



**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
**Undeclared**  
**Our Journey to the Empty Tomb**  
**February 26, 2020 — 3:30 and 7:00 pm**

**BELLS**

**INVOCATION AND ADMONITION**

**M** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**M** Sisters and brothers, in Jesus Christ we gather here on a solemn, reflective Wednesday to be reminded once again that we are dust and to dust we shall return. This day also marks the beginning of our journey into the season of Lent as we join Christians around the world who will take these forty days to prepare themselves to observe rightly the horror of our Lord's death and to celebrate the joy of his resurrection. Each of us will observe the season of Lent in a different way; some will do special devotions, others will practice self-denial, yet others, penitential reflection. Today let us unite as one in spirit and in truth to receive from God his Word and Sacrament and to return to him our humble worship and praise.

**HYMN 98, vv. 1, 2, 5, 6**

**Jesus, I Will Ponder Now**

**FIRST LESSON**

**Exodus 24:12-18, Bible page 80**

*The glory of the Lord is a consuming fire.*

**PRAYER**

**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 use the main aisle and return to your pew via the side aisles, and indicate whether you would prefer the sign on your head or on your hand.

### PSALM 51a



#### *Refrain*

Have mercy on me, O God,\*  
according to your unfailing love.

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.**

## ANTHEM

*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.**

## SECOND LESSON

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2**, Bible page 1160

*Now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation.*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (*Joel 2:13*).

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 6:1–8, 16–21**, Bible page 970

*The law is not kept solely through outward observance.*

*Obedience is also a matter of the heart.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY 396

**In Adam We Have All Been One**

## SERMON

**Exodus 24:12-18**, Bible page 80

### **Come Closer!**

1. A holy command that frightens us
2. A gracious invitation that comforts us

## 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.

## OFFERING

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

## CONFESSION/ABSOLUTION

M Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but also as a God of mercy and love.

C **Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.**

M You have revealed your love and mercy for us in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C **Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

*Time for silent meditation follows.*

M The 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.

C **During these days of Lent, we implore God to renew us through his Holy Spirit. May we remain in the true faith and at the last be received by him into the glories of heaven through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

All 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

M The Lord be with you.



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

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.



## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

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 HYMNS 104  
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Go to Dark Gethsemane  
Jesus Sinners Does Receive

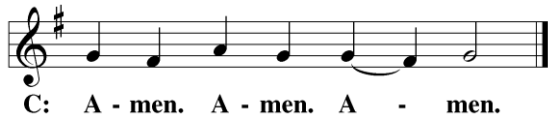
## PRAYER

M God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C **We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

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



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PREACHER** *Pastor David Kuehl*

**TODAY'S MUSIC** *At the Foot of The Cross, by Kathryn Scott*

## 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](mailto: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.*



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.

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## WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

Are you “undefeated”? Or do you feel “defeated” the moment you get out of bed?

“Undefeated” is not how most of us would describe our spiritual life.

But the season of Lent is a time not only to admit our defeat but to follow the Savior through apparent defeat to final victory on Easter. It is a time to claim his “Undefeated” status as our own.

Join us on Wednesdays, 3:30 or 7:00 pm, during these 40 days of spiritual preparation. Walk with Jesus in his final hours. Hear the “Passion History” compilations of the four Gospel accounts of Jesus’ suffering and death read each Wednesday. Come, remind yourself of all that he suffered that we might be “Undefeated.”

# UNDEFEATED

OUR JOURNEY TO THE EMPTY TOMB



<b>March 4</b>	<b>Undefeated in the Upper Room</b>	<b>Matthew 26:20-30</b>
<b>March 11</b>	<b>Undefeated in the Garden</b>	<b>Matthew 26:36-46</b>
<b>March 18</b>	<b>Undefeated by Spiritual Blindness</b>	<b>Matthew 26:69-75</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>Undefeated by Judicial Dysfunction</b>	<b>Matthew 27:11-31</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Undefeated by the Cross</b>	<b>Matthew 27:32-55</b>

## ENJOY A SOUP SUPPER BETWEEN SERVICES

Enjoy a warm meal and camaraderie with your family and 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 support the ministry of the hosting group.

The St. Paul’s Quilting Fellowship is hosting today’s supper. This faithful group has been providing quilts to those in need of comfort and hope for 12 years. Over 500 quilts given! Any donations given at the soup supper will be used for quilting materials to continue this mission. Quilts will also be on display with a suggested donation. The Quilting Fellowship meets the first Thursday of the month with new quilters always welcome! Contact Annette Navarre at (262) 922-0009 or [singnavarre@gmail.com](mailto:singnavarre@gmail.com) for more information.

Hosts are needed for one soup supper yet – March 18. For more information contact Tammy Miller at [tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:tmiller@stpaulmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 111.

## EASTER FOR KIDS – SATURDAY, APRIL 4

St. Paul’s *Easter for Kids* 2020 is happening Saturday, April 4, 9:00-11:45 am, at the school. Singing, games, crafts, a puppet show, the Easter story, and more will be enjoyed by the kids (intended for ages 3-12). If you’d like to help, contact Dr. Joel Nelson at [jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org](mailto:jnelson@stpaulmuskego.org). Registration is available on the back of your Connection Card today and will be available on our website at [www.stpaulmuskego.org](http://www.stpaulmuskego.org) soon.

## EASTER FESTIVAL CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

Vocal talents and instrumentalists are always desired for our Easter Sunday Festival Orchestra and Choir. Contact Heidi Schuh, worship volunteer coordinator, at [hschuh@stpmuskego.org](mailto:hschuh@stpmuskego.org) or (414) 422-0320, ext. 115, for more information.