

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Jackson, Minnesota

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024



P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P God the Father in heaven,

C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

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

Hymn “Savior, When in Dust To Thee”

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Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalmody

Ps. 41

P Blessèd is the one who considers the poor!

C In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

- P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;
- C** **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- C** **As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**
- P** My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”
- C** **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**
- P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- C** **They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**
- P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C** **But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
- P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C** **But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.**
Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie

- P** Lord have mercy.
- C** **Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**
- P** 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 lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

- ¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ 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.
- ¹⁴ 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?
- ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
 call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ 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.
- ¹⁷ 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?’ ”
- ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
 and had pity on his people.
- ¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
 “Behold, I am sending to you
 grain, wine, and oil,
 and you will be satisfied;
 and I will no more make you
 a reproach among the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

[P] O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
[C] **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**
[P] who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
[C] **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10 ESV

^{20b} We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
 and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

³ We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

[P] This is the Word of the Lord. **[C]** **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Joel 2:13b

Spoken by all: **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 ESV

[P] The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

[C] **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ [Jesus said:] “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.

³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. . . .

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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Sermon

“Mutual Consideration”

Psalm 41:1–2

Prayer of the Church

Petitions conclude:

[P] . . . let us pray to the Lord: **[C]** Lord, have mercy.

Final petition:

[P] These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

[C] Amen.

Offering

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Offertory | | 159-160 |
| Service of the Sacrament | | 160-166 |
| <i>Brief responses are spoken.</i> | | |
| Distribution Hymns | | 418, 609, 746 |
| Post-Communion Canticle | “Nunc Dimittis” | 165 |
| Closing Hymn | | 422 |
| | “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” | |
| Postlude | | |



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