



REFLECTIONS
on
REPENTANCE

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2024

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

Worship Focus: Ash Wednesday is a day of repentance. We stand before God with broken and contrite hearts.

This is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday begins the Christian's Lenten journey with a reminder of our mortality and a call to repentance (Genesis 18:27; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (c. A.D. 160 – 215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. The ashes remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite for Christian burial: '... earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust...', words that will someday be spoken over us all. The imposition of ashes has never been an exclusively Roman Catholic practice and today is observed widely by Christians of many traditions.

LITURGY: Service of the Word & Sacrament

CW pg. 26

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

BATHROOMS are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

Preacher: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us from Him. I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

CONFESSION OF PSALM 51

(We confess responsively....)

Preacher: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Congregation: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

P: so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

C: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

P: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

C: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

P: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

C: Hide your face from my sins and blot out my iniquity.

P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation

C: and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation is invited to come forward at the direction of the ushers to receive a small cross with ashes on either your forehead or the back of your hand while the Pastor says:

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

HYMNS DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

CWS 738

CW 124

“In Hopelessness and Near Despair”

“Savior; When in Dust to You”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

738 In Hopelessness and Near Despair



1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I
2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My
3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -
4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant



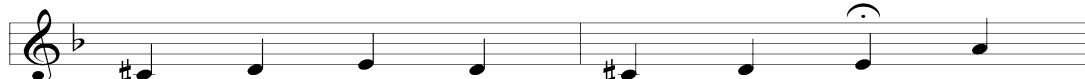
cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than
heart's di - verse af - fec - tions. Why do I love the
pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or
me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -



I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You
things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now
re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With
fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This



know me as I real - ly am: How
prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O
you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You
world must know what I have learned, That



much is truth, how much is sham; Why
God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who
speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And
you be - stow what none has earned: The



should you heed my plead - ing?
else but you can help me?
I am sure you love me!
joy of full for - give - ness!

This hymn is a recasting of Martin Luther's great penitential hymn "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: NEWHOPE (87 87 887) G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 © 2006 G. A. Hennig. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you Low we bow in
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, By your life of
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, By your ag - o -
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



hom - age due, When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By your days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; Oh, by all your
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, Oh, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, oh,
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fav - 'ring eye, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, abr., alt.

Tune: SPANISH CHANT (77 77 D) Spanish melody, 17th century, adapt.

ABSOLUTION IS PROCLAIMED

Following the practice of the imposition of ashes, the minister speaks the words of absolution to the congregation, saying:

M: Although the ashes remind us of sin and our mortality, it is in the shape of the cross so that we remember that Lent is not just a time of contrition, but more important, it is a time for emphasizing the forgiveness from God. The ashes remind us of sin, but the cross reminds us of the grace that has overcome that sin.

Therefore, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all yours sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. You are no more a child of ashes but a child of God. May God give you strength to live as his dear children! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

P: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

First Lesson

2 Samuel 24:10-25

¹⁰ David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing." ¹¹ Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: ¹² "Go and tell David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'" ¹³ So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me." ¹⁴ David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands." ¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. ¹⁶ When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. ¹⁷ When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family." ¹⁸ On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." ¹⁹ So David went up, as the LORD had commanded through Gad. ²⁰ When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. ²¹ Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped." ²² Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood." ²³ Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king."

Araunah also said to him, “May the LORD your God accept you.”²⁴ But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels^[d] of silver for them.²⁵ David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped. (EHV)

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

We urge you, on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.²¹ God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. **6** As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.² For he says: At a favorable time I listened to you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation! (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

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

GOSPEL:

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³“However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴“I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” (EHV)



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW 302

“Lord, to You I Make Confession”

Lord, to You I Make Confession



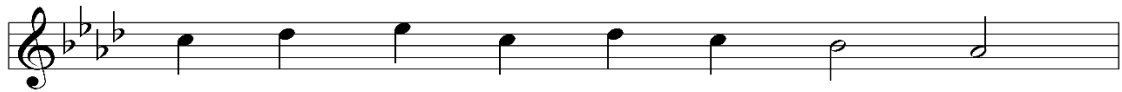
1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther,
 3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n him -
 4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— Sink it



sinned and gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied
 I will seek your face. Though your child I dare
 self to res - cue me, Died to save me and
 in the depths be - low! Let me know your gra -



trans - gres - sion, Cho - sen for my - self my way.
 not call me, Yet re - ceive me to your grace.
 re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.
 cious par - don; Wash me, make me white as snow.



Led by you to see my er - rors,
 Do not for my sins for - sake me;
 Je - sus' cross a - lone can van - quish
 Let your Spir - it leave me nev - er;



Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.
 Do not let your wrath o'er - take me.
 These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 Make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: HERR, ICH HABE MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

SERMON TEXT AND THEME:

Psalm 51:3–4

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

Recognize against Whom We Sin

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: 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 as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

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

P: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

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LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness



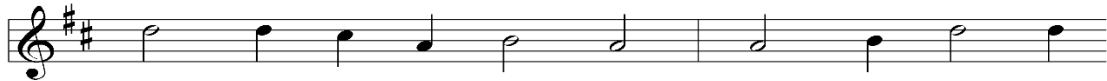
1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness; Leave be - hind all
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, And with lov - ing
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther cost nor
 4 Now I kneel be - fore you low - ly, Filled with joy most
 5 Hu - man rea - son, though it pon - ders, Can - not fath - om



gloom and sad - ness. Come in - to the day - light's splen - dor;
 rev - 'rence greet him, For with words of life im - mor - tal
 pain will mea - sure, But the price - less gifts of heav - en
 deep and ho - ly, As with trem - bling awe and won - der
 these great won - ders, That Christ's bod - y must be bound - less



There with joy your prais - es ren - der Un - to
 He is knock - ing at your por - tal. O - pen
 God to us has free - ly giv - en. Though the
 On your might - y work I pon - der, How by that
 Since the souls it feeds are count - less, And that



him whose grace un - bound - ed Has this won - drous
 wide the gates be - fore him, Say - ing, as you
 wealth of earth were prof - fered, Naught would buy the
 mys - ter - y sur - round - ed, Depths that no one
 he his blood is giv - ing With the wine we



sup - per found - ed. Though he reigns a - bove most
 there a - dore him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 ev - er sound - ed. None may dare to pierce un -
 are re - ceiv - ing. These great mys - ter - ies un -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive you, That I nev - er - more will leave you.
 riv - en, And his blood, for you once giv - en.
 bid - den Se - crets that with you are hid - den.
 sound - ed Are by God a - lone ex - pound - ed.

6 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You have left your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forgo all joy and gladness
 And to shed your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise you with thanksgiving.

7 Jesus, Sun of life, my Splendor,
 Jesus, Friend of friends most tender,
 Jesus, Joy of me desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring—
 At your feet I cry, my Maker:
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven
 For our good, your glory, given.

8 Jesus, Lord of life, I pray you,
 Let me gladly here obey you.
 By your love I am invited;
 Be your love with love requited.
 By this supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
 Through the gift of grace you give me
 As your guest in heav'n receive me.

THANKSGIVING



P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (✚) give you peace.



LENT

114

Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the Life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the Death of
 2 Thou, ah, thou hast tak - en on thee Bonds and stripes, a
 3 Thou hast borne the smit - ing on - ly That my wounds might
 4 Heart - less scof - fers did sur - round thee, Treat - ing thee with
 5 Thou hast suf - fered men to bruise thee That from pain I



death, our foe, Who, thy - self for me once giv - ing
 cru - el rod; Pain and scorn were heaped up - on thee,
 all be whole; Thou hast suf - fered, sad and lone - ly,
 cru - el scorn, And with pierc - ing thorns they crowned thee.
 might be free; False - ly did thy foes ac - cuse thee—



To the dark - est depths of woe— Through thy suf - f'ings,
 O thou sin - less Son of God! Thus didst thou my
 Rest to give my wea - ry soul; Yea, the curse of
 All dis - grace thou, Lord, hast borne That as thine thou
 Thence I gain se - cu - ri - ty. Com - fort - less thy



death, and mer - it I e - ter - nal life in - her - it.
 soul de - liv - er From the bonds of sin for - ev - er.
 God en - dur - ing, Bless - ing un - to me se - cur - ing.
 might - est own me And with heav'n - ly glo - ry crown me.
 soul did lan - guish Me to com - fort in my an - guish.



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks shall be, Dear - est Je - sus, un - to thee.

6 Thou has suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixion,
 Fully to atone for me.
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto thee.

7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For thine anguish in the garden,
 I will thank thee evermore,
 Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing,
 For thy bleeding and thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–81, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 5, 7, alt.;
Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, St. Louis, 1912, st. 3-4, 6.
 Tune: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN (87 87 88 77) *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687, alt.

Officiants

Accompanist: Deanna Schneck

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman