

the STONES
would shout

Hear God's Word and Keep It

The Stones Would Shout

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Address

P: On this day, the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is 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 so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*(Using your right thumb, place the ashes on the forehead of each person saying, "**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**")*

Psalm 51:1-13

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

C: According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

C: So that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

P: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me,

C: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

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

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

P: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right^[b] spirit within me.

P: Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

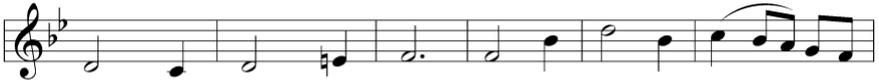
P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

ALL: Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

A Hymn: LSB 427 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

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Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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. 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!

Erhalt Uns, Herr (Tune LSB 655, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"): 1 Peter 2:4-9

What firm foundation undergirds
All those who build on God's sure words.
Says Christ, as children's praise rings out,
"If these were still, the stones would shout!"

Built on the rock by Christ's own hand,
The Church of God unmoved shall stand;
For Christ, who is the cornerstone,
Has claimed his children as his own.

P: Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

C: For it stand in Scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

P: To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

C: The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”

P: But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

From stony ground God’s lesson learn:
“From dust you came; to dust return!”
Yet firm foundation undergirds
All those who build on God’s sure words.

Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that we would turn from our evil ways and live. Turn us again, O God of our salvation, and let Your anger cease from us. Spare us from every evil to body and soul. Look graciously on Your Church and preserve the Gospel among us. Renew us in this penitential season to strive against the desires of the flesh, to grow in the joy of Your salvation, and to look in love and service toward our neighbors, especially those of the household of faith. Behold in mercy all who are sick, who suffer and who rejoice; and be with all expectant mothers, all whose labor is dangerous, the unemployed, those near death and those who mourn. Give comfort to us, who are dust and must return to dust, that a broken and contrite heart You will not despise. We thank You, heavenly Father, that You have sent Your only begotten Son into our flesh to offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Trusting in His mercy, bring us in repentance and

faith to Your altar to eat His body and drink His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 3:1-19

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you

were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalmody: Psalm 95:1-7

P: O come, let us sing to the LORD.

C: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving.

C: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

P: For the LORD is a great God,

C: And a great King above all gods.

P: In his hand are the depths of the earth.

C: The heights of the mountains are his also.

P: The sea is his, for he made it,

C: And the dry land, which his hands have formed.

P: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

C: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

P: O that today you would listen to his voice!

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:21-27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a

foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

A Hymn: LSB 575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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The Sermon: “The Stones Would Shout!”

A Creedal Hymn (Tune: “How Firm a Foundation”, LSB 728)

Our God is a Rock, the Creator of all.
 His wonderful deeds let his people recall.
 How firm a foundation our Maker provides,
 Whose word, breaking darkness, forever abides.

The stone once rejected – Christ Jesus alone –
Is made for our faith a secure cornerstone.
He died for our sins and was raised from the grave.
He will come again, his believers to save.

The Church, firmly built on the rock, still shall stand
When all else has crumbled like quick-shifting sand,
God's people, forgiven, shall triumph o'er death,
The Spirit inspiring with life-giving breath.

The Prayers

The 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.**

A Farewell Blessing to our Online Worshippers

The Celebration of Holy Communion

A Communion Hymn: "Behold the Lamb"
(Townend)

Verse 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

Verse 2

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and remember
The wounds that heal the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King

Verse 3

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King

Verse 4

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven
Around the table of the King

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The Words of Institution

The Distribution

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Closing: Psalm 31:1-3, 5

P: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame.

C: In your righteousness deliver me.

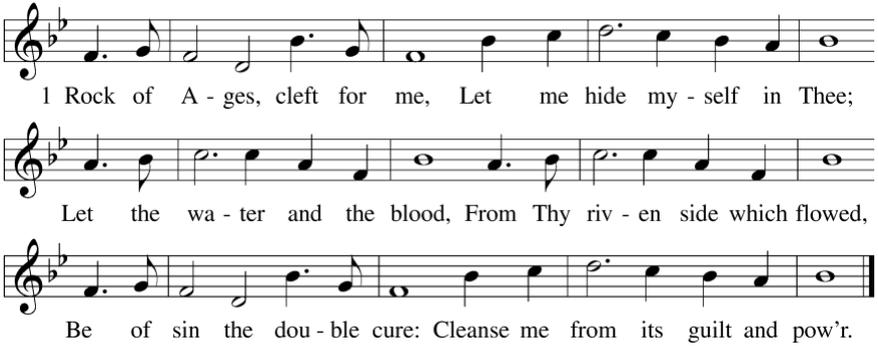
P: Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

C: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead and guide me.

P: Into your hand I commit my spirit.

C: You have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

The Closing Hymn: "Rock of Ages" (LSB 761)



I Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, Let me hide my - self in Thee;
Let the wa - ter and the blood, From Thy riv - en side which flowed,
Be of sin the dou - ble cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

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ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

T

Pastor Glenn E. Schaeffer

glenn.schaeffer@stjamesgr.com

St. James Church Office: 363-7718

Secretary e-mail: office@stjamesgr.com

Website: www.stjamesgr.com