



March 2, 2022 - Ash Wednesday

In View of God's Mercy: A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

As We Gather: In this "In View of God's Mercy" series, we will look at our lives through the lens of God's love toward us in the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. In this service, we consider the ashes placed on our foreheads as a sign of our sins and remember that God in mercy lifts us from our ashes to new life in Christ.

Welcome

Invocation and Call to Worship

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Return to the Lord your God.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Behold his miracle of mercy.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Receive his gift of grace.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Abide in his steadfast love.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Pastor: Rest in his unfailing faithfulness.

People: **Christ crucified, I come.**

Hymn: LSB 560 "Drawn to the Cross Which Thou Hast Blessed"

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: "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" (Joel 2:12-13). As our Lord summons us to return to him with repentant hearts, we confess our sins and sorrow over them.

All: **Almighty God, we are unclean before you. We are marred and marked by the filth of sin. We have turned away from you by disobeying your commandments. We have rebelled against you by seeking our own way rather than following your will. Forgive us.**

Pastor: We cry out to you for mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.)

Pastor: Hear the good news! God's Word declares that "he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Joel 2:13). In the mercy of Almighty God, his Son Jesus was given to die for you to remove the stain of your sin. For Christ's sake God forgives you all your sin and renews a right spirit within you. His mercy endures forever because his love for you is steadfast.

People: Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Old Testament Reading: Joel 2:12-18

"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 Reading: 1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:16-18

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.

Hymn: LSB 905 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

Sermon: Joel 2:12-13 "Mercy In Ashes"

Prayers

The Communion Liturgy

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*)

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.

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. In view of God's mercy 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. Tonight as we begin another Lenten Season we humbly pray the prayer our Savior taught us:

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

Communion Distribution

Hymn: LSB 425 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
LSB 427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

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 as each week we gather to hear You speak to us through the words of Isaiah. This we pray in Jesus' Name.

People: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: May the merciful God, who is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, empower you to live according to his good and gracious will, through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever.

People: Amen.

Hymn: 704 "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

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