

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

Ash
Wednesday



Reflection

On Ash Wednesday, with a day of fasting and repentance, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust or water, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the mark traces the life-giving cross that was indelibly placed on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

GATHERING SONG: “*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*”
Reba McIntire, Kelly Clarkson, Trisha Yearwood

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHuex0l-OWE>

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling
Calling for you and for me
See on the portals He's waiting and watching
Watching for you and for me
 Come home, come home
 Ye who are weary come home
 Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling
 Calling, "O sinner come home"
O for the wonderful love He has promised
Promised for you and for me
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon
Pardon for you and for me

OPENING READING

L: From dust you have come, and to dust you shall return.

A reading of “*Blessing the Dust*” by Jan Richardson

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt, as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind and be scattered to the four corners or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial—

did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.

This is the hour we are marked by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing that lives within the ancient ashes, that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow. And let us be marked not for shame. Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt, within the stuff of which the world is made and the stars that blaze in our bones and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.

L: And from dust you shall rise again to new life in Christ.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

P: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SONG: “Create In Me A Clean Heart” Keith Green

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD847UcRbL4>

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God, for the LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether the LORD will not turn and relent, and leave behind a blessing,

a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 51:1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother’s womb. (continued on next page)

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
¹⁵O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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

^{6:1}As we work together with God, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

²For God says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (continued on next page)

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

SERMON: “*One Day At A Time*” Pastor Jerome Evavold

SONG: “*Just as I Am*” Selah

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsZp4NL-aC4>

A CONFESSION OF SIN

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

SIGNING WITH WATER

Everyone marks their own forehead with the sign of the cross.

Remember that you were buried with Christ in baptism. Repent and believe in the gospel.

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.
By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.



SONG: “You Say” Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIaT8Jl2zpl>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this Ash Wednesday, we pray for the church and for all in need. Let these bids encourage our spoken or silent prayers.

Let us pray for the church throughout the world.

Let us pray for our congregation.

Let us pray for everyone who is preparing for baptism.

Let us pray for the health of plants and animals.

Let us pray for all who care for the earth.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world.

Let us pray for an increase of justice in our land.

Let us pray for a spirit of concord throughout our society.

Let us pray for the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed. (continued on next page)

Let us pray for the end of this pandemic.
Let us pray for all who are sick or suffering.
Let us pray for all who today will die.
Let us pray for the desires of our hearts.
Let us thank God for all who have gone before us in the faith.

Into your hands, merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: 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.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: "You Forgive Me" Lifetree

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO-2fm7IKcU&t=72s>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.