



Ash Wednesday

*Worshipping and Growing Together in Christ
Serving and Reaching Out Joyfully to All.*

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We Gather in Silence

+ Invitation to Lent +

Siblings in Christ, today we enter the holy season of Lent. In our Gospel text, Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem for our sakes. Christ's journey to Jerusalem and ultimately to the cross will unravel much of who we are, for the sake of becoming who we are created to be.

As followers of Christ, we face sin that pulls us away from Christ to a path that leads to darkness and death. With God's help, during this season of Lent, as Jesus journeys to the cross, we recommit ourselves to live into our Baptismal identity: focused on love of God and caring for our neighbor, the hungry, the oppressed and the forgotten. With God's help, we will be knit together for the sake of God's kingdom.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,

pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

+ Psalm 51 +

At this point in the service, Psalm 51 would usually be read along with the imposition of ashes. The ashes serve to remind us of the consequences of sin as we hear the words,

“remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

This year, instead of receiving ashes, while Psalm 51 is read we invite you to unravel the burlap square you received from the church. This unraveling, like the ashes, reminds us of the ways that sin, brokenness, and death unravel so much in our lives and in our world. Ash Wednesday and Lent are an opportunity to reflect on all that is broken, even as we wait in hope for the coming resurrection.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing^[c] spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering,
you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God^[d] is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,
then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.**

Special Music

"Dust and Ashes"

Word

God speaks to us in scriptures readings, preaching, and song.

Gospel Acclamation

You set your face toward Jerusalem for our sake,
come to us now in the proclamation of your word.

Gospel Reading

Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

*Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.***

Message

Special Music

"Take Up Your Cross"

Prayers of the People

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O God, you call your church to be ministers of reconciliation throughout the world. Inspire your church in its proclamation of the gospel and guide its ministries to build up the body of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the downtrodden.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit especially and support caregivers who attend to all in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be offered.

O God, you are our life and our salvation. We give you thanks for the righteous who have died in faith. Inspire us by their example to proclaim your steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world.

Song

Lord, Jesus Think on Me

Red ELW 599

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

Blessing

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

Amen.

Sending

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Assisting Minister: Eric Kurtz
- Prelude/Postlude: Jordan Ortman
- Psalm 51 Reader: Marcy Lloyd
- Special Music: Jordan Ortman, Dave Gleason, Mike Madsen, Eric Kurtz
John Reed, Susie DiPaolo, Dianne Schulte
Denise Ikenberry, Scott Ikenberry
- Music after Message: Jordan Ortman
- Sending Song: Diane & Kevin Klinkerfues