



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Ironies of the Passion

"This Man Went Home Justified before God"

March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the Christian's 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and tomb, preparing for the proclamation of Easter. The 40 days are reminiscent of several Biblical events: Jesus' 40-day fast at the beginning of his ministry, Moses' stay on Mount Sinai at the giving of the law, as well as Elijah's fast on his way to the mountain of God. Today we begin our Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality, a call to repentance, and the discovery of genuine peace at the foot of our Savior's cross.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

OPENING HYMN 98, vv. 1-4

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

INTRODUCTION TO THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and our neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle.

Most holy and merciful Father,

C **We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

M We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C **We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

M We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C **our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our manipulation of other people.**

M Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

C **for all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us;**

M for what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will, forgive us, O Lord.

C **Restore us, heavenly Father, and let your anger depart from us.**

M Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. During these days of Lent, let us implore God to renew us through his Holy Spirit. May we remain in the true faith and at the last day be received by him into the glories of heaven through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

RESPONSE: HYMN 397, vv. 1, 2, 4

Just As I Am, without One Plea

**Just as I am, without one plea
But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 59:12-20, Bible page 742

The sins of God's people are many. Those who turn to God with humble, repentant hearts will find their Redeemer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence. Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence: Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

While the psalm and anthem are 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 51A (sung responsively)

Soloist sings 1st and 3rd line of each verse, congregation sings 2nd and 4th line, all sing refrain and closing.

Refrain

God, have mer - cy on me, a sin-ner,
have mer - cy on me, O Lord.

Psalm Tone

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

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

From Depths of Woe I Cry to You, Jon Eiche
Holy, Holy, Holy, Called to Sing
by Schubert

After all who desire have received ashes, the congregation joins in the following responsive 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.**

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2, Bible page 1160
*Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time to turn to
God and be reconciled through Christ.*

HYMN OF THE DAY 304, 1-4, 7

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

SERMON

Luke 18:9-14, Bible page 1051
Pastor David Kuehl

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

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.

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, out of thanks for his love and grace.

OFFERTORY (7:00 pm)

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus, 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 PREFACE PRAYER

The words of the Preface mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

M Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

Sanctus means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.



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

As the pastor speaks the Words of Institution, he both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

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

See communion note on page 8.

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith.

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM (7:00 pm)

As Jesus Gave, So May I Give, Called to Sing
by David Bailes

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 311
390**

**Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
Salvation unto Us Has Come**

M We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

M The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
The LORD turn his face toward you and + give you peace.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDING MINISTER (3:30 pm) Pastor Peter Panitzke
(7:00 pm) Pastor David Kuehl

ORGANIST Susan Oakes

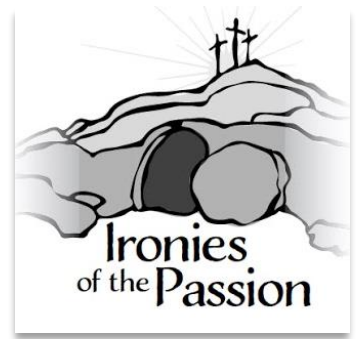


Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES—3:30 AND 7:00 PM

Join us as we continue to walk with Jesus through the critical hours leading up to his suffering and death. As we do, we will hear statements full of irony as we did today, comments that surprise us because of who said them or that have a meaning so different than what the speaker intended. We will see:

- the power of God as he uses his enemies to accomplish his plan.
- the wisdom of God that appears so foolish to others.
- the mercy of our God who will allow nothing to hinder his saving plan.



A guest preacher will be with us for each of the following services:

March 13	“It is better that one man die for the people.”
March 20	“Not during the Feast!”
March 27	“He had been wanting to see Jesus.”
April 3	“We have no king but Caesar!”
April 10	“Don’t you fear God?”

ENJOY A SOUP SUPPER BETWEEN SERVICES

Enjoy a warm meal and camaraderie with your friends between services each Wednesday during Lent, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, in the Grace Room. A free will offering is gathered at the soup supper to help defray the cost of the food and to support the ministry of the hosting group. The St. Paul’s Cancer Support Group is hosting today’s supper. Hosts are needed yet for one soup supper, April 3. For more information contact Church Administrative Assistant Tammy Miller at tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org or 414-422-0320, ext. 111.

EASTER FOR KIDS – SATURDAY, APRIL 13

St. Paul’s annual Easter for Kids will be Saturday, April 13, 9:00-11:45 am, at the school. This event is for children ages 3-12. The morning will feature singing, games, crafts, a puppet show, the Easter story, and more. Register on the back of your Connection Card today or register online, beginning March 10 at www.stpaulmuskego.org. If you’d like to assist with this fun and faith-strengthening event, contact Dr. Joel Nelson at jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org.



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.

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.