

Grow ... Go ... Gather
March 2, 2022
ASH WEDNESDAY



ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)

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T

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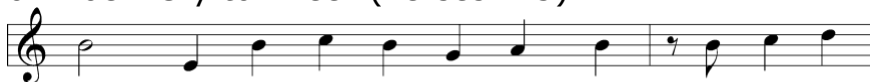
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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

PRESERVICE MUSIC, THE CALL TO WORSHIP & WELCOME

A HYMN OF CONFESSION: LSB 607, "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" (verses 1-3)



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious
my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest
mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.
deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Text and tune: Public domain

OUR CONFESSION: (Psalm 51:1-13)

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

C: 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.

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

C: Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

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

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

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

C: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

THE ABSOLUTION

P: I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

A HYMN: LSB 611, "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'n's a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901
 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You love all that You have created and You forgive the sins of those who come to You with humble and contrite hearts.

C: Create in us clean and honest hearts, so that, as we repent of our sins, we may receive full pardon and forgiveness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joel 2:12-19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and 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.

¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The 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.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

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

righteousness of God. ¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as 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.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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 be to Christ!**

SERMON HYMN: LSB 563, "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.


Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON


CHOIR ANTHEM "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

THE OFFERING

THE POST-SERMON HYMN: LSB 609, "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" (verses 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
 5 Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scar - let
 6 Now my con - science is at peace; From the Law I
 7 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Al - so I have



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;
 my trans - gres - sion, It shall be as white as snow
 stand ac - quit - ted. Christ hath pur - chased my re - lease
 been for - giv - en; And when I this earth must leave,



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my
 By Thy blood and bit - ter pas - sion; For these words I
 And my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my
 I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 now be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 Him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756
 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
 Text and tune: Public domain

INVITATION TO BE MERCIFUL AS OUR PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING LEADS US

P: On this day, the Christian 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, humble repentance, and renewal 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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P: Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

(Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward.)

[The minister imposes ashes on the forehead with the sign of the cross — a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead at the time of Baptism — with the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The congregation remains silent.]

A HYMN: "Wonderful, Merciful, Savior" (Selah)

Verse 1

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

Verse 2

Counselor Comforter Keeper

Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Chorus

**You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for**

Verse 3

Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne **(Chorus 2Xs)**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: As we begin our journey through this season of repentance and renewal, let us return to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful. O God, You call us to turn from sin and to live in the joy and freedom of the Kingdom of your Son. You invite us to receive the forgiveness earned through the merits of our Priest Jesus Christ. Give us strength through the word of our Prophet Jesus by equipping us with your word on our Lenten journey. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, You call people everywhere to work for the good of all humanity. Empower the leaders of the nations to be ambassadors of mercy. Lord, in Your

mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, grant compassion to all who minister to the sick and infirm: medical professionals, healing practitioners, and all caregivers. Show Your mercy to those who are ill [especially] and bring them peace of mind and heart. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O God, You call us to turn from our sin and to live for You alone. Guide us through these forty days of Lent to a fuller appreciation of Your baptismal grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful God, because Jesus was anointed for mercy we ask you to bless the work of the merciful work of our Synod, Lutheran World Relief, and other Christian agencies that serve our hurting world; hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

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.**

FAREWELL BLESSING FOR ON-LINE WORSHIPPERS.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION DISTRIBUTION OF JESUS' BODY AND BLOOD FOR OUR FORGIVENESS AND RENEWAL OF FAITH

(During Holy Communion you are invited to sing:
LSB 617, "O Lord, We Praise Thee.")



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002553

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 887, "Now the Light Has Gone Away"



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.

Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, 1842, Kaiserswerth

Text and tune: Public domain

“Renewal” will be the focus of our Sunday services during the season of Lent and during Holy Week. I encourage you to make it your priority to sit at Jesus’ feet on a weekly (if not daily) basis during Lent as He renews and refreshes you through His Word and Sacraments.

- March 6 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Servanthood
- March 13 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Obedience
- March 20 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Witness
- March 27 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of True Religion
- April 3 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Priorities
- April 10 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Godly Fear
- April 14 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Christian Unity
- April 15 – Lent: A Time for Renewal of Faith
- April 17 – Easter: A Time for Renewal of Hope

Midweek Lenten Services

We will also have midweek Lenten services on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6. These services will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be livestreamed on Facebook Live.

Holy Week Services

Reserve the following services on your calendar and plan to attend!

- **Maundy Thursday** (with Holy Communion): April 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Good Friday**: April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Easter Sunday** (with Holy Communion): April 17 at 9:30 a.m.



St. James Lutheran Church Presents:

*An **EGGS**-traordinary Easter **EGGS**-perience*

April 23 from 1-3 p.m.

2040 Oakwood Ave. NE

Grand Rapids, Michigan

This **EGGS**-tra Special Event will be a

Basket Full of Fun Including:

An **EGGS**-ceptional EGG Hunt, **EGGS**-citing

Games & Activities, **EGGS**-cellent Crafts,

& the **EGGS**-traordinary Account of Jesus'

Resurrection from the Dead!