

ASH WEDNESDAY

Returned, Reconciled, Rewarded

February 17, 2021

AS WE GATHER

As we begin this Lenten season, we once again hear that call to return to the Lord, our God. God says, "Return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments" (Joel 2:12–13). Once again, we return from our wandering to our gracious and merciful God who has paved the way for us to be reconciled to Him through His Son, Jesus. "For our sake He made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:20). Because of Jesus, our heavenly Father rewards us with the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live lives of righteous service in His name.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

Refrain:
Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. [Refrain]

4 Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. [Refrain]

5 Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. [Refrain]

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12–19

(A proclamation: Return to the Lord.)

Pastor: “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting,

with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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?

People: **Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants.**

Pastor: Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say,

People: **“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?’”**

Pastor: Then the LORD became jealous for His land and had pity on His people. The LORD answered and said to His people,

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.”**

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

Pastor: **We join in King David’s prayer of confession in Psalm 51.**

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

People: **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

People: **and cleanse me from my sin!**

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,

People: **and my sin is ever before me.**

Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

People: **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

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

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

Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

People: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;

People: let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

Pastor: Hide Your face from my sins,

People: and blot out all my iniquities.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,

People: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Pastor: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

People: 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.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Genesis 3:19

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, You spoke to Adam and Eve in the garden and said, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." Your people of ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a sign of repentance. We remember our sinfulness through the ashes and remember the gracious gift of forgiveness through the cross of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

People: we implore You to hear us.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: grant us Your peace.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: hear us.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Christ,

People: have mercy.

Pastor: O Lord,
People: have mercy. Amen.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

As each person comes forward, the pastor makes the sign of the cross on the forehead or the hand with ashes, saying:

Pastor: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our God has called us to return to Him so that we might be reconciled and receive the reward of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

(Now is the day of salvation.)

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 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.

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.

Lector: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 (Do not show off your righteousness.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ “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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ But 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SONG

“Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me?
I was lost, but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh, is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus died for me
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes, I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am

I am chosen, not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me, not against me
I am who You say I am
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God, yes, I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes, I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God, yes, I am

SERMON

Pastor Tim

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING MOMENT

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

"Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" v.1 & 2

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world, which would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness,

Where He is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth here after
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

CREED

Luther's Meaning to the 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of
the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord in your mercy
People: hear our prayer

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”

V. 3 & 4

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify, all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus;
He has risen from the dead,
That to life we may awaken
Jesus, You are now our head
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be.
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever
Jesus let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.