

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Grace Lutheran Church

6:00 pm

February 22, 2023

Welcome:

Invocation:

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Exhortation:

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us, that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

(Please kneel if you desire and are able.)

Confession and Absolution:

P: And now I ask you before God, who searches the heart: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve His wrath and punishment?

C: I do confess.

P: Verily, you should confess; for Holy Scripture declares, “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

C: I do repent.

P: Verily, you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others. Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus’ sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C: I do believe.

P: Verily, you should believe, for Holy Scripture declares, “God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will henceforth amend your sinful life?

C: I do promise.

P: Verily, you should promise, for Christ, the Lord, says, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

C: I do believe.

P: As you believe, even so may it be unto you. Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all yours sins in the name of the Father and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessing of the Ashes:

P: O God, who desires not the death of a sinner, but rather that he turn from his wickedness and live, we beseech You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature and, of Your goodness, deign to bless+ and sanctify these ashes which will be put on our heads as a sign of our humility and Your pardon of our sins, that we who acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return because of our vileness may, by Your mercy, worthily receive both the pardon of all our sins, and the reward which Your promise to those who are penitent; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Imposition of Ashes:

The Faithful now come to the altar, as at Holy Communion, to be marked with ashes in the sign of the cross in remembrance of Holy Baptism. As directed, proceed to the rail, kneel (if able), and receive the ashes on your forehead (or hand) while hearing the words: “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.” There is no dismissal from the rail. After you receive the ashes, simply get up and return to your pew. Once all have returned to their seats, the hymn is sung.

Hymn: “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

(LSB # 419, st. 1, 3)

1. Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!
2. By thine hour of dire despair,
By thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-15

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

¹⁰ “And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, ¹² then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. ¹⁴ You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—¹⁵ for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

*““Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””*

[Deuteronomy 8:3]

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

““He will command his angels concerning you,”

and

*““On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.””*

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” [Deuteronomy 6:16]

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." [Deuteronomy 6:13]

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message:

Sermon Hymn: "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

(LSB # 424, © 1997 GIA Publications Inc.)

1. O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r
And fought our ancient foe.
2. No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,
The food your grace imparts.
3. No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In Your unswerving love.
4. When lures of easy gain
With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;
Our wills with yours align.

5. O Christ, You walked the road
Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour
To fight our ancient foe.

Sermon: "Into Your Hands I Commit My..."

Hymn: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

(LSB # 418, © Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978)

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days
You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin,
And free us from our past.
2. You strove with Satan and You won;
Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust
In God's eternal Word.
3. Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed
And fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves
Since we have known God's love.
4. Be with us through this season, Lord
And all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns,
We join in heaven's praise.

Litany for Ash Wednesday:

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: God the Father in heaven,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C: have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit,

C: have mercy.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Spare us, good Lord.

P: Be gracious to us.

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C: Help us, good Lord.

P: We poor sinners implore You

C: to hear us, O Lord.

P: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

P: O Christ,

C: hear us.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: have mercy. Amen.

Preface:

(spoken)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right... evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus:

(sung)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

P: Blessed are You, Lord our God, king of all creation...

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer:

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.

Words of Institution:

P: *Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My +body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my +blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

Pax Domini: *(spoken)*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Agnus Dei: *(sung)*

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution of Holy Communion:

Distribution Hymn: "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" *(LSB # 607)*

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
In trial and tribulation;
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
Lord, hear my supplication.
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin,
Who then could heaven ever win
Or stand before Thy presence?
2. Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail

To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.

3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just:
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.
4. And though it tarry through the night
And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might
Nor count itself forsaken.
O Isreal, trust in God your Lord.
Born of the Spirit and the Word,
Now wait for His appearing.
5. Though great our sins, yet greater still
Is God's abundant favor;
His hand of mercy never will
Abandon us, nor waver.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow.

Blessing:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: “Lord, ‘Tis Not that I Did Choose Thee”

(LSB # 573, st. 1-2)

1. Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;
That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee
Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me
Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me,
That I ever live to Thee.
2. It was grace in Christ that called me,
Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me,
To Thy heavenly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee;
For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee,
Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

Postlude:

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Pastor: Josh Moldenhauer
Organist: Nataly Pak
Order of Worship: Corporate Confession and Absolution
(p. 290-291 of the Lutheran Service Book) and
Divine Service Setting 4
(p. 203-212 of the Lutheran Service Book)



The Temptation of Jesus