



February 14, 2024 - Ash Wednesday
Words That Last Forever

“Words That Last Forever” is the theme for our Midweek Lenten Services. We will listen to Jesus as He speaks from the cross 2000 years ago. And we will ponder the meaning of His words for our own lives in the 21st century.

Feb. 14 Luke 23:42-43 “Paradise” Ken Lampe

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 435 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Pastor: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

People: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Pastor: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

People: **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to our gracious and merciful God.

All: **O God, when we look back at our lives on this Ash Wednesday, we realize that we have failed in being faithful to You and have broken Your law. We have turned away from others when we were able to do good. We have misjudged the good deeds of others and failed to see that You are pleased with their loving service to You. Forgive us all our sins, O God. As we begin this season of Lent, wash us completely, so that by the gift of forgiveness, won for us by Jesus, we shall be clean and made whole. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the Good News: The Lord, our God, is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13). God hears our cries of repentance and forgives our sins. By our Lord’s command I announce to you the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Imposition of Ashes

In the Scriptures there is a two-fold understanding of ashes: ashes are a sign of our mortality and a sign of our repentance. The traditional formula spoken during the Imposition of Ashes, "Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return," reminds us of both of these truths. It paraphrases the words of God first spoken to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:19). By receiving the ashes, we acknowledge that God's judgment against our sin is right and just. But the ashes are also made in the sign of the cross. And the cross of ashes serves to remind us that on a cross Christ died for our sins so that through faith in Him all our sins are forgiven.

Choir: "O Christ You Walked the Road"

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord,^[a] that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-6

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?^[b] ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."^[c] ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: "With Words That Last Forever" (Melody LSB 449)

**With words that last forever you speak in richest grace,
Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, upon your cross disgraced.
With open ears I listen, with open mind believe,
With open heart embrace you: I, Lord, your words receive.**

**"Forgiveness" granted sinners, and "Paradise, today!"
"Behold your son, your mother!" to family you say.
The air is split with anguish in your "Forsaken" cry,
As "Thirsty," work "Accomplished," in "Father's hands" you die.**

**Pray, sanctify the silence with which I contemplate
Your boundless love for sinners, your sacrifice so great,
Till at the tomb I waken to your new word for me:
These words, not last, but lasting, shall ring eternally!**

Sermon: Luke 23:42-43 "Paradise"

Hymn: "Our Savior Speaks in Love" (*sung to LSB melody 431*)

**Our Savior speaks in love To sinners in their need.
Oh, hear the message from above; His gracious promise heed.**

**His wondrous pity see! Unto the thief he cries:
"Today, I tell you, you will be With me in Paradise."**

**Our Savior speaks; may we Give heed to ev'ry word,
And grace be given faithfully To trust what we have heard.**

Offerings

Prayer

Communion Confession

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

All: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is really present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (*Augsburg Confession-Article X*)

Communion Liturgy

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the one sacrifice for our sin offered for us. He has forgiven our sins, destroyed eternal death, and sitting at Your right hand has prepared a place for us and has written our names in the Book of Life. Because of His sacrifice we need not fear the day of His judgment as we await the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy Holy (*Words and music in hymnal page 195*) [*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*]

All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; 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.

Words of Institution

Greeting of Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God (*Words and music in hymnal page 198*) [John 1:29]

All: O Christ Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the World, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Communion Distribution.

Distribution Hymns: LSB 744 "Amazing Grace"
LSB 632 "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, To Thee"

Nunc Dimittis: Song of Simeon (*Words and music in hymnal on page 199*) [Luke 2:29-32]

All: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Almighty God, we give You thanks that You have once again prepared for us a place at Your table, feeding us with Your body and blood, to assure us in a most personal way of the forgiveness of all our sins. Be with us throughout the season of Lent and help us to better know and appreciate Your enormous love for us. This we pray in Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

[Numbers 6:24-26]

People: (*Sing*) Amen, Amen, Amen.

Hymn: LSB 434 "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy" vs. 1 & 3

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