

# Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023 | Bethel Lutheran Church

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Lenten Address

- P** Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially 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.

## Introit

*Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: v. 17*

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**  
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.**  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
**and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**and uphold me with a willing spirit.**  
**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.**  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## Collect for Ash Wednesday

- P** 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.

**C Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>and 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. <sup>14</sup>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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather 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. <sup>17</sup>Between 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?’”

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. <sup>19</sup>The 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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

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

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

**Verse for Ash Wednesday**

- P** Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
- C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.
- C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>[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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that 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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**743 Jesus, Priceless Treasure**



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
 2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me  
 3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
 4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Yearn - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and  
God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

- 5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow'r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.
- 6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

*Offerings may be placed in the offering plate by the entrance of the sanctuary.*

### Litany for Ash Wednesday

**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Christ,  
**C** hear us.  
**P** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Spare us, good Lord.  
**P** Be gracious to us.

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;  
by Your holy nativity;  
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by Your agony and bloody sweat;  
by Your cross and passion;  
by Your precious death and burial;  
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;  
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death;  
and in the day of judgment:

**C Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word;  
to bless our prayer and meditation;  
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;  
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To draw all to Yourself;  
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;  
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken,  
the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;  
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;  
and to have mercy on us all:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To turn our hearts to You;  
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;  
and graciously to hear our prayers:

**C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C we implore You to hear us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C grant us Your peace.**

**P** O Christ,

**C hear us.**

**P** O Lord,

**C have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.  
**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy. Amen.

**P**: 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.,  
**C**: Amen.

### Imposition of Ashes

*All are invited to come forward at this time. Ashes are a sign of mortality and death, thus reminding us of our sinful nature inherited from Adam and Eve for which we are deserving of God's eternal wrath and punishment. However, the ashes made in the sign of the cross also remind us of the Second Adam, Christ Jesus our Lord, who took on our sin and died our death upon the cross, thus winning for us salvation.*

### Bethel Choir

*"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

#### 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text and tune: Public domain

### 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.  
 2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in  
 3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
 4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,  
 Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.  
 His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
 What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,  
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
 No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;  
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.  
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
 Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.  
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text and tune: Public domain

### 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

### 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;

For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

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

### Confession and Absolution

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, 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.

**C** **Amen.**

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev-er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

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### Acknowledgments

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