



Ash Wednesday Worship

February 14, 2018



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

OPENING HYMN 98, vv. 1-4

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

RESPONSIVE READING

M We begin our Lenten journey in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

M Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven,

C **Whose sins are covered.**

M Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him

C **And in whose spirit is no deceit.**

M When I kept silent, my bones wasted away

C **Through my groaning all day long.**

M For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

C **My strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.**

M Then I acknowledged my sin to you

C **And did not cover up my iniquity.**

M I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" —

C **And you forgave the guilt of my sin** (*Psalm 32:1-5*).

M Lord God, because it was for our sin that Jesus endured the mind-numbing anguish of the passion, we confess with shame our slowness to learn of him, our failure to follow him, our reluctance to bear the cross.

C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O Lord.**

M Forgive the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and your Word and Sacrament, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in your service, our imperfect stewardship of your gifts.

C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

M Forgive us that so little of your love has reached others through us, that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in our condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

C **Have mercy on us and forgive us, O God.**

All **Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

M This is a statement we can trust and is worthy of whole-hearted acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom each one of us must confess, I am the worst. But for this reason God was merciful to us in order that Jesus Christ might demonstrate in us, the worst of sinners, all his patience as an example to those who are going to believe in him and live forever. Jesus died for you. Your sins are forgiven.

**Grant that I your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame on you
By unholy living.**

**How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?** (*Hymn 98, v. 5*)

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 to us a sign 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 hymn 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.

HYMN 305

From Depths of Woe I Cry to You

Verse 1

**From depths of woe I cry to you;
Lord, hear me, I implore you.
Bend down your gracious ear to me;
My prayer let come before you.
If you kept record of my sin
And held against me what I've been,
How could I stand before you?**

Verse 3

**Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in my 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.**

Verse 2 (Called to Sing - 7:00 pm)

**Your love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression.
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.
Before you none can boasting stand,
But there is pardon from your hand,
So you are feared and worshiped.**

Verse 4

**My soul is waiting for the Lord
As one who longs for morning;
No watcher waits with greater hope
Than I for his returning.
I hope as Israel in the Lord;
He sends redemption through his Word.
We praise him for his mercy.**

ANTHEM (7:00 pm)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Called to Sing
arr. by Stan Pethel

After all who desire have received ashes, the congregation joins in the following prayer:

- M Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.
C **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**
M By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord.
C **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14, Bible page 1051

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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 338

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

SERMON

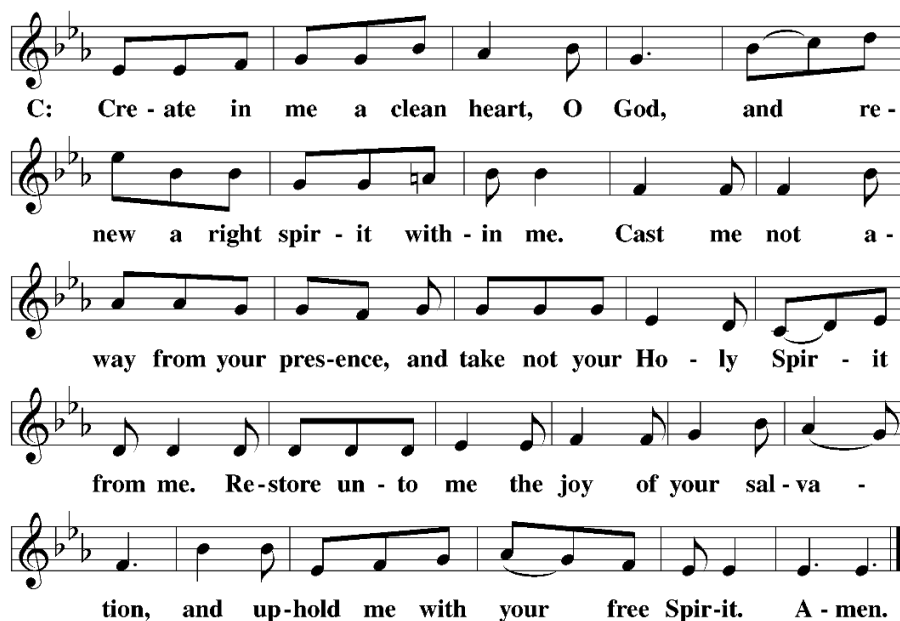
Luke 18:31-34, Bible page 1051

James 1:13-15, Bible page 1216

Pastor Nate Strobel

Temptation Is an Issue of the Heart

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

Panis Angelicus, Bruce and Betty Marggraf
Crucified with Christ, Called to Sing
by Jim Ailor

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 OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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.

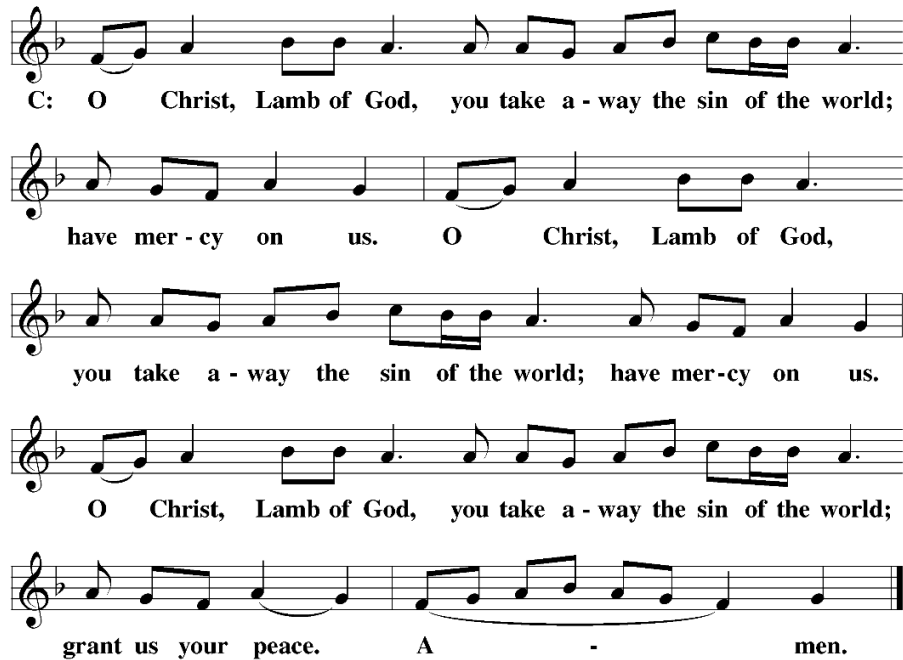
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 8.

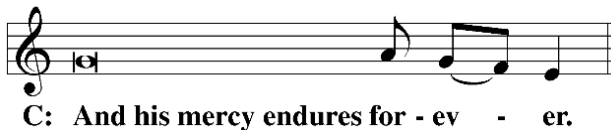
DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM (7:00 pm)

How Beautiful, Called to Sing
by Twila Paris
arr. by Benjamin Harlan

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 472 311

Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray
Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

PRAYER

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.



C: A - men.

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.



ORGANIST *Kathy Bremer*

PRESIDING MINISTER *Peter Panitzke*

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 Nate Strobel at nstrobel@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 left 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.
