

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

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.

In Luke 9:51-62, a village of Samaritans refuses to receive Jesus, and his disciples suggest impulsive action. Somewhere between good intentions and impulsive action lies discipleship. On Ash Wednesday, we make a commitment to align our intentions with our actions.

Prelude: "In Christ Alone"

Jean Welch, piano

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.

LUKE 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, ‘Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?’ ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, ‘I will follow you wherever you go.’ ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’ ⁵⁹To another he said, ‘Follow me.’ But he said, ‘Lord, first let me go and bury my father.’ ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, ‘Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’ ⁶¹Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ ⁶²Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’

MEDITATION

“Intention and Action”

(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

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”

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

P: As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Refrain

As of - ten as you eat this bread and

4

drink this cup You pro - claim the Lord's death un - til he comes.

P: On the night of his betrayal, ... 'This do so you remember me.' *Refrain*
 After supper, ... 'This do so you remember me.' *Refrain*

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

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.



Adam Dichsen, Pastor
Sharon Woodworth, Reader
Jean Welch, Pianist

Pam Devlin, Communion Assistant
Patty Nelson, Usher
Marilyn Dichsen, Soloist
Pat Glyshaw, Chancel Committee
Lynette Hamilton, Greeter

Ash Wednesday



Our Lenten tradition continues with Wednesday night meals and worship, but with a significant change. The meals will no longer be pot-luck style but will be a provided meal with a free-will offering. Groups are invited to sign up for a Wednesday to provide the meal. The group can select a charity to receive the funds, and all of the offering will go towards that ministry. Sign up your group and charity at the counter outside the Total Ministry Center. Join us for these wonderful outreach meals at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and all are invited to chip in and help with clean up in the kitchen. Worship will start at 7:00 to make time for all to be ready after the meal.



Please join us for Sunday morning worship at 9:30 a.m.

Song Credits

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