

Ash Wednesday
All Nations
February 18, 2021
7 P.M.



ASH
WEDNESDAY

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-- OPENING RESPONSE

Pastor: We come this hour as Your children, Heavenly Father.

PEOPLE: WE COME WITH PREPARED HEARTS.

Pastor: We come remembering Your suffering and sorrow, Lord Jesus.

PEOPLE: WE COME WITH PENITENT HEARTS.

Pastor: We come into Your Presence, Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: WE COME WITH PRAYERFUL HEARTS.

Pastor: "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart." (Joel 2:12)

-THE OPENING HYMN

"O Lord Throughout these Forty Days" (LW 92)

- 1. O Lord, 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 heav-en's praise.*

-- CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Using the words of the psalmist, let us confess our sins:

**PEOPLE: HAVE MERCY ON ME, O GOD, ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST LOVE;
ACCORDING TO YOUR ABUNDANT MERCY, BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS.**

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

**PEOPLE: FOR I KNOW MY TRANSGRESSIONS, AND MY SIN IS EVER BEFORE ME. AGAINST
YOU, YOU ONLY, HAVE I SINNED AND DONE WHAT IS EVIL IN YOUR SIGHT. HIDE
YOUR FACE FROM MY SINS, AND BLOT OUT ALL MY INIQUITIES.**

Pastor: God has had mercy on you. Your sins are washed away in the blood of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to suffer the punishment you deserve for your sins and who overcame death by his glorious resurrection. As a servant of Jesus Christ I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PEOPLE: **CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH A WILLING SPIRIT.**

- Prayer of the Day

Pastor: *Let us pray.* Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lament our sins and acknowledge our wretchedness so we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PEOPLE: **AMEN.**

THE FIRST LESSON Joel 2:12-19

“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Rend your heart

and not your garments.

Return to the Lord your God,

for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave behind a blessing—

grain offerings and drink offerings
for the Lord your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion,

declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly.

Gather the people,

consecrate the assembly;

bring together the elders,

gather the children,

those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

Let the priests, who minister before the
Lord,

weep between the portico and the altar.

Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord.

Do not make your inheritance an object of
scorn,

a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
“Where is their God?”

Then the Lord was jealous for his land
and took pity on his people.

The Lord replied to them:

“I am sending you grain, new wine and olive
oil,

enough to satisfy you fully;

never again will I make you

an object of scorn to the nations.

Reader: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

PEOPLE: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited.

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in

beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their

reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

APOSTLES CREED

--- THE SERMON

What Has He Done with My Church?

-- THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: We are all born weak and helpless.

PEOPLE: ALL LEAD THE SAME SHORT, TROUBLED LIFE.

Pastor: We grow and wither as quickly as flowers; we disappear like shadows.

PEOPLE: IN THE MIDST OF LIFE, WE ARE IN DEATH.

Pastor: To whom can we go for help, but to you, Lord God,

PEOPLE: THOUGH YOU ARE RIGHTLY DISPLEASED BECAUSE OF OUR SINS?

Pastor: And yet, Lord God Almighty, most holy and most merciful Savior,

PEOPLE: DELIVER US FROM THE BITTERNESS OF ETERNAL DEATH.

Pastor: You know the secrets of our hearts;

PEOPLE: MERCIFULLY HEAR US, MOST WORTHY JUDGE ETERNAL;

Pastor: keep us, at our last hour, in the consolation of your love.

PEOPLE: AMEN

Pastor: Dust we are and to dust we shall return.

PEOPLE: ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST.

Pastor: May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence and a reminder that we receive eternal life by God's gift alone, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

PEOPLE: AMEN

The Apostles Creed
I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified,
died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day
He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the
right hand of God,
the Father, Almighty.
From thence
He will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

*Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward to receive ashes.
Children as well as adults are invited to participate.
Pastor makes the sign of the cross on the forehead
of each person with ashes, saying, "You are dust,
and to dust you shall return."*

--- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Lord, we remember this day that we are dust

PEOPLE: AND TO DUST WE SHALL RETURN.

Pastor: O Lord, we remember this day that life alone is nothing

PEOPLE: WITHOUT LIFE TOGETHER,

Pastor: and that life together is nothing

PEOPLE: WITHOUT LIFE IN YOU.

Pastor: O Lord, we remember that life in our hands is meaningless,

PEOPLE: WHILE LIFE IN YOUR HANDS IS FILLED WITH ALL GOOD THINGS.

Pastor: O Father, we commit our spirit to you.

PEOPLE: OUR LIVES ARE IN YOUR HANDS.

Pastor: O Father, we commit to you the life of the world.

PEOPLE: OUR WORLD IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Pastor: O Father, we commit to you the church, your people everywhere,
and this congregation.

PEOPLE: OUR COMMUNITY IS IN YOUR HANDS.

Pastor: O Father, we commit to your hands the sick and suffering.

We commit to your hands those who grieve.

We commit all these lives to your gracious mercy.

PEOPLE: OUR FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES ARE IN YOUR HANDS.

Pastor: All these burdens and cares, and all that weighs upon our hearts, we lift up to you,

PEOPLE: FROM OUR HANDS TO YOUR HANDS.

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PEOPLE: AMEN

--- THE LORD'S PRAYER

----- THE BLESSING

*Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and + give you his peace.*

PEOPLE: AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heav'n
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heav'n
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

-----THE CLOSING HYMN

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (LW 100)

*On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasure never may your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!*

----- SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD.