

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 1, 2017



Today we begin a spiritual journey that will span forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday, before Resurrection Sunday. In the early days of the Church, the season of Lent was a time of preparation for new converts as they readied their hearts to enter into Christian baptism on Easter Sunday. Since these new members were to be received into a living community of faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church because of explicit sin would prepare to rejoin the community of faith.

Today, the season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, self-examination, and penitence for all Christians as we prepare to celebrate Easter. Through this forty-day journey, we are reminded that we are totally unworthy before God, that we have nothing with which we can obtain salvation, and that our best efforts at being righteous fall far short. This season reminds us how much we need grace in our lives in order to live a transformed life that reflects God's love. We are called to renew our commitments and our faith as we continually acknowledge our need for God's transforming presence among us.

We invite you to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. To make a right beginning, we gather today for a service of repentance and renewal.

BELLS

The cantor/ensemble introduces the refrain, after which the congregation sings the refrain.

Refrain:



Cantor The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call God hears. **Refrain**

Cantor If you dwelt, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand?
But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand. **Refrain**

All **O Lord, hear the sound of my call and answer me.**
My heart cries out for your presence; it is you I seek. Refrain

Refrain:



INVOCATION

M In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us confess our sin and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M Lord Jesus, obedient in the desert:



M Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation:



M Lord Jesus, the flood of living water:



M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

All sing the refrain once more.



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FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 59:12-20, Bible page 742

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be a sign to us of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

M People of God, you are invited in the spirit of penitence to receive on your head or hand in ashes the sign of the cross, the symbol of our mortality, a symbol of the cost of sin, and yet the sign of our salvation and promise of eternal life.

While the psalm is being sung those who desire to receive the sign of ashes may proceed to the stations near the front of the church. Please indicate whether you would prefer the sign on your head or on your hand.

PSALM

Psalm 51a, Hymnal page 86

ANTHEM (3:30 pm)
(7:00 pm)

Amazing Love, Children's Choir
With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh, Called to Sing

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14, Bible page 1051

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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THE 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.

HYMN 126

Lord Jesus, You Are Going Forth
Congregation sings verses 1, 3, and 5
Ensemble sings verses 2 and 4

SERMON

Luke 18:31-34, Bible page 1051
Pastor David Kuehl



It is Hidden in the Savior's Solitude

1. What sadness is ours that we could not help him.
2. What joy is ours that we could not help him.

After the sermon the congregation sings:

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (7:00 pm)

We're Going Up to Jerusalem, Called to Sing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.



M Lift up your hearts.



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



M It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. We give you thanks because you have loved us and valued us even though we are but dust. You have forgiven our sins, transformed us into your people, and filled us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, enabling us to live faithfully as your redeemed and holy people. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

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

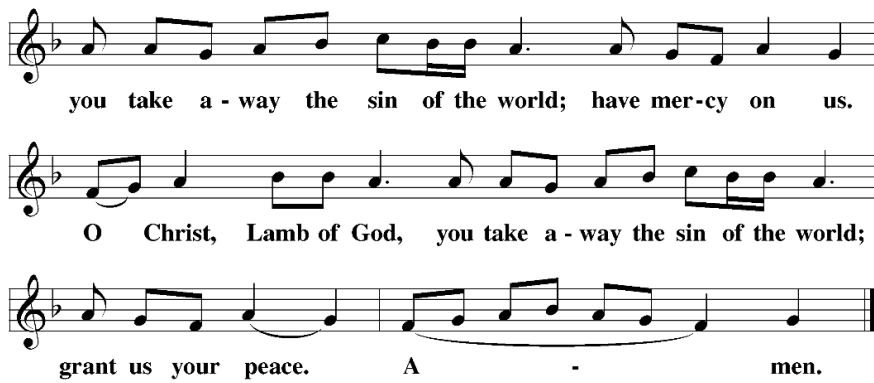
M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

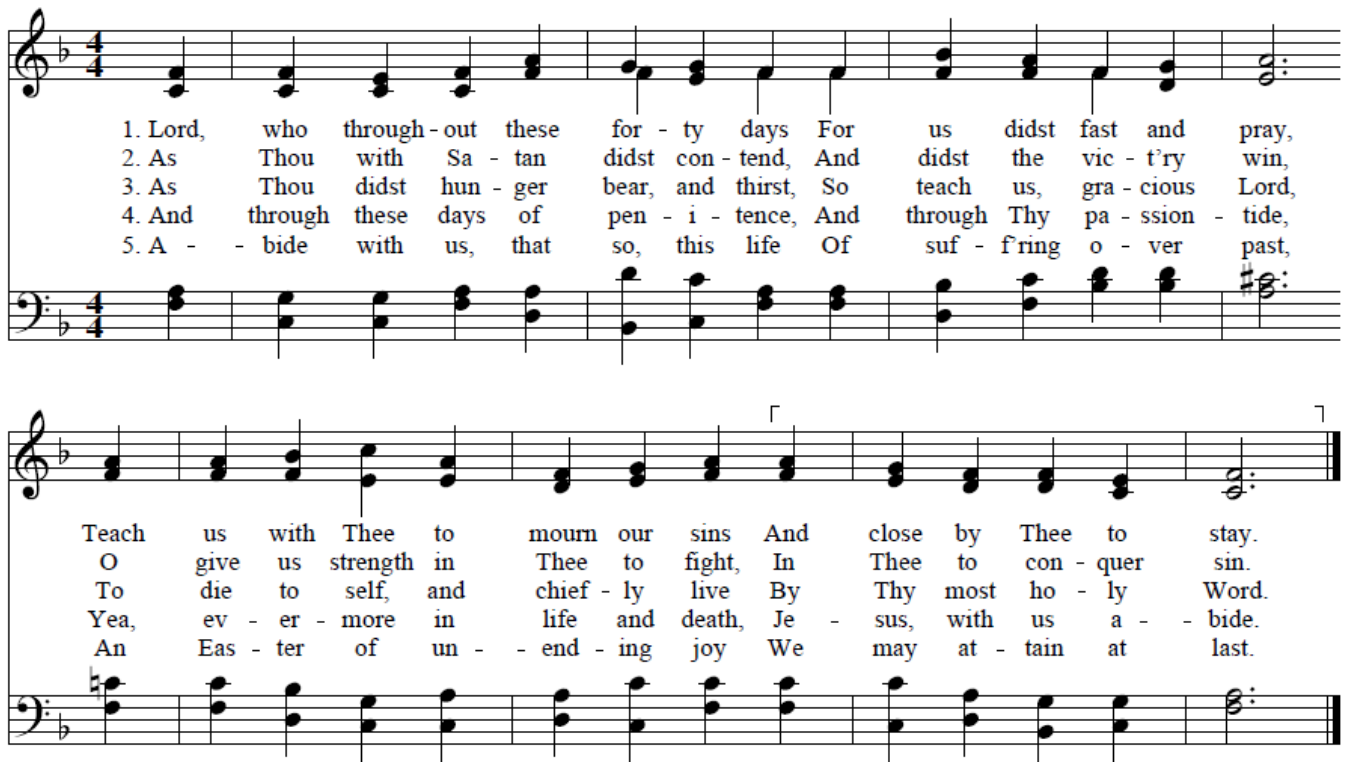
Please see Communion note on page 10.

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM (7:00 pm)

O Sacred, Wondrous Love, Called to Sing

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days For us didst fast and pray,
 2. As Thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, And didst the vic - t'ry win,
 3. As Thou didst hun - ger bear, and thirst, So teach us, gra - cious Lord,
 4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through Thy pa - ssion - tide,
 5. A - - bide with us, that so, this life Of suf - f'ring o - ver past,
 Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins And close by Thee to stay.
 O give us strength in Thee to fight, In Thee to con - quer sin.
 To die to self, and chief - ly live By Thy most ho - ly Word.
 Yea, ev - er - more in life and death, Je - sus, with us a - - bide.
 An Eas - ter of un - - end - ing joy We may at - tain at last.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN 311

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

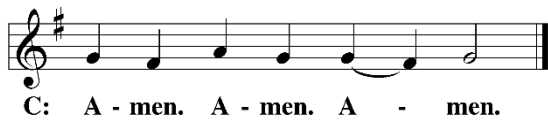
M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



CLOSING EXHORTATION AND BLESSING

M Go in peace, remembering that you are but dust and ashes and unworthy of being called the people of God. But also remember that you who were no people, God by his love and grace has made a people, children of his own household. Let us go forth in humility to be Christ to the world.

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTERS (3:30 pm) *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack and Pastor Peter Panitzke*
(7:00 pm) *Pastor Jeffrey Bonack*

ORGANIST *Kathy Bremer*



OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. Following the Promise is currently being held on Tuesday evenings in the Faith Room. Contact Pastor Peter Panitzke at ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org to register.

If you are a member of St. Paul's or a member of a WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to express our common confession by communing with us. You may wish to use the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 156 of Christian Worship to examine yourself. Please register your intent to commune as a member or guest by filling out the Connection Card and placing it in the offering plate.

The light colored cups in the center of the individual cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine. Gluten-free wafers are located in the trays on the Communion rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform an usher as you approach the rail. The first pews in the right center section are reserved for those who have difficulty approaching the Communion rail, and we kindly ask those who desire to be communed privately to use these pews.



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

MIDWEEK LENTEN MESSAGE SERIES

HIDDEN GLORY (Deutschlander)

Our message series for our Wednesday Lenten services is *Hidden Glory*. Jesus' glory is often a hidden glory – hidden in his lowly life, hidden in his severe suffering, hidden in his dark death. We will be led to marvel at how Jesus revealed his glory as he carried our sin to the cross for our full and forever salvation.



The portions of Scripture on which each message will be based are listed below. Perhaps you may want to incorporate these into your daily Bible reading during Lent.

“I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”
1 Corinthians 1:4-9

March 1	Hidden in the Savior's Solitude	Luke 18:31-34
March 8	Hidden in the Savior's Sighs	Luke 22:39-46
March 15	Hidden in the Savior's Rejection by His Own	Matthew 26:57-68
March 22	Hidden In the Savior's Rejection by the World	John 18:33-19:1
March 29	Hidden in the Savior's Stumbling	Mark 15:17-21
April 5	Hidden in the Savior's Powerful Words	Luke 23:32-43
Maundy Thursday	Hidden in the Savior's Supper	Matthew 26:26-30
Good Friday	Hidden in the Savior's Promise	John 19:31-37
Easter Sunday	Hidden Even in the Savior's Triumph	John 20:1-18