room on Wednesday evenings from February 21 through March 20 for a potluck meal beginning at 6:00pm followed by a time of learning and fellowship at 6:45pm, and take time this Lent to become Grounded in Faith.

Prelude: “In Christ Alone,” arr. Galbraith
Kelly Hartz, soloist

PSALM 32:1-5

Reader: Sharon Woodworth

- ¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’,
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

MARK 9:30-37

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, ‘The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.’ ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the way?’ ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, ‘Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.’

³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷‘Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

MEDITATION

“Valentines and Ashes”

(Silence for reflection)

INVITATION TO LENT

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

A LITANY OF CONFESSION

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most holy and merciful heavenly 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. We have sinned both 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, O God.

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We confess our envy of those who have things we do not, and our excessive love of material goods and earthly comforts.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We confess our lapses into blindness to human need and suffering, and into indifference to injustice and cruelty.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: We confess our wastefulness and pollution of your creation.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

LITANY AND PRAYERS

(piano)

A Repeat continuously

(Hmmm)

B

God — of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na - tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov - ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la - bor in ser-vice to oth - ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour - ish - es all of cre - a - tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be - lov - ed who rest in your mer-cy:

Leader:

Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life. We pray this through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

As we sing, “Sign Us with Ashes,” you are invited forward to receive ashes on your forehead. Ash is a symbol of repentance and our mortality. It traces a cross on our foreheads just as a cross of oil was placed there at our Baptism.

This cross of ash proclaims that, by our repentance, new life is granted through Christ’s saving death on the cross. All who desire to receive ashes may come forward down the center aisle and return by way of the side aisles.

SONG: “Sign Us with Ashes” *(piano)*

Verses will be sung by a soloist; congregation joins on Refrain

All

Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God, chil - dren of dust, as to dust we re - turn.

5

Sign us with ash-es, mer-ci-ful God; mark us and make us your own.——

Verse 1: Surely, you alone can save us. You pay our price with precious blood. Reaching through your great compassion you lift up your people with love. **Refrain**

Verse 2: Surely, you alone uphold us. You give us strength for all our needs. Shielding with a father's favor, you bless us with pardon and peace. **Refrain**

Verse 3: Surely, you alone can heal us. Yours is the will to make us whole. Soothing with a mother's kindness, the contrite of heart, you console. **Refrain**

Verse 4: Surely, you alone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin. Bracing, till we walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again. **Refrain**

Verse 5: Surely, you alone refine us. You give us grace for lives made new, forging, through your fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy for you. **Refrain**

Verse 6: Surely, you alone redeem us. You fill our dust with holy breath. Bursting from the grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death. **Refrain**

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,

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

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

(organ)

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Ⓟ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en 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 who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: 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.

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.

DURING DISTRIBUTION:

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” *(piano)*

- 1. How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That he should give his only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.**
- 2. Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life – I know that it is finished.**
- 3. I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart, his wounds have paid my ransom.**

“Take My Life, that I May Be” ELW 685 *(organ)*

- 1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3. Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**
- 4. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.**
- 5. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

6. **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

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

C: 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.

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Paul Schwartzkopf, Sabbatical Pastor

Adam Dichsen, Pastor

Jean Welch, Pianist

Sharon Zuiderveld, Organist

Liddy Stark, Communion Assistant

Sharon Woodworth, Reader

Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson, Ushers

Kelly Hartz, Soloist

Mackenzie Hartz, Acolyte

Kris Roth, Chancel Committee

Angela Spray, Greeter

Ash
Wednesday 

Please join us for the remaining Wednesdays in Lent as we gather for Worship in the Great Room. We will begin with soup suppers at 6:00 p.m. If you are able, bring a dish to share, but if not, come and share in the food and fellowship with us. At 6:45, we will have discussion on "Grounded: Plugging Into Faith."



Please join us for Sunday morning worship at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:45 a.m.

Song Credits

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