



March 5, 2025 - Ash Wednesday

Life Together: A Series of Services for Lent

As We Gather: Using texts from 1 Peter this series addresses popular assumptions of postmodernism which we encounter in our daily lives and which question and challenge traditional ideas and values. Through the sermons, we will see that the words which Peter wrote to the first century believers still give us guidance as we deal with the challenges we face today. Tonight's theme is: "Who Am I?"

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 611 "Chief Of Sinners Though I Be"

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

People: **Amen.**

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.**

Confession and Absolution

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 our faithfulness and broken Your law. We turned away from others when we were able to do good. We have held anger against those who have hurt us, and failed to seek forgiveness from those we have hurt. Forgive us, O God. As we begin the journey of these 40 Lenten days, 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 the cries of the repentant and forgives our sins. By our Lord's command, and by His authority, I forgive you 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 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.

Old Testament Lesson: Joel 2:12-13 (*Joel urges the people to repent and return to the Lord.*)
"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 4:7-11 (*Peter writes about how we are to live as we await Christ's return.*)
⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6 (*Jesus gives us warnings about making a show of what we do.*)
"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."
² "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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ "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. ⁶ 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."

Hymn: LSB 437 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

Sermon: 1 Peter 4:7-11 "Who Am I?"

Prayer

Offerings

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.

Disribution Hymn: LSB 435 "Come To Calvary's Holy Mountain"

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 give us Your guidance as we walk the road of life. This we pray in Jesus Name.

People: Amen.

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

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.

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

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